

Dear Members,

It is with sadness that I have to advise you that Graham Pursey, our Chair, has decided, for personal reasons, to resign his seat on our u3a committee and also as our Chair with immediate effect. We thank Graham for all he has done during his time on the committee.

Graham will still be running his, very popular, Wine Appreciation Group and will remain Group Leader, with Russell Warburton of the Monday Short Walks Group.

Graham's departure means that we have two vacancies on the u3a committee. If you feel that you may enjoy getting more involved with the running of Cranleigh & District u3a please get in touch, either with me, or with any member of the committee.

As Graham's Vice-Chair, I will be Acting Chair until our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 7th November, 2023 at the Cranleigh Methodist Church. It will commence at 2pm and be followed by a light hearted musical interlude and refreshments. We look forward to seeing many members there.

Best Regards

Veronica Barnard veronica@cranleighu3a.org

Group Leader Coordinator's Report

Angela Hardman

I hope that you are enjoying your return to u3a activities. After a very busy Open Day, our 2023-24 programme of 57 activities is now in full swing. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Group Leaders and helpers who enable our u3a to offer members such a wide range of activities. We could not do it without them.

I am aware that a few of our groups are oversubscribed and that some members remain on a waiting list. We are always happy to consider parallel groups, but we do need members to come forward to lead, facilitate or administer an additional group. I am grateful to Gill Willcox who has offered to lead a third Book Choice group and Anne Davies a second French Conversation group to help meet the demand. Following the sudden passing of Katrina McDonald, Leader of the Needlework and Knitting Groups, members Dot Mariner and Lyn Reed offered to become joint leaders which enabled both groups to start in September.

If you would like to find out what is involved in being a Group Leader, please do get in touch with me. Angela: glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org

We have a few places available in the following groups:

- **Badminton Group B** (2nd and 4th Fridays 1.30pm - 3.30pm)
- **Coarse Fishing** (variable dates)
- **Guitar Group** (1st and 3rd Wednesday, 2.00pm - 4.00pm)

If you would like to join, please contact Angela: glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org

New Group



At the Open Day a new u3a member offered to lead a 'Basic Computing Skills' course after Easter 2024. I know that this is something that members have often requested. However, we first need to get an idea of the sort of things that you might like to learn. It would also be helpful to know if you have an iPad and/or laptop computer. Please contact me if you might be interested in joining this potential new group.

As always, if you have a suggestion for a new activity and you are willing to help take your idea forward, we'd love to hear from you.

Please email Angela Hardman: glcoordinator@cranleighu3a.org

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of The Cranleigh and District u3a

Please come to our Annual General Meeting commencing at 2.00pm on Tuesday 7 November 2023 at Cranleigh Methodist Church. The formal notice of the meeting accompanies this Newsletter.

At the meeting, there will be a report on the last year's activities of your u3a, along with the Treasurer's report and, particularly important, your opportunity to elect the members of the Management Committee for the coming year. Some members of the existing Management Committee are standing down so, as mentioned by Veronica, we have vacancies.

For your Committee to function effectively, ideally, we do need the full complement of ten members. Would YOU consider joining the Committee? If so, please email our Vice-Chair, Veronica Barnard, - veronica@cranleighu3a.org - who will willingly provide more information.

Following the meeting, there will be brief musical entertainments by several of our Groups, following which all - especially new members - are welcome to stay on for refreshments, to socialise and ask questions. Do please join us if you can.

Membership

The u3a is a learning co-operative and membership charity which enables members to share educational, creative and leisure activities. Members draw upon their knowledge, skills and experience to teach and learn from each other (peer to peer learning).

The Equality Act 2010 states that "organisations need to consider what 'reasonable adjustments' can be made in order to accommodate those who may have particular needs".

At the meeting of the Management Committee on 18 September 2023, the Committee approved an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy and in accordance with that policy, I was subsequently appointed the Accessibility Officer.

I haven't yet worked out exactly what the role will involve, but thought that a good start would be to ask all members, via this Newsletter, if you have encountered any accessibility issues. This could be you personally or you may have witnessed another member having a problem.

Please contact me on 01403 267040 or accessibility@cranleighu3a.org.

I will do my best to investigate and resolve whatever you come up with.

Maggie Atkins

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

Speaker Programme

Our speaker programme has been well received, with excellent presentations by David Allen in April, with his **Victorian Murder Mystery** followed by **A journey into Space** with Peter Bond in July.

Our next two talks are:

On Tuesday 24th October, 2023 at 2pm, **A Forensic Experience**
by Hayley Scott

On Tuesday 23rd January, 2024 at 2pm, **A Shopping Basket of Nostalgia**
by David Rose

Both will be held in Cranleigh Methodist Church and places can be booked using Beacon.

A £5.00 charge is made which includes refreshments.

I look forward to seeing many of you at one or both.

Best Regards

Veronica

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Next year, in January/February, I shall be offering a further 6-week course in understanding how to tackle cryptic crosswords. If you are interested in attending this, please e-mail me at the following address:

barbalexwhite@gmail.com

You will need to purchase a workbook, which I will order for you in advance, at the current discounted cost of £12. Those who have participated previously have enjoyed the challenge and many continue to meet as a group to tackle cryptic crosswords together, as well completing them individually at home.

Hope to hear from you!

Barbara White

WINE APPRECIATION



Wine Appreciation has started the new u3a year much as it finished last year. There is a lively buzz of conversation in the Bandroom (especially by the time we're on to the sixth wine that we sample), followed by the loud crash of breaking glass as the evidence of our enjoyment is recycled in the local bottle bank. We now have 105 members of the group but, because of the size of the accommodation, attendance is limited to 75, self-selected on a first come, first served basis. Whilst we've come close to this figure, we have yet to exceed it.

This year, I've opted for a bolder approach to the selection of some of the wines for each meeting – more unusual grape varieties and/or wines from lesser-known countries or regions. By so doing, we are clearly ahead of the curve. One choice for our September meeting was an orange wine, made in Georgia from the Kisi grape; two weeks later, it was a Sunday Times' recommendation. Not every wine will be to people's taste but I have agreed that people can say what they like about the wines, as long as I have the right to say what I like about those who make the adverse comments! We continue, of course, to include safer bets so we also sampled, amongst other wines, an Argentinian Cabernet Sauvignon, which confirmed South America's reputation for producing excellent-quality, affordable wines – and not just Malbec.

Finally, a note about so-called 'skimpflation' in food and in alcohol, including wines. As you may have noticed, duty on wines of greater than 11% alcohol by volume has recently increased by 44 pence, with VAT on top. As a result, the well-known Australian winemaker, McGuigan, is reducing the alcohol level in some of its most popular wines to 11 per cent. I don't know what this will do to wine itself and I don't know whether other winemakers will follow suit but some are said to be reducing the quality of the grapes in some of their wine blends so buyer beware. The good news is, however, that sparkling wines should be cheaper.

Graham Pursey

Outings Club Programme

Saturday, 9 December 2023

Christmas Concert
Festival Theatre, Chichester

Kick off the festive season in style with The Band of His Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth, joining with the rousing voices of the Chichester Cathedral Choir, for a concert full of true Christmas cheer. You are guaranteed to leave feeling 100 times more twinkly than when you arrived.

You can expect a programme of customary carols and traditional tunes, alongside some new arrangements, all wrapped up into one beautifully presented musical celebration.

Although unusual to offer a Saturday outing it is the only matinee performance of this concert. We will be leaving Cranleigh at 12.45pm to arrive in Chichester for the 2.30 matinee performance. The coach will drop and pick us up from outside the theatre entrance.

Cost of Outing: £47

Leave Stocklund Square 12.45pm

Outings Organiser: Elaine Lock

01483 278608 elaine.lock@btinternet.com

Outings

The Outings Group is experimenting with a new and revised way of handling applications. Please bear with us if there are any hiccups along the way.

The new method has the great benefit of allowing members to pay for outings by bank transfer and submit applications by email. However, if you prefer to apply by post and use a cheque to pay you can still do this.

The information for the first outing using this new method was recently sent to all members of Cranleigh u3a and is also shown above in this Newsletter.

If you are interested in being an outings organiser, we could do with two or three more to join the team. If you'd like to know more about it, please contact one of the following Outings Organisers:

Elaine Lock on 01483 278608 or elaine.lock@btinternet.com

Margaret Anderson on 01483 268153 or margaretanderson4@btinternet.com

Valerie Miles on 01306 627248 or valerie@fivemiles.co.uk

Help with social media

Cranleigh & District u3a needs a volunteer to help take forward our profile on the Website and on social media platforms such as Facebook. If you have these skills, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact Martin Hayton: webmaster@cranleighu3a.org



Did you leave an umbrella on Open Day?

If yes, please contact Angela on 01483 272290

Copy for the January 2024 edition of the Newsletter to reach the editor by 20th December

If any members would like submit an article relating to their group, please feel free to do so. It doesn't have to be a whole page. We would love to hear from you.

Please prepare your text as a Word document, photographs in jpg format, and send them as separate attachments to your email to:

newsletter@cranleighu3a.org

Thank you!

Brian