



Exmouth & District U3A

NEWS BULLETIN NO 4: 17th April 2020

Committee

The committee has met twice since the lockdown once by Skype and once by Zoom, the latter proving the best method and with the assistance of the Tech Team is quite easy to use.

As mentioned before, the AGM scheduled for May has been postponed and will be rearranged once the situation becomes clearer. The existing committee will continue to operate until the AGM, when all officer and committee places are up for re election. In forthcoming newsletters we will outline the different roles on the committee and if you are interested in helping your U3A, please think about putting your name forward for election.

Members self isolating

One particular aspect concerning the committee is ensuring that any members self isolating receive appropriate help. Many members in this position will already be receiving support from partners, family or friends. However, there may be some who do not have this assistance readily available and we are anxious to ensure that they are not forgotten. We have mentioned in previous bulletins several schemes that are available in the area to provide assistance with shopping, obtaining medicines etc. If you would like information about these, please email Keith Phillips on secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk.

If you feel you would like to speak to someone on a regular basis then the committee is able to arrange to telephone you at intervals. Please contact one of the following Committee members: Camilla Benyon on Camilla@exmouthu3a.org.uk, Sandy MacQueen on chair@exmouthu3a.org.uk, or Lyn Holmes on publicity@exmouthu3a.org.uk. Any enquiry will of course be treated in the strictest confidence.

Groups

While it is probably difficult for many groups to function at the moment, we would encourage organisers to keep in touch with their group members on a regular basis. Some are already doing this – sharing jokes, ideas, or what they are doing. Others are sending out information relating to the group activity, or considering new ways to operate.

Assistance with video conferencing

Quite a few of our groups are using, or thinking of using, videoconferencing (such as Zoom or Skype). This could be to continue to carry on activities where this is possible using this technology (e.g. discussion groups such as book clubs or learning languages). Alternatively if groups can't carry out their usual activities it could at least be an opportunity to get together for a "virtual coffee-and-cake chat" and possibly to share photos or other resources.

Some group organisers are already successfully using this technology such as the Quizzes group who had a their first Zoom meeting yesterday with 12 teams competing. Linda, did an excellent job even including picture and music rounds and generally making it enjoyable.

Video conferencing is an entirely new concept for some of us and not everyone would want to use it. However, for group organisers who wish to learn more about this, we have prepared short guides plus links on how to find out more on our Connect & Learn website.

If you would like to talk about how to do this and would like a demonstration, please contact the Tech Team by emailing John Hunt at johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk.

New Groups

For the moment we are not updating the groups lists or sending out the monthly groups news but you will be aware from previous bulletins that two new ones have started.

Connect and Learn

With more time on our hands, there is an opportunity to explore some of the ideas and suggestions on this site which is available for all our members. These include free online entertainment – theatre, arts, musicals, museums, ballet, opera etc - and can be accessed by the website.

Exmouth Library

For members of the local library service, there are some expanded facilities such as many more free ebooks, eAudiobooks and a selection of magazines such as Countryfile, Good Food, History, Gardeners' World & Country Walking.

You can access these and also join the library online at www.devonlibraries.org.uk. More information about the range of library services provided (including free classical music from the entire Naxos collection) is on our Connect & Learn website at <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/topics/library-resources>

Website

We are updating this to reflect the current circumstances. As well as the newsletters from January, the weekly bulletins will also be available (without any personal contact details) on the newsletter page.

Facebook Group.

This group goes from strength to strength, currently having 71 members. Now it's become more familiar, people are adding their own posts and this is welcome. There's something different posted every day on a variety of interesting topics. Have a look for yourself at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A/>

An Introduction to Sociology

This new course using distance learning is being run by Alan Lascelles who is looking for a minimum of 12 people. More information on the course content and programme is available from Alan. Please email the secretary (see below) who will forward to Alan.

Feedback

Any comments, suggestions and ideas which will assist our members to keep in touch and perhaps to develop new interests or experiences are welcome. Please send to the secretary@exmouthu3a.org.uk

Take care and stay safe.