



Registered Charity No. 1002987

Dear Stowmarket U3A Members,

It has now been 3 months since we have been able to meet but I do hope you have been able to keep in contact with people and most importantly kept safe.

I know many of our groups have been keeping in touch, even running their groups through email, phone calls and different online video conferencing tools. This has been a real help to many. I am incredibly grateful to our group leaders for thinking of and caring for our members during these unprecedented times.

I had hoped by now to be able to say when we could begin to meet again but as I write we have only just been allowed to meet outdoors in a group of up to six people, and then providing we keep 2m apart. It is therefore difficult to see our monthly gatherings, even our small group activities, being allowed before the autumn unless we can meet outside. I had hoped we would have been able to hold our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Garden Party in July as it was an outdoor event, but obviously our numbers are far too many under current advice and unlikely to change drastically in a month's time so I'm very sorry that we have to cancel that too. As to the future, we are being regularly advised by the National U3A body, so before we decide to restart our groups we will ensure we are following their advice as well as government's.

Thinking about the future, we hope we will be holding our AGM in September as normal. With that in mind, the committee needs new members. Phil Webb, Secretary and Di Plester, Membership Secretary have decided it is time to give up their roles. I know you will all join me in thanking them for all their hard work over the last few years. Therefore, we need a secretary to take minutes and to deal with any correspondence, a membership secretary to take details and payments of new and old members, plus we also still need a group coordinator to keep the details of groups and their leaders and to keep in touch with them. The committee meets once every 2 or 3 months depending on need. I would be really appreciative of anyone offering to step into any of these roles. Please do not worry if you feel you don't know enough; as you may know I have only been a member for 18 months but have found the committee very helpful and supportive as I learn my role.

Finally, if you wish to contact me for any reason, you can email me at [vicechair@u3astowmarket.org.uk](mailto:vicechair@u3astowmarket.org.uk)

Kind regards,

Glynis Hunt

Vice Chair.

12/06/2020