

## **BUDE & DISTRICT U3A**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020**

This year presented us all with challenges like never before!

It started normally enough, with Group and Open Monthly Meetings plus regular Coffee Mornings all attended by dozens of enthusiastic and lively members. We learned about Guide Dogs, the Agricultural Riots and Tavistock's port Morwellham from Guest Speakers, and one of our own Group Leaders shared her experiences of Yoga and Tai Chi. In December we celebrated the Festive Season with a Christmas Lunch at The Falcon.

In February we were delighted to congratulate two of our members, Cora and Nigel, on their marriage. This was a 'first' for our U3A, and we wish them much happiness.

Then in March our whole world changed. The Government imposed a Lockdown in response to the Coronavirus Pandemic. Social gatherings were halted, so almost all contact between members had to switch from in-person to email or telephone. Some groups, like All About Birds, Rocks and Ruins, and Sideways History converted to on-line gatherings, but others like Line Dancing, Drama and Singing had to be suspended.

Thanks in large part to our newly-recruited Webmaster, David, your Committee [whose Chairman is well known for not being an IT expert!] managed to link themselves to Zoom and were able to keep up with their regular monthly meetings from home.

Throughout the year Anna, our Editor, produced interesting, entertaining and informative quarterly Newsletters, in spite of the fact that there was little actual group activity to report in the two later issues. She always says that the finished product can only be as good as the pieces she receives, so special thanks are due to everyone who sent in articles, reports and photographs.

Our membership numbers stayed about the same as the previous year and at the end of August stood at 290. During the year we were saddened to record the deaths of Peter Gill, who had only recently joined, and Linda Bunker, a loyal member since our early days. She helped to start the History of Art group and was an enthusiastic supporter even through her prolonged period of illness. We also learned that Bernard Kennedy, a

Founder Member who moved to Exeter last year, had died. We are grateful for the contributions they made to the life of our U3A. They are all missed by those who had the privilege to know them.

In July we welcomed Tina onto our Committee as Vice Chairman and she has been finding her feet very quickly.

Through all the ups and downs of this year I have been greatly supported and encouraged by Committee members, so I would like to record my sincere thanks to them for all they have done. But the Committee wouldn't get very far without our “support troops”. Very many thanks are also due to all the Group Leaders who have been doing a sterling job through this very difficult time by keeping in touch with their members, because in U3A Everyone Matters.

Lockdown rules were eased in the Summer and hopes were raised for a return to some form of normality, but the prospects for 2020/21 are uncertain. There may still be difficult days ahead, so we need to hang on – together – and look forward to the days when we can once again hold meetings without restrictions.

Jo Arnold