

KHAD U3A AGM 2021

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021

It is in fact only 8 months since our previous AGM in 2020 and during that time the nation has been in Lockdown twice, followed Tier 3 and 4 restrictions for several months and further restricted conditions for the rest of the days!

So, it is not surprising to say that Kings Hill and District u3a has not been as 'fully functional' as normal!

HOWEVER..... That is not to say that we haven't been as fully active and in-touch as possible under the given circumstances.

I therefore report to you that Kings Hill and District u3a has been remarkable in its determination to continue to be communicative, supportive and positive throughout another very different year.

And here's how.....

Our SIG Convenors kept their groups in contact with each other where possible and many of us became increasingly 'Zoom proficient'!

Our monthly newsletters helped to keep us all in touch with what was happening across the SIGs. The newsletters now incorporate a bite-size version of the National u3a newsletter, so we can also keep in touch with what is happening nationally.

Our monthly Zoom Meetings enabled us to enjoy presentations from a variety of different speakers. Plus, we held a Zoom Workshop with a talk and information about Lasting Power of Attorney. Fortnightly Zoom Coffee Morning chats have also helped to keep members in touch across the screen.

Our monthly Committee Meetings enabled committee members to keep up-to-date with the changing national picture and how this affected our practices. Keeping in line with National u3a, we appointed June Routley as a Co-opted Committee member with responsibility as Diversity Manager.

We adopted National u3a changes to the logo and updated our own website accordingly.

My monthly emails and phone calls helped to spread the news and keep members in the loop with regard to decisions and plans for our organisation.

The Committee agreed to keep membership fees reduced for another year until February 2022.

Membership numbers have remained fairly stable with 8 joining our u3a since our last AGM. We now have 463 in total.

And members were kept smiling with a Christmas e-card for all and an Easter Egg for two lucky winners!

Our u3a demographic has meant that we are amongst the first people across the nation to receive our first and second Covid vaccinations, thus we are well prepared to face the future with open arms and a willingness to resume our social activities.

The Re-launch programme for KHAD u3a is currently in the pipeline.....

Meanwhile, we have followed the Government's Road Map for easing restrictions and several SIGs are once more arranging their get-togethers in gardens and outdoor spaces. We continue to take care to keep everyone safe by carrying out Risk Assessments and following National u3a and government guidance.

Finally.....as I said last year, and as I say again..... we look forward to the days when we can fully return to our social activities and events, when we can once more share all our experiences in 'reality' rather than virtually! And when we do meet, we no longer need to measure the distance between us!!

In the meantime, the Committee and I will ensure that the ideals of Learning, Laughing and Living Life to the Full continue to be the backbone of our organisation for now and the years to come.

Melanie Blewer
Madam Chair KHAD U3A