

## **Annual Report from your Secretary**

Well, what a year 2020 has been so far, it has however, proved that U3A members are a determined group of people who have remained positive, responsible and helpful to each other throughout. Many groups have made efforts to continue to keep in touch via virtual websites such as Zoom and this has in itself enabled us to learn more about IT than we ever thought we could. It has become quite common now to hear the words 'I can see you but I can't hear you, you have to unmute'. As usual our determined members have found fun and amusement under strange conditions. The situation for those who are unable to keep in touch this way is, of course, much more difficult and U3A members who are good friends have to be relied upon.

Your Trustees and Management Committees have met virtually which has proved helpful though not quite as successful as 'face to face' meetings, however discussions have taken place and decisions have been made where possible.

This year we have had to try a completely different approach to our AGM using email and postal voting and I am grateful to the membership for understanding that this has been the only way forward on this occasion. Also a mini version of the Magazine has been available on the website and has been posted out to members who have no email address. Keeping in touch is key and I am always available for members to email or telephone and will do my best to answer their queries or help where possible.

The Trustees and Management Committees have discussed dates for resumption of group activities and it does seem that under present conditions the re-start date may be delayed for some time as we do have a membership where a considerable number of people are over 70, however conditions are ever changing and it is hoped that the re-start date could change in accordance with this. From January to March 2020 the U3A continued happily along its normal course with events, group meetings and Horizons and with the help of members' support we will return to normal as soon as we can. I would also like to say a huge thankyou to all of you who have gone beyond what could be expected to help others. In the meantime stay determined and have faith that the U3A will return better and stronger (and with more IT skills) than before.

Megan Tomlinson  
Honorary Secretary