

U3A Chairman's Report For 2020/2022

Due to the advent of the contagious Covid Virus in 2020, our last U3A monthly meeting was held at our usual venue, Newton Park Library Auditorium in February 2020, effectively cancelling what should have been our 16th Annual General Meeting in May of that year..

Still being in 'lock-down' in 2021, chronologically, our 17th AGM for 2021 did not take place, which explains why this AGM is our 16th.

During the lock-down period, sadly, our Municipality experienced much vandalism and an inability to carry out routine maintenance. Consequently, our meeting venue suffered under both these injustices. Malicious vandalism caused severe water damage; coupled with maintenance problems the Auditorium became un-usable. We were notified that we could no longer have access for our meetings.

As the scourge of the Covid Virus became less threatening and it looked as if U3A could recommence meeting, the committee investigated other venues but came to the conclusion that without increasing our monthly subscription we could not afford the other venues.

By its very nature, most of our U3A Members are on a fixed income and with cost of living rising sharply after the virus, coupled with the steep increase in fuel price, the committee resolved not to increase our subscription, thus we ruled out the other venues.

Fortunately, conditions at Nelson Mandela Municipality also improved. The Committee was delighted to be informed by our vice chairman, Sheila Forrest that the Library Auditorium was again available to us.

Our current membership stands at 123. Thanks are due to Phillip Stunden for keeping track of us.

During lockdown. Other branches of U3A made excellent speakers available to our members via Zoom meetings. Grateful thanks to committee member, Lynda Connellan for shepherding the adventurous.

Secretary, Merlene Robinson who has most ably served on the committee for the past nine years and Treasurer, Debbie Morris who has served for the past six years have not made themselves available for re-election.. I look forward with great anticipation to the introduction of 'new blood'. Nomination forms accompany your notice of meeting. A large debt of gratitude is owed to Clarence Hearne, assisted by Bob Pienaar, for taking care of and setting up our audio visual equipment. Sadly Bob is no longer able to assist. Any volunteers?

A committee is only as strong as its constituents. I have been blessed with the support of a loyal committee. We all owe a large debt of gratitude to departing secretary, Merlene Robinson for her efficiency and unfailing support. Thank you Merlene, you will be missed.

It only remains for me to thank every one of my fellow committee members who have given me stalwart support

Marjorie Malkin, [March 2022]