

# February Mini Newsletter



Dear Caterham u3a member.

I am feeling more at home now in my new role and am looking forward to keeping you all informed with what we are doing on the committee as well as informing you of any new events that we are scheduling. Liz Whittaker has advised that we now have 80 groups on offer, well above the average for other u3as. There are four new groups starting—Belly Dancing, Debating, Chess and a non-fiction Book Group. They are all looking for members and can be contacted via the website. Liz has a few tickets left for Kiss me Kate – reduced from £79 to £45. Please contact Liz via the Theatre Group on the website. There are a few places left on the German 7-day coach trip. Contact Deb as soon as possible on <https://u3asites.org.uk/code/mailling.php?site=1&mailkey=c:44650> . Similarly Thursford is selling

out fast, contact Deb on this as well.

So, what has been going on since the Newsletter?

- We had a full capacity crowd at the Festive Lunch on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the Bletchingley Golf Club. It was a great success so, a big thank you to Sheila Frost for organising it and Keith Lawrance for the table plans and quiz, as well as our recorder group who entertained us as we arrived.
- Your new committee met on January 15<sup>th</sup> and completed the regulatory changes. Very importantly Liz Whittaker was elected as the Vice Chair. This role is to step in when I am away.
- I am pleased to say Lyn Robinson-Jones has scheduled two additional talks funded by our lottery grant-- February 12<sup>th</sup> on Pantomime Dames and August 19<sup>th</sup> on a Magic talk. Lyn will inform you on each in the normal way.
- Sheila Frost has scheduled a First Aid demonstration on February 28<sup>th</sup> at the Arc. It rapidly sold out and she is planning a second one later in the year. It is good to see there is so much interest in this vital area.
- Corrie Ball has taken up his new role as Publicity Officer and is organising a stand for us at the Warlingham Hobbies Day on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am to 2.00pm at Warlingham Church Hall. It is well worth going along to support our team and find out what else is going on in our area.
- He has also set the date for our annual Open Day on September 13<sup>th</sup>. More on this nearer the time. He is planning some new competitions for the Newsletter which may include a photo competition and a limerick competition. He is a powerhouse of activity.
- It looks as though we have been successful in getting a grant for a new projector and sound system from the Friendship project. The grant will come from Claire Coutinho's part of this (our local MP) which has raised funds for charities like ours.
- On grants, the Social Committee is beavering away on additional subsidised coach outings from the lottery grant. Details will be provided by Joyce Jessop as they come up.
- Finally, I am pleased to see many of you have taken advantage of the of the new membership portal and payment system. **If you are in the process of renewing your membership, please use the new system as it saves our membership secretary an awful lot of work while giving you access to your personal details and the ability to pay by credit card (or PayPal if you have an account).** There are many of you who pay by cheque which is fine but if you are able to use BACS or the new system that would help us a lot.

As you can see there is a lot of new things going on, so please read the newsletter when it comes out and the website for up-to-date information and more details.

**Paul Knight**

**Caterham & District u3a Chairman**