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## u3a Newsletter

**News From u3a Guernsey**

**Issue 64**

**August 2023**

**Membership - 1017**

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**Dear Ian**

Hi Everyone,

My turn to compile the Newsletter this month, as you can see there's a lot to say. There was a great turnout for the AGM and we were treated to our guest speaker Jessica Rowland who gave us an interesting account of how she became our first lady Bailiff.

Off course all of the activity of the Island Games has now finished and I know that a lot of our u3a members were involved in that. Well done folks!

In the mean time many of our u3a activities have come to a halt over the summer. Maybe it's time to start looking to taking on new activities and challenges in the

coming term.

Live, Laugh and Learn!

Ian Jowitt

Newsletter Editor

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## Message from the Chair

### AGM Chair report 2022-2023

I would like to begin my report today with a big thank you, to you the members for continuing to support our organisation and in particular helping to assist new members and make them feel welcome. We reached our target of over 1000 members demonstrating how Guernsey once again has gone against the trend as in the uk u3a membership has gone down!

To celebrate, Dave Gallienne and the Woodworking group designed and built a Commemorative bench from oak complete with engraved message. It was unveiled in March by Sue Knowles and other members of the original committee and the press covered the event. To encourage members to celebrate we held subsidised events in October where we offered every member a £10 subsidy to one of the three afternoon teas at Les Rocquettes Hotel, two lunches at the Driftwood or a disco and supper at the Wayside Cheer Hotel.

Something to suit all tastes. I hope you managed to enjoy these events unfortunately, I managed to miss all

of them as I came down with COVID .... timing was not great!

This year our monthly Coffee Morning venue changed from St Pierre Park Hotel due to increased rent prices and we moved to the Community Cafe at KGV which has been offered to us free so yet another saving!. We even had to change to a Monday morning for one of our months but don't worry we are back to Tuesdays first one of the month. Our last New Members Coffee Morning at the Vale Douzaine happened in November as we have now adopted a new 'Drop in Session' held every three months. Our first was held on the 18th April and our second 18th July. These take place 10-11.30 at the Community cafe and support new members to integrate into the organisation as well as enable other members time to give feedback and ask questions of the Exec Committee.

We offered a FREE Afternoon tea in April aimed at recruiting volunteers to help support us moving forward. It was a fun and interesting afternoon and we had over twenty people volunteering. One of our volunteers was Alison Green whose journalistic flair has been seen in the recent newsletters. Sue Thomson, Joan Norledge, Sue Taylor, Rachael Hockey, Val and Tim Tucker helped out at the drop in session in July making members feel very welcome. Val Kirby, Heather Clegg, Jan Ogier, Pauline Allen, Jo McGinn, Jackie Nicole, Becky Elliot, Janet Falla, Wendy Wadley, and Ann Marie and Paul Ferbrache have been helping out with some

administrative tasks, volunteered to cook cakes or organise events. Many thanks to these volunteers - you are making a big difference in making the organisation stronger. Thank you.

Unfortunately, we received the sad news about the passing of Bella Mahy who launched u3a's Walking Programme along with Bob Thompson. Mike De Carteret also died, he helped a number of you search into your Family Histories and also served on our Executive Committee helping to produce the history pamphlet which we issued last year. We thank them for their commitment to the cause. They will be sadly missed.

The number of Groups have continued to increase, in September Carol and her husband Gary Sheppard started the Le Roc Dance Group and then in April held a successful 60s and 70s Dance party at the Cobo Community Centre. Fancy dress, prizes and great food resulted in a very successful evening.

Local History with Gill Slimm and Local Heritage with Andy Walker began meeting in October, whilst a further Skittles group was added on a Wednesday, a fun, cheap social activity thanks to Mary Prevel and Janet Falla for becoming the Convenors. The Girls Breakfast Group was introduced this year by Rachael Hockey and Urban Photography proved popular thanks to Sue Le Feuvre. Glenys Stevens offered to set up a Board games Group and Jenny Tasker takes over from her in the Autumn. A

Stamp Collecting group was established by Simon Coombes and Ken Gibbs and I know many members have given stamps. Finally, the Collective Gardening Group has been established and I'm pleased to say lots of produce is growing - who said you can never have too many courgettes!

The iPad group has always been popular and I was concerned when Penny Lythgoe and Sue Vermeulen told me they wanted to step down as Convenors. They couldn't, however, resist attending the Digital Ace event at Beau Sejour recently, where they proudly showed our u3a banners and helped spread the word about digital use. I'm pleased that Ian Daish offered to take over the group to help support those less technically minded. Julie Sexton took over the Creative Stitches from Leila Le Messurier and Dave and Jos Mortimer took on the organisation of collating walks and emailing members from Bob Thompson.

A successful Quiz was held in April thanks to Karen Fooks and the Quiz group for organising questions, venue, food, and prizes it was a very popular event and many look forward to next years event.

Our very own Drama Group entertained in December with Goldilocks and the three bears at the Vale Church Hall. This as always is a super start to Christmas with lots of laughs and local jokes thanks to Margaret Moffat's excellent writing skills.

Some of our groups are out in the Community - the Creative Stitches Group demonstrated their talents in the Town Church Christmas tree festival held in December. They created beautiful hangings to dress one of the many christmas trees that could be found in Town Church. The Singing group entertained at a number of venues and received much praise. The Beach Wombling group completed a litter pick at the Guernsey Together Music Festival in June and also thanks to Nandra Torode, Convenor of the Woolly Jumpers Group for organizing to send knitted Baby items to Ukraine.

We have also had offers from Convenors to put on workshops Karen Winter held Needle Felting Workshops for beginners making three dimensional structures while Dave Ford Convenor of the Drawing Group held very successful Pastel Workshops for beginners.

Please join me in showing our appreciation for our superb Convenors.

Our Speakers Secretary, June Le Poidevin is stepping down this year having been on the Executive Committee for a few years and has organised many interesting speakers and liaised with the Vilette Hotel to provide tea and scones the perfect way to spend an afternoon.

In November she invited Commander Colin Ferbräche OBE who spoke about his 25 years in the Royal Navy where he saw much action. In February, she organised for the Gold Accredited Guernsey Guide, Gill Girard to

share her fascinating knowledge of Guernsey and in July it was John Burley who entertained our members. Thank you June for your service and it is hoped you will perhaps still organise a few talks as you seem to know so many people.

An important part of being a member of u3a is having the opportunities to make new friends and where better than at one of our many Social events. Before I go on to list the events I would like to say thank you to you our members who have over time got used to using the dreaded Eventbrite. By booking on line it has helped Mary and Gill as it sorts money, produces lists and sends reminders. Please do talk to us if you are having difficulties with booking for events as it certainly seems to be the way forward. So what have we enjoyed this year.

There were two Spectacular Christmas Lights tours in the lanes of Guernsey with a very entertaining and enthusiastic coach driver. We had several visits to the Fab Lab at Guille-Alles Library in December where our members received instructions on cutting edge technology from the Library staff who helped members download photographs and print onto mugs, cushions and baubles. There was a talk on Modern Art by David Pipon in February. We enjoyed an alternative Christmas Lunch at Les Cotils in February. In March there was a tour of Randall's Brewery costing just £10 for the tour and lots of beer tasting! 80 members visited the Cinema in March a real treat to see the Guernsey

musical 'A La Perchoine' telling the story of evacuated children during world war II. March was certainly a busy month when 45 members attending a visit to the Fire Station with a fire safety talk and many demonstrations. In April there was a Pre-Easter Lunch booked at the Peninsula Hotel and a Hanging Basket workshop at Queux Patio Plant Centre. Then two visits to the Victorian Walled garden with lunch at the Saumarez tea rooms in June.

July was another equally busy month with over subscribed visits to the Dairy, Pitch and Putt Crazy Golf at Oatlands and 6 tours of Hauteville House.

Mary and Gill do a super job in coming up with ideas of where to go then they complete the preparation work in looking at menus, trying to get reduced prices and sorting information for newsflashes. Thank you both for the work you've done this year and we look forward to what you have planned for the coming year.

In the background the Executive Committee have been looking at publicity and how we can spread the word about what we have on offer. Special thanks to Ian Souter and Hazel Solway who have been at the centre of producing our first poster and in getting it distributed and put up on boards around Guernsey. They also had a major role to play in developing our second Poster Competition which is running until the end of this month. So please get those entries in. We want pictures of what u3a means to you. You can enter as many entries as you wish.



I would like to say a special thank you to Hazel for stepping in at the last minute and offering to organise all the paperwork for our AGM this year and she is even writing the minutes. This year, Hazel is stepping down from the Executive Committee and will be very much missed - thank you for your calm, organised manner.

Another important person standing down from the Executive Committee is Ian Daish. In previous years as Chair he steered us through two lockdowns and recently has played an important role liaising with the Third Age Trust as Vice-Chair as well as coordinating the Media Team. The Media Tamara vital being responsible for newsflashes, newsletters, website and sorting databases. This year he has even found time at Coffee mornings to help members get tickets for events when they have trouble with Eventbrite. A special thank you to Ian for all of his work over the years as he takes a well earned break from the Executive Committee.

We have had a busy year and I would like to say big thank you to my Executive Committee, subcommittees, Active Volunteers and Convenors who work so hard to keep the organisation running so smoothly. Thank you.

I want to finish by sharing a note which was sent to me this year by a member as I think it sums up our organisation so well: She wrote -

"I feel very blessed to belong to u3a: meeting many new

friends and trying a whole variorum of activities. There is such variety: something for everyone. Please pass on my thanks to all involved: how fantastic to have this organisation in Guernsey.”

Best wishes.

Jane  
Chair u3a Guernsey

Live, Laugh and Learn!



Jane photographed with our AGM special Guest, the Deputy Bailiff, Jessica Roland.

U3a exercise class

The Chair exercise group out for afternoon tea following their island games session. Lots of fun at Le Friquet hotel for our Chair Exercise group. We only exercised our tummies today 😂

June Le Poidevin



## You are invited to u3a Guernsey's Showcase Event

A free afternoon of fun at KGV on the 19th September.

Open to all members.

At 15.00 his Excellency, the Lieutenant-Governor and his wife will open the event officially and I am reliably informed he is keen to discover more about our organisation and meet our members. At 15.30 our entertainment begins with our very own Singing Group, followed at 16.00 by The Ukes and at 16.30 we will have a demonstration by our Boxing Group. The marquee will be set out with tables around the perimeter and Convenors have been asked to book a table and display work. Other groups may well be demonstrating around and about. Do be sure to check if your group is being

represented and offer to help your Convenor with displays.

There will be refreshments served during the afternoon and if anyone wishes to bake a cake then I'm confident it would be greatly appreciated. Homemade is always better!

Hope to see you on the 19th if not before. Best wishes and enjoy the sunshine!!!

Jane  
Chair u3a Guernsey



## Dairy Tour

20 members had a tour of Guernsey Dairy in the middle of July (two more tours are now going ahead) It was an early start (8.30) which enabled us to see everything. After getting toggged up in the glamorous protective clothing we were taken to see the milk and cream, processing the cheese, the ice cream and ended with a

visit to the laboratory and had the quality control process explained to us which was reassuring that our milk is as perfect as can be.

Our guides were informative and fun and answered our many questions. We left clutching goodie bags and respect for our fabulous Guernsey products.

Gill Slimm



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Theoretical Minimum group.

I guess 'learning' is the word that most sums it up.



## Pottery Painting Workshops

Tuesday 12th September 1 - 3pm

Wednesday 20th September 1 - 3pm

Commercial Arcade

(opposite Dix Neuf/Fletcher Sports)

We have arranged 2 sessions of 20 people for pottery painting at Iris & Dora. This is not at their main studio but at their new town location, just opposite Dix Neuf/Fletcher sports. Unfortunately, the private room is upstairs and has no disabled access, but is easier for those traveling by bus.

Pottery prices range from £8 - £48 per person depending on the type of pottery you choose to paint. You can choose between acrylic and glaze paints.



Pottery pieces painted in acrylic have a matt finish and do not require firing, painting in acrylic is one session activity at the studio and are taken home on the same day. These are items such as figurines, pencil cups, money banks and trinket boxes which range from £8 - £12 each.



There are also glaze pottery pieces which require firing in the kiln, these range from £10 - £48. To give you an idea of the prices for glaze pottery pieces, mugs start from £15, homeware pieces like plates, bowls, planters and lanterns range from £16 - £30 and large ornaments and figurines are £30+.

If you do not finish painting during the session you can return for no extra cost to complete.

There are no refreshments available to buy at this studio, but you are welcome to take drinks and snacks if

you wish.

Cost to book through Eventbrite will be £8 which will be deducted from the cost of your piece of pottery to be paid on the day.

To book click on this link or copy and paste the following into your web browser:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/u3a-guernsey-pottery-painting-workshops-tickets-692954775387?aff=oddttdtcreator>

For help booking using the Eventbrite system, please follow our step by step guide which is on our website - click on this link, or copy and paste the following in your web browser:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/g/guernsey/docs/eventbritebookingguide2022sep.pdf>

If these sessions are filled, we can book a further session. If several people would like to attend but need disabled access this can be arranged at the main studio on ruelle Braye, but please note it is a 5/10 minute walk from the bus stop.

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## André Rieu's Maastricht Concert

26th August 2023 at 1.30pm  
at The Mallard Cinema

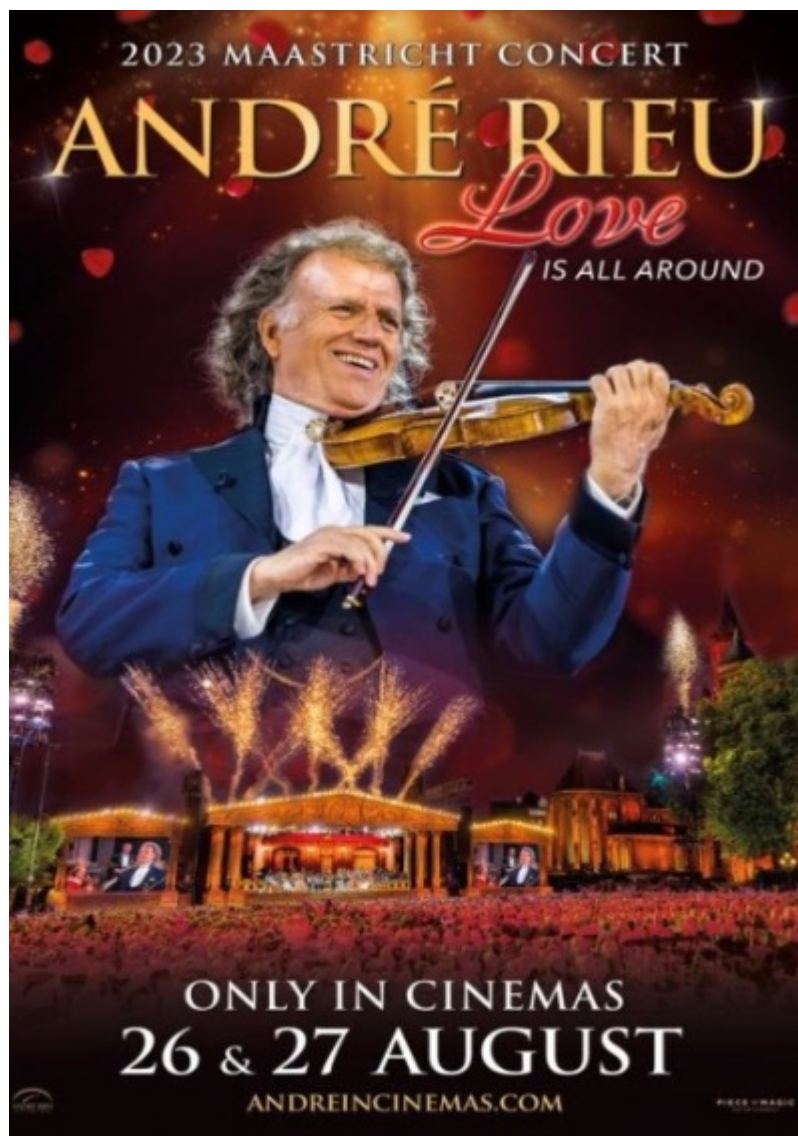


Come and join us for an afternoon of enjoyment at The Mallard Cinema, where they will be showing a special made for cinema film of Andre Rieu's 2023 Maastricht Concert.

It will be fantastic to see the concert on the big screen, the music and costumes are out of this world.

The price is £5.

No need to book. Just turn up on the day.



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## Wanted: u3a Swimmers!!

to compete in the  
Guernsey Swimarathon 2023  
6th October 2023 at 11.00am  
at Beau Sejour

We are looking for members who wish to swim a few lengths and are keen to have fun, whilst supporting mental health & well-being charities - Guernsey Mind & the Guernsey Youth Commission.

We have a lane booked for 11am on Friday 6th October.

Anyone interested or who would like to find out more information, please contact Sue via email:  
[taylors2@cwgsy.net](mailto:taylors2@cwgsy.net)

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## Photo Competition for new poster

With such a wide range of activities, we have found it really difficult to decide on a photo for our new poster. We thought our members were best placed to propose a picture which represents what u3a Guernsey means to them.

So, we have come up with a competition!

## Rules

You are required to choose a word or words from our mission statement:

“u3a Guernsey is a self-help organisation of diverse individuals who want to remain engaged during retirement and co-operate together to share their skills and experience.

u3a provides a relaxed, friendly and supportive environment for this.

We aim to live happy, Active and fulfilling lives by learning and laughing with others in a spirit of mutual aid, while fostering supportive friendships.”

Submit a photograph which you best feel sums up what our organisation represents based on this word or words.

Deadline 31st August

You can enter as many entries as you like.

All entries to Chair, Jane Pearson -  
u3aguernsey.chair@gmail.com

Judging will take place in September and winning entries (and recognition of the photographers) will be used for future advertising literature.

## Future Events

Drop-in Coffee Morning	Tuesday 18 July	10.00am	11.30am	Community Café KGV
Victor Hugo Visit (2 groups)	Friday 21st July	11.00am, 2.00pm	12.00, 3.00pm	Victor Hugo House (Hauteville)
AGM	Tuesday 1 August	2.30 pm	3.30/4.00 pm	Les Cotils
<b>FUTURE EVENTS</b>				
Andre Rieu Film	Saturday 26th August			Mallard Cinema
KGV Summer Fair	Sunday 27th August	11.00am	4.00pm	KGV
Showcase Event	Tuesday, 19 September	12.00 BBQ, 3.00pm		KGV
Drop-in Coffee Morning	Tuesday 17 October	10.00 am	11.30am	Community Café KGV

## National Newsletter

Are you receiving your own personal copy of the u3a National Newsletter? If not and you would like to see it then you need to go to this link:

<https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=3cc1ed5b1c&e=21dcf0fcf2>

A bite-sized version is also posted by Alan on our Facebook page GUERNSEY U3A.

**Copies of this newsletter and the National Newsletter can also be found on the u3a**

**Guernsey website. All group activities can also be found on the u3a Guernsey website.**

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**You can browse all of the current Interest Groups on our website's [GROUPS PAGE](#), (click on this link to get there instantly). Also check out the [EVENTS PAGE](#) to see what's going - new events are added as soon as they have been organised.**

**Our website and [NEWS PAGE](#) are regularly updated with the latest information and pictures of Group activities.**

Please send in photos and news articles from your Group to [u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com](mailto:u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com) ; we would love to hear from you and to display your efforts on our website, Newsletter and Facebook pages.

NB To access some of the documents on our website you will need to use a username and password. These are common for all members and are the same for any document that is passworded. These are case sensitive and are as follows:

Username: U3aguernsey

Password: Lihounineteen

If you have any problems accessing the newsletter or any other document, please email us at

[u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com](mailto:u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com)

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Anyone with a suggestion how we could make being a member a better experience, please share your idea by emailing

[u3aguernsey.suggestionbox@gmail.com](mailto:u3aguernsey.suggestionbox@gmail.com)

These will be treated in confidence and anonymised if requested before being presented to the committee for discussion.



U3A Guernsey (Closed) Facebook Group



## U3A Guernsey Website

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