

What Coventry Sherbourne u3a

January 2022

u3asites.org.uk/coventry-sherbourne

New Year Update from The Chair

A happy New Year to all our members! Well, this was not the way it was supposed to be. It was always a possibility, but I was really hoping that we wouldn't have any more Covid related interruptions to our activities. However, at this week's committee meeting we made the agonizing decision to cancel Thursday's January general meeting. We also strongly recommend that all face-to-face group activities which take place indoors should cease for the rest of January.

On balance, we took the view that with the ongoing Omicron wave, the risk of infection was too high to take any chances. In addition, if individual members were exercising caution, we might have found ourselves with insufficient helpers to set up and run Thursday's meeting effectively. At the time of taking the decision, even the authorities were waiting for some post-Christmas data to understand the severity, or not, of the wave. I feel sure that by February the country will have a clearer view of infection levels and our hope and expectation is that the risk will have diminished sufficiently that we can at least return to how things were in early December.

Covid is clearly going to be with us for a while and life must go on, so our approach is to only close down activities when the risk is heightened and the rest of the time it is down to individual members to assess their own level of risk. We will, of course, continue to ask members to comply with our precautions such as wearing face masks and helping to sanitise surfaces when required, as well as socially distancing when possible. Members should not attend our events if they are feeling unwell or have recently been exposed to someone with Covid and have not

tested themselves. This will all help to keep you and your friends safe.

I hope to see you all at the February meeting, when we can start to think about resuming all our activities and even look forward to participating in some new things.

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Thurs 6th January : Meeting cancelled, but there will be Afternoon Tea on Zoom at 2.00pm (invitations will be emailed on Wednesday).

Thurs 3rd February 2.00pm: AGM and short talk on "My time as a cub leader", by Jean Asbury.

Our AGM: will take place at the February meeting. Please note that the annual fee is £17.00 (subject to ratification). Nomination forms for Principal Officers and new committee members (2 vacancies) have been emailed to members, but if you don't use email and would like a form or have a question, please get in touch with a committee member.

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To our crafters, artists and any members willing to help to promote the u3a on its 40th Anniversary:

On 10th - 13th May we are staging an exhibition of arts and crafts to coincide with the City of Culture, in collaboration with Coventry's 2 other u3as. To publicise the u3a and recruit new members, we need your help, please. We particularly need volunteers to assist with running the event and it is also a great opportunity to submit your pictures and handicrafts for possible exhibition. Please contact Bill Day.

Whilst on the subject of crafts: **Congratulations to Chris Porch, who has triumphed against nation wide competition to have one of her quilt panels chosen for inclusion in the u3a 40th Anniversary Quilt.**

Notes for your Diary - January / early February

There will be a **Short Walk** on January 27th. Meeting at Tesco's car park at 10.30am, leaving the cars and walking the Sowe Valley. No advance booking is necessary, but the contact is Anne Tithecott.

Book lovers meeting 1st February - book: Lucky Jim by Kingsley Amis. Contact Dorothy Mayo.

Scrabble Dabblers on 2nd February. Contact Mary Kettley.

Activities should be back to normal next month.

A Coventry Quiz to keep you occupied: Answers to be given in the February Newsletter

1 The writer to the Doctor Who theme came from Coventry - what was her name ?

2 Who is credited with inventing the Turbo Jet engine and was born in Coventry?

3 Whose hunting lodge was Cheylesmore Manor, now better known as The Registry Office?

4 Who was kept prisoner in St Mary's Hall, Coventry for a short while?

5 Middlemarch is a book written by George Eliot - what was her real name?

6 One of the founders of the British Trades Union Movement was born in Coventry - what was his name?

7 The forerunner of the modern bicycle was invented in Coventry - by whom?

8 Which national saint was "reputed" to have been born locally and what was the location?

9 Which male Coventry born broadcaster was famous in the 60's for Saturday Club and interviews with The Beatles and carried on working until 2017?

10 A Coventry born singer sang Edelweiss in the 1960's - what is his name?

Gardening Excursions with Coventry u3a in 2022

Maureen Fox-Dowden has sent a list of Excursions with Coventry u3a. Cheques will be collected by Maureen at the February meeting.

Thursday 26th May – Longstock Park, Hants (John Lewis), £45. Departure time: 7.45/8.00am.

Thursday 30th June - R H S Hyde Hall, Essex, £30. Dep. 7.45/8.00am.

Thursday 21st July - Ness Botanic Garden, The Wirral, £32. Dep. 7.45/8.00am.

Thursday 25th August - Sir Harold Hillier Garden, Hants, £38. Dep. 7.45/8.00am.

Thursday 22nd September - Morton Hall, Worcs and Coughton Court, Warks (* additional charge for Non-NT members), £31*. Dep. 8.30/8.45am.

Thursday 20th October Bodenham Arboretum, Worcs, £26*. Dep. 8.45/9.00 am.

Parking at The Memorial Park is now chargeable - £5.

Cheques payable to Coventry U3A (on the back write "Gardening")

If you know of any members who are sick or in hospital, please inform any committee member or e-mail me and we will let Rita Heal know. Rita does a great job of sending out cards to those who are unwell.

Please send your emails about the newsletter to: tonessa makepeace.

