

Newsletter No.48

Spring 2023

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u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Registered Charity No:
1157184

AGM

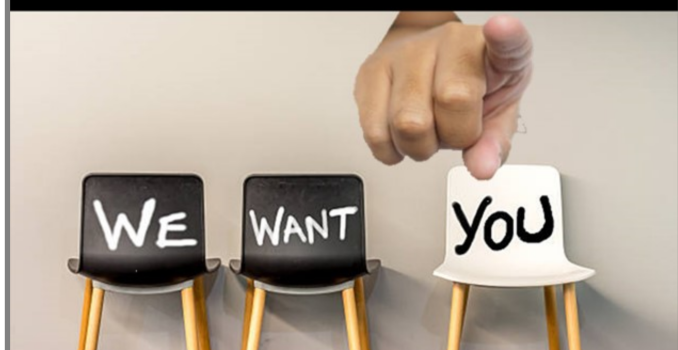
Notice is given that the TWELTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the BOURTON & DISTRICT u3a will be held on Wednesday, 24th May, 2023 at 10.45am at The Royal British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the Water.

All members are welcome to attend from 10am to share refreshments before the business commences.

Message from the Chair

The Future of Bourton & District u3a

PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?



Your Committee works hard to keep your u3a vibrant and alive. That work, mainly behind the scenes, provides you with a whole variety of activities, speakers and other programmes which, we hope, offers something for everyone.

It has become clear, however, that it will be very difficult for our u3a to survive unless we can recruit more help.

We hope you will agree that it would be very sad indeed to say goodbye after the years of fun, learning and friendships we have enjoyed together.

Helping out requires little in the way of special talent; simply a willingness to assist.

So, can you help please? If you have time to spare, even a few hours, please consider playing a part with us by initially contacting our Secretary, Rosemary, at: secretary@banddu3a.org.uk

A Summary of our Vacant Roles

We have four roles which need filling immediately.

The first, our Secretary, is an Officer and must be prepared to serve on the Committee itself. The other three, however, do not necessarily have to be Committee members although it would be most helpful if they could at least attend meetings occasionally to update us. The four roles are:-

Secretary:

Can you book venues and prepare agendas/minutes for Committee meetings/the AGM? Also, liaise once in a while with folk like National Office and the Charity Commission?

Requires basic computer skills with emails and Word (or equivalent). Normally about 8-10 hours a month, but a bit more around the AGM.

Speaker Secretary:

Maybe you are a person who likes gathering information about potential speakers, making contact with them and agreeing dates/other details? Also, just once a year, putting together a proposed programme of events to the Committee?

Requires basic computer skills with emails and Word (or equivalent). Normally only about 4 hours a month, but with an extra 8-10 hours once a year when putting the annual programme together.

Publicity Officer

Through the local press, might you be happy publishing details about our forthcoming monthly meetings or investigating opportunities to promote our activities generally?

Requires basic computer skills with emails and about 4 hours a month.

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Spring Flowers by Andy Lewis

Proposed Resolution for AGM in May 2023

Background:

Our Constitution, Clause 7 (iii), states that "...no one may hold the office of Chairman for more than 3 consecutive years..." (**not** 3 consecutive terms of office).

In 2021, the Covid pandemic created a situation where we had to ask our previous Chairperson, Susan Dodd, to stay on for an extra 4 months, i.e. until the September, before we could hold an AGM where Paul Clark was elected as our new Chairman. Just 8 months later, i.e. in May 2022, Paul was re-elected at the subsequent AGM.

Paul plans to stand again in May for what will be his 3rd term of office and, in normal circumstances, this would be his last term. If elected, however, he will only have served for 2 years and 8 months by May 2024.

The Committee is asking the membership to consider this extraordinary situation and to decide whether or not Paul should be allowed to stand as Chairman again in May 2024, thus creating a situation where, if elected, he would go on to serve as Chairman for a total of 3 years and 8 months.

Resolution:

The membership resolve that our current Chairman, Paul Clark, if properly nominated and seconded, be allowed to stand for re-election in May 2024, recognising that this would be his 4th term of office.

Members' Monthly Meetings

Meetings will be on 4th Wednesdays (2nd Wed. in Dec.) 10am – 12Noon at the British Legion Hall, Bourton-on-the-Water. Tea and Coffee will be served from 10am – 10.30am. This is a chance to chat with other members, meet some of the committee and Group Organisers and catch up on the latest plans and news. Speaker or activity starts 10.45
Details on website or phone 07783235320

| Date –2023 | Topic | Speaker |
|----------------|---|--|
| April 26th | Beetle drive | We had great fun last year, so do come along |
| May 24th | AGM | |
| June 28th | Global Warming. Fact or Scare-mongering | Kenneth Ingamells |
| July 26th | Barn Dance | Steve and Myra Ford |
| August 23rd | The Galapagos Islands | Arthur Ball |
| September 27th | Renewal Day | |

Message from the Chair (continued)

Webmaster

Requiring a bit more skill than the other vacant roles, might you be able to familiarise yourself with our website's capability, liaise with the Site Builder Support team as necessary and update our website with information received from our Committee/GO's?

Requires basic computer skills with emails and ability to manage photos/attachments prior to uploading onto our website. Normally about 8-10 hours a month, but with about 5 hours extra once a year around Membership Renewals time.

If any of the above roles are of interest, then please choose the "Committee" tab on our website where you can find links to more detailed Job Descriptions.

Paul

Chairman

Reports from Interest Groups

Walking Group

Weatherwise, its been an interesting winter for walking. December's Xmas walk from the Farmer's Arms in Guiting Power was in fine, frosty conditions but was



followed in January by a rather (ie extremely) wet walk from the Fox in Little Barrington. February's walk from the Great Western in Blockley was fine but the March walk from the Cherington Arms in Cherington had to be called off due to the snow and ice and will now be walked in April. We hope for better conditions as we move through Spring into Summer. Despite the conditions, walking numbers remain high with around 20 people on each walk, although I suspect the pub remains the main attraction!

Neil Cox



Interest Groups

GOs please inform Rob Gorton, Groups' Support of **ANY** changes to your Group's details ASAP. He will then inform Newsletter & Website Editors.

DISCLAIMER

Before attending any groups please check with GO
Members participating in any groups must be responsible for their own welfare and abide by Government guidelines.

| Group | Group Leader |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Archaeology | Steve Ford |
| Art and Craft for Fun | Anne Thurling |
| Book Club Bourton | Susan Foster |
| Bridge | Neil Cox |
| Chess | https://u3achessnetwork.org.uk/ |
| Choir (The Five Bridges Choir) | Annette Smith |
| Country Dancing | Steve Ford |
| Film Group | Neil Cox |
| French Conversation | Catherine Field |
| History—General | Jo Young: |
| Indoor Kurling | Peter Boxall |
| Mah-jong | Denease Robinson |

Interest Groups

| Group | Group Leader |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Mexican Train | Terry and Sandra Gavin |
| Nature Group | Andy Lewis |
| Play Reading 1 | Roger Harris |
| Play Reading 2 | Mike Rees |
| Poetry Circle | Jenny Stevenson |
| Quiz | Ray and Susan Dodd |
| Recorder Group | Myra Ford |
| Scrabble | Brenda Bennett |
| Skittles (2nd Monday) | Madelaine Cox |
| Skittles (4th Monday) | David Prout |
| Sunday Lunch Club | Beth Bryan |
| Table Tennis | Geoffrey Williams |
| Walking Group | Neil Cox |
| Writing | Fiona Freeman |

Reports from Interest Groups

Mahjong

It's a real joy to see our Mahjong group clearly enjoying playing again after what has been a difficult few years. Our numbers are steadily increasing, but there are still spaces for anyone wanting to learn or indeed for those who already know how to play. A warm welcome awaits. We are a happy,



fun loving group who do not take winning seriously (although it is good to win occasionally)! We look forward to seeing you at our future group get togethers on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays in the month, 10-12a.m. at the George Moore centre. First two sessions are free so you have nothing to lose but lots to gain, like making new friends and learning this wonderful game.

Denease Robinson

Quiz Group

If you fancy coming along to one of our quizzes, held on 2nd Friday of each month, from 10am-12.30pm, do call us on 01451 822431 or email

susan.ray.dodd@btinternet.com

Ray and Susan Dodd



Film Group

Attendance has increased since last Autumn with over 20 people now regularly enjoying the refreshments and films we have shown each month. Hopefully, the influx of new members should ensure this trend is maintained (as long as we continue to provide interesting films of course).

Neil Cox

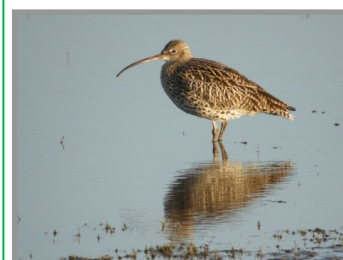
Nature Group

Our outings included a walk in the Eastleach valley with a very flooded River Leach, and a Christmas meal at the Wellington in Bourton. In the New Year we visited Nature in Art for the Bird Photographer of the Year exhibition, and Colesbourne Park, which holds the national Snowdrop Reference



Andy Lewis

Collection, as well as being a lovely parkland in its own right. In March we visited the Wildlife Trust reserve at Coombe Hill, which was still partially flooded and held large numbers of wintering ducks and even a handful of Curlew, a wading



James Lees

Bourton & District U3A Executive Committee 2022/23

| Position | Name |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Chairperson | Paul Clark |
| Secretary | Rosemary Quinn |
| Treasurer | Diana White |
| Membership Secretary | Catherine Firth |
| Groups' Support | Rob Gorton |
| Equipment Officer & Beacon Lead | Ken Lamacraft |
| Posts Available | |
| Webmaster | |
| Speaker Secretary | |

Getting in Touch

To contact any Group Organisers, please go to the "Groups Page", click on the "Group" you are interested in and then click on the "Bird Icon." This will allow you to email the Group Organiser.

If you wish to contact anybody who is mentioned but is not listed as a Group Organiser, please use the "contact page" on the website. The message is then passed on to them.

Alternatively you can ring :

07783 235320

bird whose numbers have recently crashed.

Our indoor meetings started the year with a discussion on what people were doing for wildlife in their gardens and what they had seen there over the winter. In February the wildlife writer and guide Ed Drewitt was zoomed to us from his home in the Forest of Dean and described a fascinating tour he led to the Solomon Islands off northern Australia. In March we concentrated on Signs of Spring – things to look out for as the days grow longer.

Andy Lewis