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Membership: Jeff Howard, members@chesteru3a.org.uk

Notices from Jenny (Chair, Chester U3A)

Those of you who have watched this month's online talk, **Forensic Linguistics**, know that Chester U3A is as active as ever. It is still available until 5th August so watch it soon. We are trying to keep you all in touch with developments

Survey

Manchester University have asked the members of Chester U3A to partake in a survey investigating how the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic impacts on social interactions, loneliness and mental health. If you wish to take part in this survey click on the link below:

<https://www.redcap.rss.mhs.man.ac.uk/surveys/?s=WJ8L7J4DLA>.

By clicking on this link you will be directed to a full explanation of the survey and asked to complete a consent form. You will not be committed until you submit the form. You will then be contacted direct from Manchester Dr Jenna Littlejohn (Research Associate, Sensory Loss and Cognitive Impairment, Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness) for your input. Jenna has agreed to report the results of their survey when completed.

A Reminder About Membership Renewal 2020/2021

Membership renewal for this year is due at the end of August. However, due to the continuing Coronavirus situation there will not be an opportunity for this to be done in person at St Columba's Hall. Members are asked to renew by one of the following methods: -

1. On line using the Beacon Members' Portal
2. By bank transfer
3. By post

Full details on how to renew can be found on our website under [Membership Renewals](#).

Note: **Online renewal is now available.**

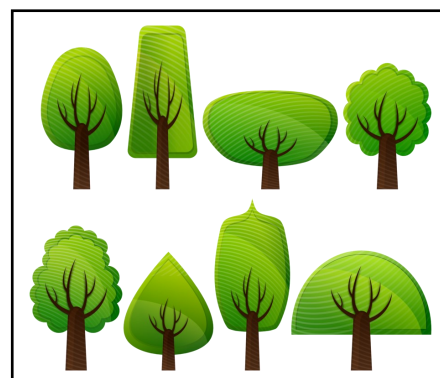
The membership fee for the period 2020/2021 is £12.00.

Chester U3A now has a Joint Membership category. The Joint Membership fee is the same at £12 per member as the benefits to both members remain the same, but Chester U3A will gain the financial benefit of Gift Aid relief on both subscriptions even if only one member qualifies. Members who wish to move to a Joint membership are asked to advise the Treasurer by email at treasurer@chesteru3a.org.uk quoting both membership numbers.

Thank you in advance for your continuing support of the U3A throughout this difficult time.

On-line Monthly Meetings

- **Tues 4th Aug. *STOP PRESS*** What is **biodiversity** and why do we need it? by Dr Tom Barker of the Centre for Alternative Technology (<https://www.cat.org.uk/people/dr-tom-barker>)
- **Thurs 13th Aug.** Webinar on **Reptiles** . When Chester U3A member Juliet Leadbeater retired from her post as a University Lecturer in Biology, she wanted to continue her research into our wildlife. She now volunteers for Cheshire Wildlife Trust, and is co-ordinating a survey on reptiles locally. So if you want answers to the following - What is a reptile? How many types are there any in Britain? Where are they found? Why are they important to our ecosystem? How can we tell if numbers are declining? then sign up for our webinar on August 13th at 10:15am here: [Reptiles Webinar](#)
- **Tues 1st Sept. Murder Investigations.** An introduction to the world of a Senior Investigating Officer (SIO) in today's police force. Ever watched Morse, Midsomer Murders, or the like? Have you wondered how it is really done in today's police force? Then watch this talk by Simon Price, former SIO and now a Chester University lecturer in Policing. A live webinar, with q&a, and a recording available for around a month afterwards.
- **Thurs 10th Sept.** The Hidden Life of **Trees**. Are trees the most successful life form on the planet? Critical for our survival and a model for sustainable living, a force for good across the world's climatic range and a net contributor to the health and well-being of all the other life forms that have flourished and faded over the millennia. Chester U3A member Stuart Murray discusses the wonders and complexities of these essential organisms, and invites you to describe and celebrate your own favourite tree. If there is sufficient interest from members then 'Trees' could form the basis of a short course over the Autumn.



Details of another forthcoming pre-recorded talk (date to be finalised)

Ostalgie (nostalgia for aspects of life in East Germany)

What was life really like in East Germany under Communism? Why do a surprising number of former East Germans miss their lives before 1990 long for a time in which they could not live, speak their mind or travel freely? And why do a small, but not insignificant, percentage also wish that the Wall had never come down? Discover what the word Ostalgie really means in this presentation by Dr Richard Millington of the University of Chester.



Volunteers Desperately Needed

1. Someone to take charge of the Thursday meetings. We need to decide what would be the best thing to do with these meetings. This is an opportunity for someone who loves trawling the internet and doing a little research, finding suitable online links or organising an event e.g. quiz or interview etc to help circulating useful information to replace the Thursday meetings. We have ideas – just need someone to help. In the first instance contact speakersec@chesteru3a.org.uk
2. A Co-Editor for the news sheet. This only involves a commitment every other month, to alternate with Joyce Carrington. If you are interested and would like to discuss this, please email newsheet@chesteru3a.org.uk



Groups

Thank you to all the coordinators who attended the various Zoom meetings. I have sent an email requesting details of your members and an update on your activities. This is for entry into the Interest Group booklet sent to new members and Beacon and Website update. Most of our new members are contacting us via the website so it is important so that information is kept current.

Art Appreciation 2 are holding their meetings via Zoom and have made a short 9 minute video to give a taste of what it is like. You can view it at <https://youtu.be/WdPkGW7owro> or on the Chester website under the [Art Appreciation Group tab](#). Well done. Pictures say so much more than words. If are inspired by this video please contact groups@chesteru3a.org.uk and have a chat. We already have a couple of volunteers if you need help with editing videos

A Festival Rises From The Ashes

In July Mal Waite of Chester U3A, and also one of the organisers of Chester Folk Festival, produced a YouTube video of how a team of volunteers organised the Festival this year. This involved getting singers and bands to perform concerts, they also had online morris dancing, mumm-ing, workshops, singarounds, and even a Zoom bar. It was an ambitious project. They proved that the show really must go on. In the video she tells us how it was done, exactly how steep the learning curve was, and what she learned by doing it.

If you wish to view the talk again. Here is a link to the YouTube video: <https://youtu.be/jS8OhuoJdio>



The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is Wed 26th August 2020.

Please send contributions to: newsheet@chesteru3a.org.uk or post to: PO Box 167 Chester CH1 9FB.
This month's editor: Joyce Carrington. Next month's editor: Joyce Carrington