

## **Update from the Chairman and Committee of BU3A.**

For the fourth time since the onset of the Covid crisis I feel I should update Members as to the current situation regarding BU3A activities during these troubled times.

In pouring rain and howling wind the BU3A Committee recently met for an outdoor, socially- distant committee meeting, and below is a summary of our discussions.

In line with Government and National U3A advice, there is no likelihood of our 200-strong monthly meetings taking place in the foreseeable future, and it could be that even January 2021 is an optimistic target. We will, of course, keep this under constant review. The Committee are investigating the possibility of obtaining a Zoom licence, which could enable speakers to record their lectures which could then be streamed into members' homes. This would unfortunately disadvantage members who do not have online facilities, so will need careful consideration

One piece of good news is that Brenda Last has been co-opted onto the Committee to act as Treasurer, as Jane Storey has indicated that she wishes to stand down later this year. Brenda and Jane are to meet with Thurston C.C. management to discuss payment for bookings which BU3A have not taken up due to Lockdown

Also, it is good to hear that some interest groups are still active, even if in a very restricted way.

The Committee decided that there is no point in admitting new Members this summer, whilst our activities are so limited.

A cause for concern is that, under BU3A rules, several of our Officers and Committee (including Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary and some other Committee members) will be due to stand down in March under the 3-year rule. We have all agreed that (if approved by Members) we would be prepared to serve another year due to the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves. However, this does provide an opportunity for anyone who would be interested in helping to run BU3A to start to get involved.

As usual, I would ask you to pass this information on to any members you know of who do not have Internet access.

I do hope to be able to meet up with you all again before too long, but in the meantime stay safe, best wishes, Peter Lester.