



## Crawley u3a

### Newsletter November 2021

Dear members,

It was lovely to see so many members at the AGM. The meeting elected a new Committee and welcomed new volunteers to other posts.

<b>President</b>	Maureen Wicks
<b>Chair</b>	George Redgrave
<b>Vice chair</b>	Jim McGough
<b>Secretary</b>	Alan Pay
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Friday
<b>Groups Coordinator</b>	Peter Beckley
<b>Membership</b>	Stewart and Ann Sole
<b>Communications</b>	Vacant
<b>Events</b>	Vacant

#### **Non Committee:**

<b>Webmaster</b>	Stuart Spreadborough
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	TBC
<b>Deputy Treasurer</b>	Valerie Graham
<b>Welfare</b>	Brenda Ashenden
<b>RUGs</b>	Jean Elmer
<b>Speaker Organiser</b>	Liz Tennant
<b>Beacon Administrator</b>	Anne Thorn
<b>SUN representatives</b>	Vacant

As you will see, we still need a Communications Officer and an Events Coordinator to serve on the Committee and some other non-Committee roles. It is important that we have a member to represent our u3a in the Sussex Area Network as we may miss out on important information. Anne Thorn would like to relinquish the Beacon role next year; are there any members familiar with Databases who would like to take on this role?

In order to spread the load more evenly we hope to introduce a number of small volunteer opportunities which individually need not take up much time but will combine to keep our great organisation running. The suggested areas are:

#### **The A team**

- Admin support to the Committee, group leaders etc

## **Tech help**

- Provide support to members on IT issues either individually or as part of group sessions

## **Membership team**

- Provide cover during Membership Secretaries' absence
- Initiatives such as Grapevine (keeping in touch)
- New member support
- Provide help to longer term members, organise an annual afternoon tea
- Group leader to those not in a group

## **Group team**

- Support to Groups via Groups Coordinator
- Technical support to Groups
- Supporting members wishing to become a Group Leader

## **Communications**

- Publicity
- New member recruitment
- Newsletters online and posted
- U3a day activities

## **Inclusion**

- Support to members with extra needs

## **Sussex u3a Network (SUN) Rep**

- Links with other Sussex u3as.

## **Skills register**

- Share your skills (eg IT, Finance, Admin)
- One off talk, demo etc

If you would like more information or are able to assist in any way please contact the Membership Secretaries. [Membership@crawleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:Membership@crawleyu3a.org.uk) 111111

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## **Christmas celebration**

Our celebration is on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December and **admission is by ticket only. Everyone who attends, including all helpers and Committee must have a ticket.** A few tickets remain and are available using this link.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/crawley-u3a-christmas-party-tickets-202517955657>

You do not need to book online if you signed up at the AGM.

If you no longer require your place please let me know as soon as possible

## **Quiz 2**

We have a second quiz group which meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month in Room 6 at St Paul's between 2.00 and 4.00 p.m. Please contact Peter Beckley for more information. 01293 446415

## **Music Appreciation**

Unfortunately the Music Appreciation Group will be closing. Thank you to Peter Cartwright for his work in running the group.

## **Family History - Improvers/Advanced**

This group is for members who have made a start researching family history and already gathered the basis for a family tree, whether that's several generations or just immediate family.

Topics will be chosen each month for general discussion and these will allow you to share knowledge and information gained whilst researching your family, we will discuss any stumbling blocks, and there will be a chance to share stories of your ancestors.

Topics will include using Civil Registration and Parish Records, the Census Returns, resource aides available both online and paper-based, and other topics that we feel merit research and discussion.

If you'd like to meet with us then you'll be most welcome. We will start at the beginning of January 2022, and meetings will be on the First Wednesday of each Month from 2pm-4pm.

In addition to our regular meetings and spending time talking about Family History, there may also be an opportunity to arrange a visit to the Public Record Office at Kew, and other local Resource Centres, to see what's on offer.

You will need to book a place as spaces in the group will be limited.

Contact: Janet Newson - [newsonj57@gmail.com](mailto:newsonj57@gmail.com)

There is a possibility that an additional group may be set up for Beginners in Family History. Please email Janet if this is of interest to you.

## **Short Mat Bowls**

We are delighted that the Short Mat Bowls group has now started. All enquiries to Peter Beckley, Groups Coordinator 01293 446415.

## Monthly Meetings

The following speakers have been booked for meetings in the New Year.

- 14 January.** Harry Venning. Cartoonist and comedy writer  
**11 February.** David Barry. Actors behaving badly  
**11 March.** Neil Sadler. Come Fly With Me (retired Gatwick policeman)  
**08 April.** Katherine Collett. Downton Revisited (including songs)

## Brandenburg Choral Festival of London

Members may be interested in these concerts, featuring all the traditional Brandenburg festive trimmings: excellent music, seasonal readings, and the famous Porter family mulled wine with the opportunity to join a Zoom concert.

### **Brandenburg Traditional (online) Christmas Concert Tuesday 7 December, 2.00pm**

Pre-recorded musical content features familiar audience carols singing along with the Brandenburg Camino Choir as well as Christmas-related music, and a few more unusual carol settings by the professional **Choir of St Bartholomew the Great**. The programme will be interspersed with seasonal readings.

Delivery will be via Zoom. (no technical knowledge required – just click on the link supplied) A pdf programme will be supplied to be printed at home together with tips to enhance the quality of audio delivery in the home.

In the interval concert-goers can come off mute, mingle, drink a mulled wine (recipe supplied) and nibble a mince pie. This will take place in small breakout rooms, each hosted by a member of the Brandenburg Team. With small numbers we can create a genuine social event.

Please follow the link for more information.

[www.brandenburg.org.uk/christmas](http://www.brandenburg.org.uk/christmas)

Thank you for taking the time to read this newsletter and the others I have circulated during my term of office. Has it inspired you to come forward and take over the role? Please contact me for more information.

It's a bit early BUT..... Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Festive Season!

Jan Morris