

Charity No. SC 021683

December 2022

Dear Member,

This is probably the most important letter/email that the Dumfries u3a has ever sent to you, please read it carefully and reflect upon what it says. I make no apologies for writing to you once again, as there has been no response either to my earlier email, or to the pleas made at the monthly meetings.

I need to be blunt. The Dumfries u3a is in serious danger of going out of business. As you know we have an immediate need to recruit a Chairman, but also a Treasurer, Business Secretary, and several other committee members in the coming months. If we don't, Dumfries u3a will find it all but impossible to continue in existence. We are a charity, and winding up charities is a very messy business, which I would prefer to avoid.

Perhaps you are saying to yourself, 'Oh, someone will probably step forward, I can relax.' I have to tell you that there is, as yet, no sign of this happening and, of course, if everyone takes this line, we shall get nowhere.

I understand from conversations I have had that some members seem to think that, even if the Dumfries u3a ceases to exist, the various interest groups will go on regardless. Frankly, this is wishful thinking. Free-standing groups will lose the support especially the insurance cover currently offered by the Third Age Trust and group leaders will be saddled with significant legal responsibilities and financial duties that have so far been covered by Dumfries u3a. Recruitment to groups, so important for their long-term survival, will become problematic.

I urge you to face up to realities. Surely you don't want to see the Dumfries u3a disappear. If you'd like an informal chat to explore how you might be able to help out in this emergency and what your involvement might entail, please get in touch with me or any other member of the current committee.

If volunteers do not come forward, all of us as u3a members will be the losers.

My very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.



Clive Brown
Business Secretary/Interim Chairman