

## **Bourne U3A – Trustees’ Report 2021-2022**

The last year has been one that Covid has continued to constrain what we could do, even though we started to be more optimistic for the future we were still having our general meetings on Zoom and very few groups were meeting.

General meetings continued on Zoom for the next few months with one catastrophe when our speaker lost connection part way through his talk and after many attempts to get him back failed the meeting was cut short.

We finally got back to the corn exchange in October with a splendid talk all about Mars. Meetings then continued monthly in the corn exchange with numbers attending slowly growing to February's meeting entitled "Murder Sex and Mayhem in English Churches". This speaker's subject attracted well over 100 people attending. This has now dropped back to near normal levels.

Our membership had held up quite well and we had started to grow again until renewal time, when we dropped back to under 500 members, now we have started growing again with 26 new members since January. Always a very busy time at renewals, our Membership Secretary Jackie Searl has done a splendid job.

The number of our groups running have slowly increased during the year and we now have some 52 groups with more in the pipeline. Obviously, no groups can run with our wonderful group leaders who have all worked hard to ensure that we are a successful U3A. Looking after our groups and new members this year has been expertly done by our Group Coordinator Pat Howes. Whether its groups without a leader or new members wanting to join groups Pat has got it done.

Big thanks to John Boss who has been our secretary this year and has coped with having to take a record of the minutes on Zoom Meetings and somehow contributed to discussion's as well while doing so.

Thanks also to Tony Gray who stayed on and helped Mike Alexander with the transfer of our bank accounts to a new bank and then go on to be Vice Chair for the rest of the year. Tony has been on the committee for many years, and we will miss him, I am sure you will all wish him well.

You will see attached to the annual accounts a separate report from our treasurer Mike Alexander, which shows that we have financially weathered the storm very well considering the drop in membership levels. I would also like to thank Mike for the hard work involved in changing banks this year and embracing a more modern online banking system that makes our finances much easier to run.

A thankyou to all our other committee members for the work they do. Martin Adkins for looking after our website, Screen displays and our monthly meetings and posters for around town. Bill Reid for arranging rotas for our general meetings, Phill Pavier for looking after Beacon. Janet Burton for the Raffles.

John Owen

Chairman

