

## Mini Newsletter

December 2022



We are approaching the end of the year, and I have just heard my first Christmas song on the car radio! So the festive season approaches, and I am sure that we are all looking forward to the celebrations, which will hopefully not be affected by COVID!

Wendy and I went to Thursford for the Christmas Spectacular. We have heard lots about it, but have never been. What a great experience. I will be asking the Social Committee to investigate for next year. However, it requires quite complex arrangements, as you really need an overnight stay.

We held our AGM on the 28th, live, for the first time in 3 years! It was a bit of a strange experience, and we were all on something of a learning curve. Some of you will be aware that the Third Age Trust has had some website problems, as a result of hosting issues, which has meant that many u3a's websites have been down. This was very inconvenient, as a lot of the material for our AGM was on our website! They are hoping to get the service resumed soon, and as soon as it is, we will try to get all the details of the AGM published.

Thanks to some amazing work by one of our members – **Susan Jones**, assisted by a former member – **Richard Andrews**, I understand that a limited website facility is already available, and that the information is being updated. Our own webmaster – **Philip Lawson** – was also involved and has been working to complete the restoration of the normal website. Hopefully, the process will be complete soon. It is now available to view, so if you need to access it, the best link is

<https://u3asites.org.uk/code/u3asite.php?site=1&page=0>

If anyone wants to edit it, it can be edited by those who have permissions with your normal passwords as before. The link to make any amendments is [u3asites.org.uk](https://u3asites.org.uk)

Copy date for the Next Full Newsletter is **3 January 2023**. Please send any items for inclusion to the Editor, Lynn Barlow at [barlynn53@gmail.com](mailto:barlynn53@gmail.com).

We had nearly 80 people in total, and I received a very nice comment by a new member (actually, she joined at the AGM!). She said that she had never seen such a well attended AGM! I encourage all those members who could not manage to get to the AGM to read the reports, and will be giving a more detailed account of proceedings on the website, but just to advise you all that I gave notice that I am starting my last year as your Chairman, and will be handing over the reins at the next AGM. We also announced that subscriptions will remain unchanged for a further year.

I also attended another New Members meeting. It was a lively gathering, with a number of good ideas for new groups coming forward, so watch this space. Once again, we held it at Cafe 181 at Oakhill Church. We are holding our regular coffee mornings there, and it is certainly a very nice place for a cup of coffee.

I received a message from one of our members (and a local councillor) **Annette Evans** about a new facility available via Independent Age. There is a freephone number of you want to find out more. I have already mentioned the IT support facility that Annette Evans offers at the Westway, but this is a suite of online tutorials and online courses. You can get more information at

[https://www.independentage.org/hidigital?ct=t\(EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_TechHub\\_Nov22\)](https://www.independentage.org/hidigital?ct=t(EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_TechHub_Nov22)), or just google "OnlineAge".

Lots of good things are happening on the Social Front. The Quiz night was a great success, and was so popular that we are going to run another one in the summer. It really is a fun evening, and **Phil Wright, Lyn Robinson Jones, Penny Kingsmill** and **Paul Knight** worked very hard to contribute to a very successful event.

Our trip to Rochester for the Dickens Festival is taking place on Saturday. I think that it is fully subscribed, and as this is our first visit we are hoping that it will be a great success. We also have our Festive Lunch in early January. There are still a few places available, so if you have not booked, please contact **Sheila Frost** at [sheila.dale.frost@gmail.com](mailto:sheila.dale.frost@gmail.com), but be quick! Full details were in the last Newsletter.

As our next full Newsletter will not be published until the end of the year, I will take this opportunity of wishing you a very Happy Christmas, and a healthy and happy New Year.

**Mike Brigden**  
Chair

