

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT 2021

“COVID, COVID, COVID!” That’s all we ever seem to talk about, isn’t it? The truth is that none of us were prepared for what we’ve had to endure over this past year, but look at us: we’re still here! Last year I spoke about how we adapt as needed, and isn’t that even more true this year?

As Mark and I were planning for our first virtual AGM last year, we looked ahead to 2021 and thought it would be an amazing thing to combine a more traditional in-person meeting with the new Zoom technology so that more and more people could attend. We still hold that up as an eventual goal...dare I hope for this next year? We shall see.

A quick update on our staff: I continue to work effectively from home, and Mark, who lives within walking distance of PAL, has worked in the office since May 2020. So if any of you have books to be recorded, be sure to contact us and we’ll get back to you as soon as possible.

It never gets old to say “thank you” to our volunteers; you are the engine that makes PAL run. Later on in the meeting we’ll honour Barbara and Amy, both of whom have been readers for 10 years, and I would like to express my own gratitude to Mala for her 5 years of service to our board. We wish you all the best Mala, and I’m glad that, as a client, you’ll continue to stay in contact with us.

A couple of our readers, who already had equipment at home, started recording remotely at the end of last year, and a third will soon join their ranks. This process turned out to be rather complicated, and so we’re very grateful for their perseverance. Alongside this new project, as of July we’ve been incrementally welcoming back fully-vaccinated volunteers into the office, one at a time. We’re cautiously optimistic as we move forward; in the interest of health and safety concerns we’re keeping the number of people present in the office at any given time to a minimum, so we’re asking for patience. Our ultimate goal is to eventually bring everyone back, in some capacity. Lastly, I’d like to welcome our newest volunteer, TJ’s infant son Yoan, who fulfills the very important role of keeping TJ on his toes.

Napoleon Bonaparte said “Show me a family of readers, and I will show you the people who move the world.” In that spirit I’d like to thank all of you for being part of the PAL family of readers.