

2022
10th anniversary



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Dear Members,

As I write there have been no applications to be co-opted onto the committee as Vice Chair. While this does not surprise me I feel that I should make it crystal clear that if no one stands for Chair at our Annual General Meeting in June it would be impossible for our u3a to continue and would put the committee in a very uncomfortable position. Enough said, applications for those members wishing to stand for election to the committee as Officers or ordinary committee members will be sent out in April. Details later in this newsletter.

Planning and preparations are well under way for our 10th Anniversary celebrations in July. More information later in the newsletter.

The renewal subscription for 2022-2023 has been set by the committee at £12 for the full year, £10 for the half year and £8 for three months. This includes a £4 per person membership fee to the Third Age Trust and £1 per member fee for the use of Beacon, software that allows us to maintain a membership database, email members easily, group lists and many other functions. While previously we have been happy to receive cheques in March and not bank them until after the 1st April this year we are trialling payment by bank transfer for those who wish to use this facility and we do not want renewal subscriptions entering the u3a account until after the end of our financial year at the end of March.

Renewal notices with details of how to pay will be delivered /posted after the 31st of March. There is also the opportunity to subscribe to Third Age Matters, a magazine for and about the u3a, at £3 if you would like to do so. Payment preferably by bank transfer with the return of the form in all cases and cheques, if this is the preferred method of payment, to the Membership Secretary. Full details will be printed on the renewal notice.

Are there any members who would be willing to act as 'email buddies' for those members who are not on email? It would be helpful for such members to be kept up-to-date between newsletters and group updates. Very occasionally we may need to contact all members at short notice and having members who would be prepared to keep members who are not on email aware of any changes would be of

great assistance. Any member either willing to act as an 'email buddy' or who would benefit from having such a friend please let me know.

I would like to thank our webmasters, Liz and Malcolm Ross who are setting up a Facebook page for members and the public alike to keep them abreast of what is happening in our u3a. It will be a closed Facebook page but Liz and Malcolm would, no doubt, be interested in any comments you may wish to make. Please do let them have any photographs you may have of any activities taking place during the year to keep both the website and Facebook page up to date and interesting; this is our public face towards our local community.

Should you wish to contact me I am available through our website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/droitwich/contact> or by phone on 01905 778743

Please consider offering some of your time to volunteer

Gay Enoch - Chair

Renewal Procedure April 2022

Renewal subscription for 2022/2023 - £12

Subscription to Third Age Matters - £3

From 1st April 2022:

- Pre-populated renewal subscription forms to be delivered/posted to members.
- Renewal subscriptions may be made by bank transfer or cheque, instructions on the form.
- If a member wishes to subscribe to Third Age Matters, the magazine for members of the u3a, they should renew membership before 30th April 2022. *
- Renewal subscription not received by 31st May 2022 membership will be deemed terminated but lapsed members can always rejoin at any time.

Timetable for 10th

Annual General Meeting 2022

Monday 25th April 2022 - Committee nomination forms to be emailed/posted to members.

Monday 16th May 2022 - Committee Nominations should be returned to Janis Stark, Business Secretary, (35 days prior to AGM)

Thursday 19th May 2022 – Circulation of AGM papers, (+28 days prior to AGM)

Monday 20th June 2022 – AGM

at The Norbury Theatre, 2.15pm

A warm welcome to the following new members:

Jackie Johnson, Rose Morgan, Yvonne Hodges

Philip Hodges, John Crawford

News from Sue Howarth, Existing Groups' Coordinator

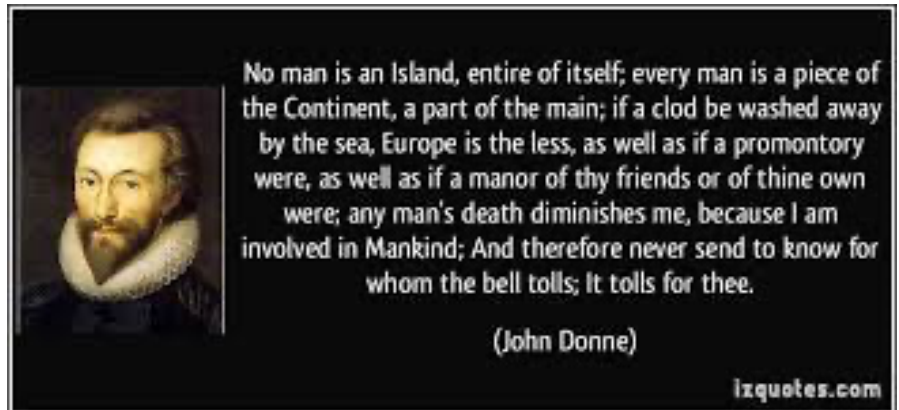
My apologies to David Stewart as the news about his groups got left out of February's Groups' Update. David runs three groups, one as co-leader, and all of these, at time of writing, meet face-to-face. David points out that for face-to-face meetings *he expects members to be triple-jabbed and negative flow-tested within a few days.*

Classical Literature and Poetry

This group meets regularly on the 3rd Thursday of every month, from 2-4 pm.

Members are currently reading the poems of John Donne and having great fun with them.

The group has space for more members.



Bridge Revision



Droitwich Working Men's Club

Suitable for members who know the essentials of the game of Bridge and have at one time or another played either Rubber or Duplicate Bridge, but who may have become rusty through not playing recently and need their knowledge refreshing.

The group will be mostly based upon supervised Bridge bidding and play using the examples encountered to discuss related bidding and playing techniques.

You do not need a partner to attend these sessions, held every Wednesday, from 10-12 in Droitwich Working Men's Club, 107 Friar Street, Droitwich. **This group would like more members.**

Mah Jong

Mah Jong is an ancient Chinese game for four players, played with a set of 136 tiles.



Each individual player tries to complete a hand of fourteen tiles according to rules which are not dissimilar to Rummy but offer much more scope for strategy and skill.

Run by Kit and David Stewart as joint group leaders, **the Mah Jong group would like more members.** Beginners are welcome and will be taught how to play the game. Players meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month, from 2-4 pm.



For more information about any of the above groups, or to join, phone David or Kit (for Mah Jong) on 01905 938165 or click on the Envelope icon of the group page to send an email. Group pages can be found at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/droitwich/groups> (scroll down to find the links that are clickable).

Best foot forward - a few photos from the walking Group on one of their recent winter walks. You may recognise some or all of the landmarks in Worcester.





*skannysnap
13/1/22*


Droitwich Spa Diamond Jubilee Walk

An eight mile circular walk around Droitwich
Thursday 2nd June 2022
To celebrate The Platinum Jubilee

Leaving Droitwich Spa Leisure Centre at 9.30 prompt
Park on overflow carpark at rear
Everyone welcome (No dogs)
No booking required
Bring your own refreshments
For more information contact
spawalkers@hotmail.co.uk
The walk will pass through Vines Park,
The Junction Canal,
Gateway Carpark,
The Eagle & Sun,
Birmingham Worcester Canal to Hadzor village
Gaudet Luce Golf Club,
Yew Tree Village & The Water Tower,
Pulley Lane Woods,
The Ancient Hamlet of Salwarpe,
The Barge Canal.
Arriving back at Droitwich Leisure Centre
between 2 p.m. & 3 p.m.

People are welcome to join on the basis that they accept responsibility for their own safety.
Children are welcome under the supervision of a responsible adult



Calendar dates

Monthly meetings held at The Norbury Theatre 2.30pm

Monday 21st March - Howard Robinson on The Mayflower and the Pilgrim Fathers

Monday 11th April - Worcester History - Civil War and Worcester Battles
(please note change of date due to Easter)

Monday 16th May - Ned Williams on History of the Circus



10th Anniversary events

Saturday, 16th July 2022, 7.00 - 10.00pm - Barn Dance with light refreshments. The evening will be open to members and their partners. Unfortunately the hall does not have an alcohol licence and therefore members wishing for something other than soft drinks, squash, teas and coffees, will have to supply their own. While a venue has already been booked on the outskirts of Droitwich we do not, at this stage, want to advertise the location as numbers will be restricted and entry will be by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale soon.

Monday, 18th July 2022, 2.00 - 4.00pm - The committee are planning an afternoon of activities at the Community Hall, Heritage Way, where you can come and take part in activities for which we currently have no groups. There will also be displays/demonstrations by other groups/members together with a strawberry style tea. Planning is under way for Brazilian samba drumming, a town trail, both an easy one and a treasure hunt where you will have to solve clues before moving on. In addition there will be jewellery making, a cake decorating competition, and other activities. This will be open to all. We are asking members to bring a friend they might like to introduce to u3a. Free tickets will be available soon - this is to enable us to know numbers for catering purposes.

Other news

I've started so I'll finish –

Many of you may not be aware that one of our members, Pam Douglas (2nd left), appeared on Mastermind recently:

“I chose Edward Elgar as my specialist subject after two of my other subjects were rejected (you have to submit five). Three reasons: I love his music, I live in Worcestershire and my great

grandfather knew him and played with him in a band. I think I was unfortunate to be in the very first recording with Clive Myrie, and still under Covid restrictions. We were kept apart which made my nerves worse, and there were several retakes at the start. Hearing the music was terrifying, as was the shiny floor. I was annoyed with myself for getting one question wrong that I knew; I think that preyed on my mind. Then, before the general knowledge round I was so cold I had to stop the recording to get a tissue as my nose was running! At least I had a go; it's very difficult to get on the show and I was in a way quite relieved I was knocked out so I didn't have to start revising again.”

I'm sure we'd all agree Pam that you deserve an award for having a go – very well done!



Thank you for reading this edition of the newsletter. In particular, thank you to those of you who contributed such interesting articles and photos – more needed for the next newsletter please!

2022 is a year of celebration for the u3a and of course our own Droitwich & District branch is celebrating its 10th anniversary – it's a real testament to the founder members who made it into what it is today. Hopefully we can all join in the celebrations and give our support.

*The next newsletter will be published in May so please submit any articles/photos to the editor via the website by **Monday 2nd May 2022.***

And finally a tale of a missed opportunity..... Recently I was treated to a wonderful train trip taking in the Settle to Carlisle line and the Ribbleshead viaduct. We passengers were informed that the train would pass over the viaduct about 2.35pm. Consequently everyone was poised except for one lady who was with her partner on the opposite side of the aisle – unfortunately she fell asleep and missed the whole experience! About 2 hours later she asked a passing member of the staff “have we gone over the viaduct yet?” to which the staff member looked at her blankly and replied “yes madam, that would have been about 2 hours ago!” The poor lady was so disappointed, sadly she had missed a real treat!

Editor