**Chairman’s Report for 2019-2021**

Dear Member

What a time we are living through! May I begin by offering my condolences and sympathy to any of you who have experienced a loss because of the Covid 19 pandemic.

Obviously, all that has and continues to happen has a had a big impact upon our Credit Union. Given the restrictions and lockdown the Board of Directors decided, in line with most other Credit Unions, to extend our period between General Meetings from one year to two.

Throughout this period, we have continued to operate our Credit Union and that has only been possible due to the heroic efforts of our Administrator, Anne Anderson, who agreed to work from home and made the technological arrangements necessary to ensure a seamless operation. I thank Anne on your behalf. The Board of Directors has continued to meet and conduct its business and I thank my fellow Board Members for their diligence and commitment

This difficult time has allowed us to recognise that operating via and through technology is clearly something most of you are happy with and the Board has authorised several technological up-grades to our internal processes, and we are also in the process of launching a Solway Credit Union App…...watch this space!

We also took the opportunity to move our office base from Friars Vennel to George St in Dumfries and I can assure you that we will continue to offer a face-to-face walk-in service as and how the health restrictions allow and you request it.

Our AGM will be held in the Usual Place, Dumfries from 6.00 pm till 7.30 on Thursday 25.11.2021 and you are invited to attend in person where social distancing will be observed. If you are able and willing to join us in person, please let us know in advance by email or telephone so then we can arrange the space appropriately. If you would prefer to join us by Zoom, please email [info@solwaycreditunion.co.uk](mailto:info@solwaycreditunion.co.uk) to request a link to be sent to you by email.

Fellow Members, I can assure you that the Solway Credit Union is currently in a very healthy place both in terms of our membership, our assets’ and our loan book. However, there is a cloud on the horizon: I have been your Chairman for 17 years and I am not even the longest serving Board Member! The Credit Union cannot function without a Board of Directors and we desperately need some new blood. The Board meets bi-monthly usually at 5.30 and we are always finished by 7.00pm. Whilst we used to meet physically in Dumfries we have recently been meeting by Zoom and that may well continue. Board Members must register as a company director with the Financial Conduct Authority and extensive training and support is available through the Association of British Credit Unions with which we in the SCU are affiliated.

An inability to refresh our Board of Directors is the biggest risk to the continuation of the Solway Credit Union. It usually takes 6 months to a year i.e. between 3 and 6 Board Meetings for a new Board Member to get up to speed and currently we are in a great position to assist any new member to get the hang of things. However, if we don’t succeed in attracting some of you to join us something will have to give and that might put the continuation of the Solway Credit Union in its current form at risk.

Given the very difficult financial and inter-personal times we are all facing I think we need a healthy, thriving, local credit union and if you think you might be able to help us grow and develop, please let us know: ask, come to the AGM, email, phone.

Please.

Yours in solidarity and hope

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Description automatically generated

Daniel McKeever

Chairman

