

March 2017 Monthly Meeting

Members were asked to renew their Beccles U3A membership in good time so that membership cards can be issued in readiness for the new membership year which starts on April 1st. The new 2017-2018 membership card is proof of membership and should be shown at Interest group sessions, events and Monthly Meetings.

250 members renewed in person at last Friday's renewal event.

Members who pay income tax were also asked to consider completing the Gift Aid form so that 25p of each £ paid in their membership fee could be claimed back from HMRC.

Our status as a Charity allows us to claim for past years, this year and ongoing years.

Members were asked to consider themselves or other U3A members for joining the executive committee. It's an ideal time to join as they would benefit from working with a team who have managed this U3A from its inception. A number of existing committee members will be standing down in just over a year's time and must be replaced so that the U3A can continue. Nomination forms were issued in the renewals pack which was posted out to all members at the beginning of the month.

Members were reminded that if they wanted to propose any changes at the AGM they should send in their proposals in by April 15th. So that they can go forward to the AGM. General suggestions can be posted via the suggestion box located in the foyer or via the online suggestion box. Members can suggest speakers for future monthly meetings and new interest groups. It only takes two people to start an interest group. Once started it could attract interest and before long you could have a group established.

Accessibility Officer.

Veronica Carpenter will be standing down from this role at the AGM. Veronica has put in place our Accessibility Policy which can be found on our website. We are looking for a person(s) to take over this important position within our U3A. The role can be ex officio (i.e. not a committee position) the role/s would be a sub committee who would report directly to the chair. Formal job role details are posted on the website.

Refreshments for the Monthly Meeting.

We have had two people volunteer but we are still looking for another two people so that a rota will allocate just three/ four duties per year.

Events.

The Paris trip in June.

Balance payments are now due. If anybody else wants to join the 30 plus people already booked they have until May to join the. Full payment of £299.00 will have to be paid when booking.

Groups.

The Cookery Group

This is currently suspended as Mandy Smith the Convenor has stepped down. Mandy was thanked for her efforts. Mandy has stated that she is willing to advise anyone who wishes to re-establish the group.

The Ukulele Group

It was announced this week that the Convenor is stepping down due to other commitments. This group will be reviewed for moving forward

Ballroom Dancing.

There is sufficient interest for this proposed group. Details of an initial meeting will be advised on the website soon.

The Drama Group

This is up and running, two meetings have taken place.

Historic Walks 3

This group has a Convenor. If you are interested in joining this new group please send a message via the bird on the Historic Walks 2 web page.

Summer Rowing.

There is a meeting this Friday (March 17th) at 10.00 am for new comers at the Sea Cadet site in Fen Lane opposite Travis Perkins. This meeting will last for approx. 1 hour. The rowing year will start on Friday April 7th 10-12.00.

Again look at the group page for more details.

Badminton.

There is a possible new day and time for Badminton- Monday 5-6 pm at Beccles Free School. The cost would be about £3.50. If you are interested please contact

Julia via the Group page.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT for the Walking 3 Group.

There is a change of date for the Woodbridge walk. This walk has been moved on from the 22nd March to 29th March. Meet at Beccles Railway Station at 9.00 am. You will be back by 2.15 pm.

Paul Gurbutt, Groups Coordinator (Not at today's meeting) is collecting interest for other proposed groups so please keep sending him expressions of interest.

The Chair then introduced the March Meeting Speaker-Jemma Wood Volunteer Co-Coordinator for the St. Elizabeth Hospice