Volunteers Needed in Belfast U3A:

A-Team - a group assisting with mainly keyboard tasks on the Newsletter,
Memorandum records, Committee minutes – may be of interest to those who are IT proficient and would like to keep their skills up to date.

Newsletter Editor - producing a monthly newssheet
Membership Secretary updating membership records
Groups Coordinator - to assist Interest Groups
Minutes Secretary - minutes of Committee meetings
Contact the Business Secretary, June Martin
Meet & Greet helpers, contact Pat Aldred,
Really Useful Group (RUG), contact Moya Crunden, moyacrunden@gmail.com

Notice of Annual Subscriptions for year 2020/21
The membership subscription for year-ending 31st March 2021 remains at £15 per person. This is the second year of a two-year reduction in subscriptions. Payment is due and can be paid through a number of channels, by cheque and online (see below).

Payment Methods
If paying by cheque, send the cheque, made payable to “Belfast U3A”, to: Andrew Walmsley, 121 Ballylesson Road, Belfast BT8 8JT. Cash payments can only be made in person to the Treasurer.
Online payments are made to the “Belfast U3A” account with Danske Bank: Sort Code: 95-06-79, Account Number: 70004367. The Payment Reference must include your New Membership Number.
If paying your annual membership subscription by this online method, include the code for it, i.e. MEM, in the Payment Reference field followed by your new Membership Number and if you have space, your surname, e.g. MEM1234Surname (where the membership number is 1234).

https://u3asites.org.uk/belfast

News from the Groups

Caroline and Mark, the Jazz Group Convenors, are sending out emails to members registered with them, with tips for good sources for jazz music.

From the Gardening Group, “Hello everyone. It is great that restrictions are easing and we may chance seeing each other at the various garden centres or National Trust properties. Some of you have been asking about refunds of the monies paid for our aborted garden visits. This is now in place and you should hear from Andrew, Rosemary or myself very shortly. We have all enjoyed the strange coverage of Chelsea and RTE’s turn with Bloom. Enjoy everything as best you can. To those still restricted we hope it will be your turn soon. Stay safe. Remember we are all a potential carrier for now.” Rosemary & Roberta

Lilian and Norma, Convenors of the Duplicate Bridge 2 Group, send the message, “We hope all of those who had joined us at the Boat Club since September 2019 have kept safe and well. We miss our Tuesday mornings and the friends we made in the short time we were in operation. We hope you continue to stay safe and will join us again when it’s safe to do so.”

From the Literature 1 Group, June and Nuala say, “We hope members are enjoying reading widely! Please keep a note of any texts you think would be of interest to the rest of the group and then offer them as suggestions for our proposed autumn programme. ‘People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading!’ wrote Logan Pearsall Smith. I wonder if he would agree during our Lock Down!”

The Bowling Convenors, Clare and Helen, are waiting on guidance from the NI Executive and relevant governing bodies before any decision can be made on outdoor bowling. They will be in touch with the Bowlers when things become clearer.

The Walking Group has kept in touch with one another by: regular emails, the mini-newsletter, phone calls, a weekly Zoom fitness session. Once the restrictions were lifted to allow up to 6 people to meet outside, we had walkers who volunteered to lead groups of 6 on local walks at different parts of the city and ensuring social distancing – Stormont
Estate, Lockkeepers Cottage, Musgrave Park and Seapark in Holywood. For those who wish to stay separate, the Zoom fitness session is still an option. Brenda.

Adrian advises, "The Golfers await Phase 3 of the golf regulations which allowed golf to restart and will allow golf clubs to welcome non-members as well as members. Meanwhile, the Golf Group have started to meet up on Zoom calls every 2 weeks."

For the Photography Group, Adrian reports, "The Photography Group meet on Zoom every 2 weeks and are looking at ways of getting outdoors for a day out within the social distancing guidelines."

Nuala, Book Group 2 Convenor reports, “As we are a very convivial group the prospect of Lockdown parting us for an unspecified period of time was not to be borne. One of our members set up a Whatsapp group and we carried on with our usual reading programme. Monthly book was chosen. Date for presentation of views settled. (One of the benefits of Lockdown? Finding a date when we are all available is remarkably easy!) In between the assignment dates there is almost daily communication. Lots of jokes of course but also useful information about shopping, etc. On presentation day those who have read the book (and we are MOST understanding about those who haven’t quite got round to reading it yet) email their views and we all respond.” Despite her initial reservations and techno-fear, Nuala was very happy with the outcome. Some of the group decided to drag her by the scruff of the neck into our new technological world and the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday 2nd June on Zoom! Meanwhile, Book 2 Group are still a happy, and happily, reading group. Regards to all my U3A friends. I do miss you all. Nuala.

The Cycle Group rides mostly on cycle and pedestrian shared lanes and Greenways. Jackie reports that there will be no cycle group rides until the Greenways are quieter; that is when people get back to work and school. Jackie

Elizabeth, of the Brunch Group, says they are keeping in touch and planning an open air get-together sometime, somewhere (not at the chippie). Eliz.

For the members of Exercises for the Body and Brain, Ursula sends the message, “Wishing you well. Hope you are doing your favourite exercises especially The Hook -Ups. Keep Safe Keep Healthy.” Ursula

For members of the Art Appreciation Group, Sandra keeps in touch with suggestions about art programmes on television, and the many art galleries and museums around the world that have online exhibitions available for all to enjoy.

In the Military History Group, Gwyn has been setting the members research tasks to undertake during lockdown.

The Creative Writing Group continues with their writing projects in readiness for when they can meet again and share their stories. Deirdre

Book Group 1 is not meeting at the moment. Convenor, Anne, sends greeting to her members and U3A friends.

For the Classical Music Appreciation Group, Keith continues to send out musical listening suggestions with some background notes and analysis while Kristin sends out biographies.

Betty and Kate from the Film Group send a message, “We hope all the Film Group members are keeping safe and well”.

Message from the Editor

Dear reader,

This is my last issue of the Newsletter. Thank you to everyone who helped me so much in producing it over the past six months, especially the convenors who have been wonderful about sending in news on their groups. I’m hoping that one or two of you will think about having a go at editing the Newsletter. Please be reassured that there will be help available for the new Editor(s).

Theresa McVeigh

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