

Chester U3A July 2020 Newsletter

From Jenny, Chair

Hello again.

It has been good to hear about all your activities as you Zoom into the coffee mornings that I have been holding. Unfortunately, not all groups are meeting, but now that the lockdown is being eased and more outlets are being opened in Chester maybe one or two from your group could meet up at an outside coffee place. I believe that Grosvenor Park and the riverside have outdoor cafes, and more of course will be opening, useful to check 'loo' availability. Remember that you must make your own risk assessment, based on your personal health and circumstances and follow the most current government guidance.

The online talks, organised by Sue, are appreciated by many of our members, so they will continue to replace our monthly meeting talk. I do not know of any other U3A that has developed this facility for their members – we are trying to support you in as many ways as we can so that you may 'keep in touch'.

The membership renewal notice is shown in this Newsletter. The membership renewal is £12.00; you may not know that £7.60 of this £12 is paid to The Third Age Trust leaving only £4.40 per member for running Chester U3A. That must be value for money! You may start renewing from July 20th.

I will be setting up **Coordinators' meetings** in the next few weeks because we need to discuss how we can adapt to the 'new normal'. Coordinators will receive an email inviting you to a Zoom meeting. If you are not able or do not wish to use Zoom, please ask one of your group members to represent you all. If you would prefer a personal telephone call that can also be arranged. Details will be sent out soon.

Latest news from the Social Group

You should all have received your refunds by the end of this week for the following outings: Shugborough, Saltaire, Oswestry, Shrewsbury, Figaro and Keeping up Appearances. This will give us a clean sheet to start booking new trips as soon as we feel it is safe to do so. The holiday for next spring, to Scotland, is on hold until next year. Although it is fully booked there may be some people who cannot go so if you would like me to put your names on the waiting list I will do so.

I expect you are all longing to meet up again and enjoy outing with friends. I know I am so until then please take care and stay safe.

If you have any queries, please feel free to ring me. Liz (01244 341097)

Important! Save the date and time! 10am Thurs 9 July (from Sue Foy)

Having produced online talks and sent out links for the last few months, I decided it was time to go live. I have been lucky enough to find people to go along with me (which, I am sure you will agree, is one of the best things about the U3A), so our Thursday talk for July will be a Webinar. A Zoom room will open at 10am, you should be able to see and chat to the others in the audience, then we will begin our live talk at 10:30, followed by Q&A. You will be sent a link on the morning, just click and join us sometime between 10 and 10:30am. A recording will be made, and put online later (suitably edited and with the possibility of subtitles) for anyone unable to join us on the day, but please do try and be there to support us - we would love to see you! Subject of the talk is as follows:

A Festival Rises from the Ashes

As you may know, Mal Waite of Chester U3A is also one of the organisers of Chester Folk Festival. When Covid-19 forced the abandonment of this year's festival, they had the bright idea of putting it online. Not content with getting singers and bands to perform concerts, they also had online morris dancing, mumming, workshops, singarounds, and even a Zoom bar. Nothing if not ambitious, they managed to prove that the show really must go on. In this online talk and interview she tells us how it was done, exactly how steep the learning curve was, and what she has learnt from it for the future.

Some future talks (dates to be confirmed)

Animal Social Networks by Dr Chrissy Stanley

Social networks are all around us – and not just on Facebook. In recent years, scientists have built social networks to represent a range of interactions in species across the animal kingdom, from crickets to elephants. Have you ever wondered if fruit bats or cockroaches have friends? Social networks can give us these answers.

In this talk by Dr Chrissy Stanley from the University of Chester, she will outline not just what animal social networks might look like, but how this type of research can be applied to conservation and the management of captive animals. She'll include examples from work she's been involved with on horses, fruit bats, cockroaches and various primates.

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.

The British Police Service works to tried and tested formulae when it comes to things such as the investigation of Homicide. When such offences are discovered, the investigation is led by the SIO and staffed by teams of officers and other police colleagues who are experts in their respective roles and who come together to work effectively towards achieving a just outcome.

This talk will outline the route of an investigation from the perspective of the SIO and will give an introduction as to how investigators are required to open their minds to numerous investigative hypotheses and possibilities, as well as giving consideration to the investigative tactics and options that are available to the modern day investigator.

Lockdown Legacy: what Chester U3A members have been doing in unusual times

A time limited group to record aspects of life during Covid19.

Times have changed in the last few months. It's not clear that they will ever be quite the same again. It is certain that many Chester U3A members will have been making the best of these times, keeping busy, staying in touch, doing and learning and in some cases, managing some very difficult situations. There will be different legacies and all sorts of records of what our members have been doing. Books will have been read, diaries written, photographs taken, gardens improved, new skills developed, drama series revisited, research completed, craft work and presents produced, new technology mastered.

One of our members is willing to form a new group, to meet over a three-month period and collect and collate a record of as many of these activities and reactions to the '2020 lockdown' as members wish to share. If there are people who like the sound of this short programme and would be interested in being involved please contact events@chesteru3a.org.uk . An initial meeting, probably by Zoom, will take place at 1000 on Monday 13th July.

Stuart Murray

Groups are continuing to operate

Here are a few of the many examples of what we are doing: -

Many groups are using Zoom to hold online meetings. They are coping with the technology and becoming increasingly confident. If any group would like to learn more about using Zoom, our treasurer, Gary Nye, is happy to offer his services as a trainer. Please contact him at treasurer@chesteru3a.org.uk . Other groups are using Skype or WhatsApp. It is easy to use these pieces of software to share files on screen and to do remote presentations.

Other groups are working by email, setting and 'marking' work and getting other members of the group to comment on it. The digital photography group submits images to Google Drive for the members to appreciate.

If your group is doing something you would like to share, we would be very happy to publicise it in a future news sheet. Also, please send the details to webmaster@chesteru3a.org.uk so we can update the website with current group activities and pass on any tips for organising virtual activities.

Need some help or advice on using a PC/tablet/phone to join in with our U3A online? We may be able to help, email it@chesteru3a.org and we will see what we can do.

Ukulele Group

Have you taken up the ukulele during the lockdown? On this versatile instrument it is easy to learn the basics so that you can be playing songs after an hour, but it can be taken to a level where it thrills audiences. If you would like help either to get started or in progressing, please contact Laurence Cole of Ukulele 1 via the Chester U3A website. The Ukulele group can help by giving zoom tutorials whilst the lockdown lasts and also by providing information on useful websites for songs or lessons. It's fun and post lockdown you could even be part of a group learning and enjoying the ukulele together.

Laurence Cole Ukulele 1 Group Co-ordinator

Science Group goes online - group members enjoyed a second online meeting in June when Alan Yates showed us how 'Carbon Sequestration the Natural Way' might reduce carbon emissions around the globe. A very informative and thought provoking talk. Those members who were not able to see it live could watch the recording at leisure later. More details from science@chesteru3a.org.uk. Our July talk will be 'Can Stem Cells Cure Paralysis?' from Prof Eustace Johnson.

News from U3A North West Region and National U3A

You might also like to look at news from the North West Region. Here is a link to their website: www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west/NWnews . There is also a link to the national U3A newsletter for June (the July one hasn't appeared yet) at <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=ddfcd8eff4> The Trust is using the National Newsletter to keep members informed on the latest government advice covering coronavirus Covid-19. It is also filled with information, stories and advice from across the U3A movement on how to keep safe and occupied during this difficult time. If you would like to receive an electronic copy of their newsletter on a regular basis, you can do so by registering at <https://u3a.org.uk/email> .

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 www.chesteru3a.org.uk under Membership Renewal.

Note: Online renewal becomes available from Mon 20/07/2020.

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

Just over 90% of members have email addresses according to our records. If you do have an email address that we have not got on our records then please let us know. This may be done through the [Chester U3A website](#) or by emailing the membership secretary members@chesteru3a.org.uk.

Chester U3A now has a **Joint Membership** category. This is offered to take advantage of the HMRC Gift Aid Family membership scheme, where a member who is eligible for Gift Aid may pay for a Family or Joint Membership to cover both members and the total subscription is eligible for Gift Aid. 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. 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.

Kind Regards,

Jeff Howard, Membership Secretary

Jenny – Chair Chester U3A