

## **Message from Chair, Cardiff U3A : 7<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

This is a somewhat lengthy message so I ask that you bear with me.

### **Meetings and Membership**

In view of the continuing restrictions and for obvious reasons of wishing to protect the health and safety of members, the Cardiff U3A Committee has resolved to **extend our own closure until the end of August** when there will be a further review. This means that, regardless of any lifting of restrictions, there will be no physical meetings held either at group level or any Open meeting.

We recognise that no physical meetings will then have been held for a considerable period, although a number of groups have maintained contact online and some have used technology to meet in a virtual environment. It is clear, however, that members will have obtained only limited value from their membership.

**The Committee has therefore also resolved to extend your membership by six months until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2021 without further subscription.**

Further, to facilitate the management of this extension and to ease the administrative burden, the Committee has also agreed to **change the membership renewal date** to 1<sup>st</sup> March for 2021 and all future years.

There will therefore be no request to renew until February next year when I very much hope things will have returned to a semblance of normal. That renewal will then run for a full calendar year.

The AGM will continue to be held in November of each year, although the nature of the meeting for this year is obviously as yet undecided.

### **Current Activities**

As I indicated above, a number of groups have arranged to meet via the Internet. Methods used include simple emails, WhatsApp messaging, the use of online discussion forums and full video-conferencing using the Zoom software. Once the initial teething problems are overcome, it is clear that groups are thriving and members are enjoying at least the social contact even in these restricted times.

There is now a considerable amount of information about activities on the [Cardiff U3A website](#) and I recommend browsing that site to see the various options.

### **Help and Support**

I must make mention of course that some of our members have contracted the Covid-19 virus and been very ill indeed. I hope that they have all the support and help they have needed and that their families are also supported.

Some of our members will not be receiving this email as they do not use the Internet and this must increase their sense of isolation. If you know of members in this

position and feel able to contact them by phone or post, I am sure they would appreciate it.

### **Publications**

Cardiff U3A will not publish a magazine this August and it not expected that there will be any Newsletters produced during this lockdown period as all available information will be published on the website.

Members unable to access the Internet will be informed by letter of any relevant information.

I do hope you have kept safe and well and I look forwards to meeting with you again in person, although perhaps 2m apart...

Kind regards

Owen Parry

Chair, Executive Committee, Cardiff U3A