

Looking back over the last year, the major task undertaken by the committee was to ensure that we were compliant with the new GDPR legislation. This involved changes to our application and renewal forms, the introduction of new policies and a major exercise to ask members to review the data that we hold for them. Previously we had relied on members to inform us if they changed their contact details, but this year, as part of our renewal process, each member was provided with a renewal form that was pre-populated with their contact details. They were asked to check their data, confirm their data privacy preferences and sign and return the form. Further changes have been introduced this May following advice from National Office, who recommended that we use 'legitimate interest' as a basis for holding members data. Updated forms and policies will therefore be introduced.

All this work has only been possible due to the efforts and support of your committee and I'm very grateful for all their efforts. Sandra McDonald had to step down from her role on the Outings Committee due to ill-health but Joan Young has stepped in to her place and our popular outings have continued seamlessly. Once Sandra had recovered she returned to the committee with responsibility for short breaks and holidays and organised another short break to Blenheim and Oxford. Two further trips have now been arranged. Suzette Elliot-West and Carol Woodman answered our appeal for people with health and medical knowledge and have put together a Wellbeing folder, packed full of information that is relevant to our members. Marilyn Smart and others responded to my request for helpers to organise events and we've already held a barn dance and a Sunday lunch at the Masonic Hall. Marilyn and helpers have also organised the AGM strawberries and cream. Thanks must also go to Linda Bateup and the tea-rota team who turn up for all our events, Jean Bricknell and the meeters and greeters and Siobhan O'Connell who keeps the website up to date. Finally, but by no mean least, many thanks to our AV team who spend a considerable time assembling and dismantling up the equipment each meeting.

Separate and very grateful thanks must go to David and Jill Scott who have between them done an excellent job as Treasurer for the last 4 years. David persuaded the committee to be early adopters of our membership database Beacon, which greatly streamlined our processes. It has also made our systems much more resilient and helped with the implementation of GDPR. David's advice has always been appreciated and he has made a very valuable contribution to our U3A.

Inevitably our membership continues to fluctuate but we have had over 200 new members this year and we are reaching close to 1,100 members again. We always ask new members how they heard about us and it's normally from friends or family, so it is very gratifying that we are seen as such a friendly and inclusive group.

Our groups continue to increase too and we are always grateful for the suggestions and interest shown. New groups that have been introduced this year include Graphology, Poetry, Folk Singing, Out and About Weekenders and Wagner's Ring Cycle. This is a suitably eclectic mix that reflects the interests of our members. We have also introduced our first Research group in collaboration with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, inspired by one of our speakers. A group of us are carrying out a monthly walk of the Common and attempting to identify the 8 common species of

bumblebees that can be found there. The cold March saw a zero result but our April walk was more successful and we saw 4 species.

In addition to our groups, our Study Day and seminars continue to be very popular and we are very grateful to Adrian Twiner for both his contacts and his efforts in making these so successful. Last autumn's study day on Science was fascinating and Adrian has arranged a follow up talk from one of the speakers. We've another seminar and a further Study Day organised for this year..

At our normal monthly meetings we would be listening to an interesting speaker. Margot Pierson was excellent at providing such a varied and fascinating range of subjects and we are confident that Bob Slater will continue in the same vein.

Finally, thank you all for coming today and your support throughout the year. I hope that you can join us afterwards for a glass of bubbly and strawberries and cream.

Sue Brimlow
May 2019.