



CHAT FROM THE CHAIR:



Hello Everyone

I hope everyone is managing to keep virus free. The Committee has tried to devise a way of seeing that everyone who needs help gets it but with 1001 members it is a huge task and we can't find a way of doing it that is reliable for everyone. We need to rely on those members who have formed friendships to look after each other as best they can during this difficult time and hope that the Government's new initiative, calling on those who are able to, will become of a voluntary group to help others. As you may know the response has been enormous. I therefore hope that this will be the answer to ensure that everyone who needs prescriptions, shopping or just a chat on the phone is catered for.

I will now give you information on the roles of the committee as some have asked for full names and what it involves.

Officers

Chair: Sandra (Sandy) MacQueen. The chair's role is difficult to define and each chair defines the role in their own way depending on the needs of the group at the time

Secretary: Keith Phillips. Recently assisted by Ian McLaughlin
The secretary takes the minutes at the committee meetings and sends them to the committee for approval. The secretary is also familiar with procedures that apply to U3A. And also sets the agenda for the next meeting and adds items as required by other members.
In our group each committee member sends in their monthly report which saves having to discuss it fully at the meeting. During the meeting our secretary notes everything that each member has agreed to follow up so that goes out as a reminder to members. That's it in a nutshell but there is more to it than that.

Treasurer: Richard Morgan, the Treasurer is responsible for taking in and banking money from every Organiser who collects money. Payments out for supplies etc are also the Treasurer's responsibility. This is a vast task for such a large membership and usually has someone with accountancy experience.

Other committee members to be continued in the May issue.

Please keep up to date by reading the newsletters, the weekly bulletin and any emails that give further suggestions on ways you can use your time during this isolation period. The next three months or so will be a time of adjustment, and a slowing down of the pace of life. Any plans you have to keep your group busy or for everyone please let me and it will be published for all to see.



Newsletter Editor:

Chris Woodward has edited our newsletter for the last two years and I am sure everyone will agree he has done an excellent job for us. He has put an enormous amount of time and effort into it and has produced for us a most professional magazine. His last issue will be the May newsletter. His work stands as a good template for our next newsletter editor. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking Chris for his dedication to this work. Chris is known to many of you as our Geologist expert. He does a lot of work in schools in this subject which he will now have more time to develop further.

Best wishes to you Chris for the future.

To all our members, Stay safe and good health

Sandy - chair@exmouthu3a.org.uk

NEW EXMOUTH & DISTRICT U3A FACEBOOK GROUP.

Ian McLauchlin has set this up and is currently moderating it and approving posts. It's hoped that Members will join and be able to see the frequent updates and other information, particularly on the current Coronavirus situation, its implications and suggestions. Here's how it works:

1. You will need to join Facebook if you haven't already. Be sure to check your personal privacy settings to ensure that no-one can view your own photos and comments that you wish to keep private.
2. Visit the Facebook Group. Link - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/exmouthU3A/>
3. Ask to join by clicking the JOIN GROUP button. There are questions which you should answer.
4. The moderator is then notified and decides whether to approve. This will readily happen if you are an Exmouth and District U3A member.
5. After approval you have full access and are able to post. What does 'post' mean? It means that you can enter your own comments, photos etc. on the page in the box which says 'Write post' or 'Write something' just below the top banner photo. Press 'Post' to submit your comment.
6. There is then a short delay while the moderator approves the post, if suitable. When the comment (known as a 'post') is approved, everyone in the group can see it. Note that no lack of courtesy or advertising, promotion or other infringement of the charitable status of the U3A will be allowed.

If you find the Facebook Group useful, it would help if you could say so in the Group and briefly explain why.

Ian McLauchlin



April 2020

YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – COVID UPDATE.

The present Coronavirus pandemic is making us find other ways of keeping our great U3A functioning through this crisis. As you already know, renewal of your membership (for most members) is due on 1st April. Up to this time we have asked for cash, cheques, or a standing order from you. This is because these methods are relatively simple, well understood and have a reasonable 'audit trail' we use to track your payment.

However, there is now a fundamental problem for me, as Membership Secretary, with so many envelopes and bits of paper sent to me. There is some evidence that the Coronavirus can possibly be carried on fabric, paper and money. While this may be unlikely, I am dealing with envelopes, forms and cheques from upward of 900 people. Neither can we take all these to the bank! Finally, to post your renewal details to me you have to leave home and find the nearest post box. All of this is now unacceptable.

For these reasons, we have agreed that from now on our usual renewal processes must end. So please **do not** send me your envelopes with forms or cheques. Instead, please pay your renewal subs either by Standing Order (revised form from the website); or by 'Faster Payment' bank transfer. These use the same U3A bank account details as on the S.O. form. If you choose the Faster Payment transfer method, please make sure you put your membership number in the Reference field, **otherwise we may not be able to allocate your payment to you!**

If you are unable to use these two methods of payment, we will take on trust your assurance that you will be paying your renewal sub! when this crisis is over.

The reason for asking for a renewal form from everyone is a requirement of the Data Handling regulations to re-confirm your agreement, and to ensure we keep your contact details as up-to-date as possible. From now on, I will only take your form in electronic format – i.e., completed on computer; or written out, scanned into PDF format and sent to me. Please note that I have now produced an updated Renewal form to reflect these changes – make sure you use this new version. It will be on our website by the time you read this.

To summarise these changes -

- 1. DO NOT SEND PAPER FORMS, CHEQUES OR CASH TO ME.**
- 2. EMAIL YOUR E-RENEWAL FORM TO ME AND NOTE YOUR METHOD OF PAYMENT.**
- 3. DO NOT SEND ME YOUR STANDING ORDER FORM – SEND IT TO YOUR BANK.**
- 4. IF YOU CANNOT PAY BY EITHER OF THE TWO METHODS, INDICATE YOU WILL PAY WHEN “NORMAL SERVICE” RESUMES.**
- 5. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE LET ME KNOW.**

If you have any questions about any of this, please do not hesitate to ask me. But as banks tend to have different ways of operating their 'Faster Payment' systems, please use your own bank's Help facilities if you are unsure about setting this up.

Regards to you all and Keep Healthy!

Maurice Chittock,
Membership Secretary, Exmouth & District U3A.



April 2020

U3A MONTHLY MEETINGS AT THE EXMOUTH PAVILION:

FORTHCOMING SOCIAL COMMITTEE VISITS & EVENTS 2020:

Sadly, both of the above have now ceased running until further notice

U3A AGM:

1 April 2020

To all members of Exmouth and District U3A

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 -ALTERATION TO THE DATE

Dear Member,

My previous letter on the 1 March set out the programme for this year's AGM in May including the key date for the receipt of nominations. In view of the coronavirus outbreak and government restrictions, the Pavilion is now closed and meetings are not possible. It will therefore be necessary to change the date of the AGM.

At the moment it is proposed that the AGM takes place on our scheduled monthly meeting dates of either the 9 July or the 13 August. Of course, if the restrictions currently in place continue then it would be necessary to move the AGM in to the autumn. Our constitution allows a degree of flexibility in respect of the AGM and we will be following the advice of the Third Age Trust.

The existing committee will continue to operate until the AGM finally takes place. The relevant notice, nomination forms and other information about the AGM will be issued in the newsletter at the appropriate time.

If you have any concerns or comments then please let me know. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Keith Phillips
Secretary
Exmouth and District U3A
13 Bapton Lane,
Exmouth,
EX8 3JS



HOW TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST CYBER-CRIME AND SCAMS 24 FEBRUARY 2020:

The two speakers have provided the following additional sources of information.

Cyber-Crime

The Metropolitan Police's 'Little Book of Cyber Scams' covers everything in the presentation:

<https://www.met.police.uk/littlemedia>

This is written by the police for the public.

Get Safe Online: <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

Take Five to Stop Fraud: <https://takefive-stopfraud.org.uk>

For advice on financial and banking fraud.

The National Cyber Security Centre: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk>

The NCSC is the governments 'arm' of cyber. Lots of information on latest threats, incident management and guidance.

Have I been Pwned? <https://haveibeenpwned.com>

This website will advise you whether your address has been involved in a data breach, which is useful if you are receiving a lot of spam email. If you find that your account has been compromised, then change you're your password immediately.

Reporting fraud and Cyber-crime to Action Fraud: Telephone 0300 1232040

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Scams – Trading standards:

Trading standards website: www.devonsomersettradingstandards.gov.uk/consumer/scams-rogue-traders-and-doorstep-crime On the home page you can sign up to receive the newsletter.

Citizens Advice consumer service: www.citizensadvice.org.uk/consumer/scams/check-if-something-might-be-a-scam Tel: 0808 2231133

Telephone preference service - to register free to stop unsolicited sales or marketing calls: www.tpsonline.org.uk Tel: 0345 070 0707

Mail preference service - to register free to stop unsolicited sales or marketing information by post: www.mpsonline.org.uk

Little Big Book of Scams: www.devon-cornwallpolice.uk/advice/your-money/fraud

Collated by Keith Phillips from information received from the two speakers. 22/03/20



U3A CONNECT & LEARN NOW OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS:



Learning together - something for everyone

<https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>

You may know that I started the U3A Connect & Learn Group over a year ago, with its own website. Its aim is to offer all members opportunities to benefit from a very wide variety of online learning to suit all interests and tastes. We share and recommend resources which are high quality, free and easily accessible. It's an online group with over 90 members, and members have never met face-to-face - so it is not affected by the coronavirus restrictions. All you need is an internet connection and you can access it and all the resources that it can lead you to at any time of the day or night from anywhere and from any device – computer, laptop, tablet or smartphone.

As we will all be spending nearly all of our time in our homes for a long time to come, we have now decided to make all of these resources readily available to **all** Exmouth & District U3A members automatically, and so from now on it will not be necessary to register to join the group. Instead all you need to do is to click or tap on the link below, or copy and paste or type it into the address/location bar at the top of any web browser connected to the internet. Then just follow the links to access to everything. You may wish to save this website address, for example in 'Bookmarks' or 'Favourites' depending on your browser, so then you can return to it as often as you like.

<https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>

When you connect to the home page of our Connect & Learn website, you will see a link to all of the topics we have covered over the past year. These include videos, audio, websites, online courses, ebooks, ejournals, music, and specific topics such as using computers, happiness and reliable health information – all completely free! You will also see lower down our front page our topic of the month, which this month is 'Learning Languages'. We will be looking at specific topics over the coming weeks – including how we could learn or share experiences together – even though we have to stay in our own homes.

Meanwhile...explore, learn and enjoy!

John Hunt

U3A TECH TEAM – SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

With our confinement to our homes for the foreseeable future, most of us are finding that we are depending on using our computers, tablets and smartphones more and more. We would like to set up a small team of volunteer members who would be willing to give technical advice and support by phone and/or videocall and/or email. This would initially be to group organisers and then to any of our U3A members who need it. You do not need to be an expert, just someone who is comfortable with new technology and who may be able to point people in the right direction, or someone who is perhaps recently retired and therefore familiar with recent developments with computers.

If you would like to discuss this with me, do please contact me. And if you are a group organiser who needs support with technology, please contact me and I will try to help.

John Hunt email: johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk



Photo: Beyond These Shores

Taken from the beach just below the Jurassic Coast Geoneedle, to the east of Orcombe Point and looking across towards Teignmouth, Babbacombe and Berry Head.

Chris Woodward