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u3a Newsletter

News From U3A Guernsey

Issue 54

August 2022

Membership - 989

Dear Member

Hi,

Nothing really to report this month, I've been away in the UK dog watching and yes it was very hot in Devon as well!! It looks like the rate of covid infections is on the way down again but watch out for the new vaccination schedule that's on it's way. I will certainly be somewhere in the queue!

There are new groups to look forward to in September and we all hope to see you folk joining in as the nights start to get longer and the days, (thank goodness), get a little cooler. Not too cold though I hope.

Live, Laugh and Learn.

Ian Jowitt,
Newsletter Editor

Message from the Chair

I would like to begin my roundup of the year by praising the work of our hard working Convenors who are at the heart of our organisation. We really are very lucky to have attracted such a bunch of talented Convenors who offer their time for nothing and continually provide great service. This year new Convenors have stepped forward for Boxing (Mary McDermott), Cycling (Hilary Richardson), Politics (Tony Gallienne) plus a six week Patchwork, Quilting and Appliqué Group (Leila Le Messurier) and a Saturday Sew and Create Group (Jennie Grundy). We are also fortunate that new volunteers take over from retiring Convenors - thanks to Rita Le Galloudec for Thursday Skittles and Graham Martin for taking over Padel Tennis.

The Quizzers Group held a very successful Quiz evening in February at La Villette Hotel - this is turning into a popular annual event with this years being very well attended. Thanks to Karen, Bob and Andy and the rest of the team for sorting questions, organising food and lovely prizes and making sure everyone had a fabulous evening.

Our Drama group entertained a lively audience in December with their Pantomime - Jack and the Bean stalk. A special thank you to Margaret for her script writing and use of local humour and of course her wonderful group who work hard learning lines, practising songs and rehearsing so they are in the correct places on stage. These are encouraged by supportive partners and not forgetting those who help with scenery, costumes and music. Well done another great production and totally in line with COVID restrictions.

Some of our groups have helped work in the Community - the Woolly Jumpers Group have been busy knitting and crocheting for babies making hats, booties, cardigans, jumpers and baby blankets for a maternity home in Ukraine. Whilst Jennie Grundy from the Sew and Create Group jumped into action when KGV discovered there were a lack of Ukraine flags to buy. Our Singing Group continue to entertain folk offering concerts at the Jubilee Care Centre, Russells and the re-opening of the Walled Garden at Saumarez Park to name just a few. Thanks to everyone who sings and particularly Molly Thompson and Bob Perkins who have provided years of service for our organisation. Molly and her Husband, Bob were also busy making fantastic scarecrows together with the Metal work Sculpture Group to produce a fantastic display for the annual Scarecrow Trail in Torteval. It really was wonderful. Well done.

I often feel that u3a is a well kept secret as our organisation is not that well known about in the community and I would ask each and everyone of you to help spread the word. Yvonne Hodder, volunteered to represent u3a Guernsey in progressing the Discrimination Legislation work for Equality Guernsey. I also have been giving talks to Community Connectors who volunteer for Health Connections to offer

support to people in the Bailiwick.

Although COVID has continued to hamper events this year we have battled on bravely and are learning to live with it.

This year we have enjoyed some interesting talks thanks to June Le Poidevin, our Speaker Secretary. Chris and Claire Claxton entertained us in November with stories and wonderful music. While Alan Harris stepped in at the last minute and talked about family life during the German Occupation. And finally, Steve Byrne from the GSPCA gave our latest talk at Les Cotils last month.

We have also held numerous events - In September 45 members enjoyed the Rocquettes Farm Cider tour, and another 25 tried Gin Tasting and a tasty meal at the Bella Luce Hotel. We also had a Pitch and Putt competition at Oatlands - our second mini-golf event with Beryl, Mike, Gail and Keith being on top form. Green Bowling proved so popular that we needed to hold two evenings and some of the members. Visits were organised to the German Occupation Museum. While many of our members were thrilled with visits to the cinema to watch 'No Time To Die' and 'Top Gun Maverick'. Finally 120 of our members received CPR training from the Cardiac Action Group. A big thank you to our Social Secretaries - Mary Brogan and Gill Slimm. The talks and social events are another important part of what we offer as they provide a time to make new friends and perhaps try something new in the company of others.

The Archive Group were established this year Ann-Marie Ferbrache, Jenny Dunning, Joan Norledge and Lynn Norman. Together with Mike de Carteret and myself they have been responsible for researching information and documenting to produce a pamphlet about our history. You should have received a copy via email.

Another new development this year has been the workshops - we have had three. An Introduction to Felting with Karen Winter which turned out to be three sessions, a visit to Queux Garden Centre provided members with an experience of planting up a basket and the third was Boxing with Guernsey's Boxing Development Officer.

Getting information out to the membership is vital with so many members. Thanks to the Media Team headed up by Ian Daish. Each monthly we see the lovely presented newsletters and Interest Group newflashes. But behind the scenes the team source interesting news items, write stories, identify pictures, whilst also updating the website, sort out adverts for events and activities as well as ensuring you are on the correct database for receiving any new information. Thanks to the team - Gavin Ryde, Ian Jowitt, Jenny Dunning, Caroline Davey, Carole Elliston and Alan Chubb.

Thanks also to Garry Wade and Karen Winter who help with Beacon Administration which is our management information system.

When you join an organisation you want to know your money is being looked after

When you join an organisation you want to know your money is being looked after and spent wisely. We are extremely lucky to have the services of Peter Langford as Treasurer and Judy Dyke as Deputy Treasurer. Thank you for the work you both do as part of the Executive Committee.

Gill Slimm as Membership Secretary processes each and every membership form and does a fabulous job. Thanks also to Ian Souter for his work as New Members Secretary - he has sorted 2 New Members Coffee Mornings along side spending much time engaging with new members to offer support to help them into groups and ensure they feel they belong.

Also on the Executive Committee is Alan Chubb, Vice Chair who has been especially busy in keeping track of COVID guidance and updating us on what is best practice.

He also has been a valuable help in my first year as Chair giving me lots of guidance and support. So too has Hazel Solway as Secretary. She keeps the committee on track and has a very calming influence together with brilliant organisational skills which ensure we run an efficient organisation. She retires from her duties as Secretary this year but I'm pleased she has decided to carry on supporting us on Executive Committee. Thank you.

So for my final thoughts - Thank you to you all. It has been a pleasure to work along side the Committee and enjoy events and talks with you the members. With an organisation like this we will continue to go from strength to strength as long as we remember it is an organisation for the members run by the members. Everything we do is voluntary and we should not take each other for granted but try to support each other especially when times are difficult so that the organisation can grow to benefit everyone in the Bailiwick of Guernsey.

Best wishes.

Live, Laugh and Learn,

Jane

U3A Guernsey celebrates reaching 1,000 members



Passion for panto

MARGARET MORTYAL, who runs a lot of the creative activities, has been winning art competitions since 1970. Her art is on display in the gallery at the U3A. She is also a keen gardener and has won several prizes for her work. Margaret is also a keen reader and has written several books. She is currently working on a book about the history of the U3A.



We ask you all to make sure you have had all three vaccinations before attending a group activity. Please do not attend if you are feeling unwell. Completing a Lateral Flow Test before going along to your activity is also advised.



u3a Guernsey celebrating 1000 members

The Ukulele group was the 'raison d'être' for U3a in Guernsey. Sue Knowles was keen to start up a Ukulele group but was struggling to find like-minded people who wanted to play. A friend suggested contacting U3a to see if they had a group but, as there was not a U3a in Guernsey, that had to be sorted out first! Meetings with Sue, Pat Child, Alan Chubb and Pauline Telford took place and the consensus to give it a go and see if there was any interest, resulted in an advert in the Guernsey Press. Numerous leaflets were distributed throughout Guernsey, giving details of an initial meeting on the 26th September 2015 at the Vale Douzaine Room. On the day, the room was set out for an optimistic twenty to forty people but, by the time the meeting was due to start, the room was filled to capacity. Parking was a problem for Bill Slimm and Derek Knowles with over two hundred people arriving for the meeting. A further introductory meeting was arranged at the Grammar School (as it had a big

car park!), on the 29th October, attended by Marion from the u3a central office. The idea of Learn, Laugh and Live was about to be launched in the Bailiwick of Guernsey following the U3A movement principles of being non-religious and non—political. At the October inaugural meeting at the Grammar School, the response once again was overwhelming and by the end of the afternoon, Guernsey U3A had enlisted 260 members each paying subscriptions of £15 into the newly opened bank account. Many were signed up to various interest groups in subjects from Bridge to Yoga. There was a strong emphasis on ‘participation, closely followed by having fun while learning’. Hence, U3A Guernsey was established, run by the members for the members. There were many offers of help, with members volunteering to organise all of the activities and events.



At this same meeting a Steering Committee was established, following requests for volunteers. The volunteers were asked which positions they would be interested in and positions were duly allocated. The Membership would be asked to vote on these Officers at the first Annual General meeting, 12-18 months later. Sue took on the officer role of Chair, Alan took on Finance and Membership, Pauline agreed to be Social Secretary and Pat agreed to sort out groups. She was supported by Ann Good in the early days to recruit Convenors and gather information, via a questionnaire, on what groups members might be interested in. Further volunteers to the Committee were: Judy Dyke as Secretary, Kathy and Bernie Corbin as Social Secretaries, Diane and Michael Ward covering Media and Legal matters, Di Tooley supported new members and Gloria Deane also volunteered. Before too long Gill Slimm was recruited and took over Membership and Karen Winter looked after Media issues. The enthusiasm for Guernsey U3A was very much reflected in the Steering Committee who always stepped up to whatever new challenge occurred and there were many! It was a steep learning curve for all involved, a time of hard work and great fun as they worked on the Constitution and various procedures but finally in 2015 Guernsey U3A received provisional membership of the U3A movement (now known as u3a), becoming a fully-fledged member in 2016. Today, in Guernsey, the organisation has grown to having 1000 members and around 80 interest groups. Many of the original convenors are still in post, seven years later! There are always opportunities for members to find new hobbies, return to past interests or simply enjoy making new friends by joining one of the many social activities: talks, lunches, coffee mornings, pantomimes, attend one of the activities or volunteer to be part of the Committee or start up a new group. Certainly u3a

Guernsey continues to thrive while Learning, Laughing and Living. History - Interest groups On the 29th October, 2015, at the Grammar school, members began to sign up to various u3a interest groups. Initially there were 21 groups, each led by a convenor. Although some were up and running straight away, others did not start until January 2016. Groups which started in the Autumn included: Calligraphy with David Fletcher, Drama with Margaret Moffat, Poetry Appreciation with Norah Gregson, Reading (Book) Group with Julie Fletcher, Singing with Molly Thompson, Spanish with Mary Fuller, Tai Chi with Rick Fletcher, Euchre with Bob Perkins, Ukuleles with Sue Knowles and French Conversation with Simon Wood. I'm pleased to report that these groups, with the same convenors, are still going strong to this day. Janet Parnwell (Bridge), Iris Maingard (French Conversation) and Diane Ward (Italian) are recently retired convenors and their groups were very popular. Other groups and their convenors were also available to members: Cake Club (Linda Wilen), Creative Writing (Pippa McCathie), Foraging (Rachel Hockey), Local History (Jane Falla and Jenny Tasker), Photography (Liz Walton), Sewing (Jenny Mahy), Woodwork (Michael Ward), Photography (Anne Woodington) and Yoga (Judy Whitaker and Maureen De Jong). The Walking Group met in November to discuss how they would operate and agreed to have walk leaders with a programme for the walkers to choose from. This is more or less the way things work today with Bob Thompson agreeing to take on the role of convenor.

Pat Child and Ann Good supported the convenors by offering help and guidance as well as encouraging more convenors to start groups in the New Year.

These included: Reading and Discussion (Isobel Cable), Sculpture from Scrap metal (Ian Daish), Euchre (Norman Dewey), Church Bell-Ringing (Phil Le Conte and Ann Dorey), Life Drawing (Simon Coombes), Water Colour Painting (Norman Dewey) and Gardening (Marion Morgan and Malcolm Cleal).

By mid-January, u3a Guernsey had 38 Interest Groups offering subjects as diverse as Scottish Dancing, Comparative Religion, Spanish, Philosophy and Travel.

Convenors began offering short courses for a few weeks in Euchre (Norman Dewey), Bread Making (Eileen Davis), iPads (Penny Lythgoe and Sue Vermeulen) and Jam Making (Karen Winter).

The Travel /Ski group departed from Guernsey to Serre Chevalier in France on the 5th March. Their convenor, Marina Dobson, reported that the group enjoyed perfect skiing conditions and the trip was such a success that she planned to organise another trip in 2017. Other members of the Travel group enjoyed an organised trip to Herm for lunch and two walks.

On Wednesday, 1st June 2016 at St Sampson's High School, all members were invited to a social event to celebrate the success of the fifty or so interest groups. There were exhibits of work, photographs and performances given by the Singing, Ukulele, French and Drama Groups. It was a great afternoon and show-cased the wide variety of talent in u3a Guernsey groups.

The interest groups continue to be a vital part of Guernsey u3a and there are now

nearly one hundred groups offering an amazing range of topics: some academic, some practical and others purely social. Details about the groups are shared to members via the website and a monthly newsflash, providing updates and news items.



History - Social events

Coffee Mornings

The Committee was keen to hold a monthly event in order to engage members. The first Coffee Morning was held at La Nouvelle Maritaine on 10th November 2015. Coffee Mornings were planned for the first Tuesday of each month and have continued ever since, although the venue has changed a couple of times. The first move was to the Vale Douzaine Room in April 2017, then in September 2017, to cater for increased numbers, they moved to the Rovers Athletic Club at Port Soif. They remained there until November 2021 when numbers had increased further so a bigger venue was sought. The latest move was to St Pierre Park Hotel which offered more parking, a larger room and the staff serve refreshments.

Talks

The first talk by a member of the Guernsey Museum staff was on 'Roman Guernsey' held on 25th February at St. Sampson's High School. Further planned talks for later in the year were 'A Virtual Tour of Paris & Victor Hugo' by Zvi Chazanov and a talk by Captain Brian Nibbs of Trinity. Since those early days there have been numerous talks on a range of topics from willing volunteers including Dr Nicola Brink, Dennis Burns, Tony Spruce, Richard Digard and many more.

Drama Productions

The Drama Group was one of the original groups with Margaret Moffatt at the helm. Since the first production of Aladdin on the 5th December 2017 there has been an annual performance to delight the membership at the Vale Church Hall. Each year Margaret writes a new pantomime and enthusiastic members with little or no previous acting experience learn words and songs, rehearse and perform a fun filled, locally themed Christmas play in early December.

Other events

The first Boys' Breakfast was held on the 17th March 2016 and was so the next one was organised on the 17th November. These were initially held to encourage men to enjoy a sociable event. The breakfast now occurs monthly with everyone enjoying a great cooked breakfast at Saumarez Park tea rooms. You can even keep fit using open air gym equipment at the park before you eat!

The first Christmas Social event was arranged by the Social Secretary, Kathy Corbin. This was held on 8th December at Les Cotils, with mulled wine or soft drinks and mince pies. The summer of 2016 saw a breakfast at Les Cotils and a lunch at The Wellington Boot, a Walking Treasure Hunt at Saumarez Park and a Hog Roast at the Hotel Jerbourg. Since this time there have been numerous events including trips to Herm, historical sites of interest, local attractions and the cinema. More active members have enjoyed crazy golf, archery, green bowling, barn dances and discos. Our brains have been challenged with Quiz afternoons and murder mystery events. The Social Team have certainly worked hard through the years to organise many sociable events for everyone to enjoy.



Guernsey together

On the 22nd August 2020, u3a managed a charity stall at the 'Guernsey Together Celebration' event held at Saumarez Park. This event was held to encourage islanders to celebrate following the Covid lockdown. Busy u3a volunteers set up the gazebo on Saturday morning with display boards giving lots of information about activities and groups. A great many cakes were cooked by members of the organisation and sold on the stall during the day and made monies for future needs. Other volunteers manned the stall providing leaflets and answering questions to the general public. This was the first time u3a had been involved in advertising what the organisation does in the Bailiwick and it certainly generated a lot of interest. And a number of new members joined following the days successful event.

[Put together by the History group.](#)

[This report can be found and printed as a 2 sided document on the web site](#)

Special Announcement

u3a Guernsey have looked after your funds well since our start up in 2015. The subscription fee has remained at £15 since we started. The Executive Committee are pleased to announce that we are in a good position financially and will therefore be offering a £10 subsidy to every member towards the cost of one of the following three events which we will be holding in October:

Afternoon tea at Les Rocquettes Hotel

Lunch at the Driftwood Hotel

Disco at the Wayside Cheer Hotel

Look out for more information in newsflashes with details on how to book. Please enjoy.

Trip to Herm Thursday 18th August 10.15 am Ferry

U3aGuernsey Trip to Herm on Thursday 18th August. We will be catching the 10.15am Trident. Please pay at the kiosk and arrive in time to catch the 10.15am boat. The cost will be £14 for u3a members. You will be able to choose your return time on the day.

You will be going to the Harbour, rather than Rosaire Steps.

Why not bring a picnic lunch, or eat at one of Herm's venues.

Please let Mary Brogan know if you intend to go, as the Trident need to have an idea of numbers.

Mary :- mbrogangsy@gmail.com





New for September

LeRoc Dance Group

Starting on Thursday 15th September 1.30pm weekly, costing £3.00 per session.

LeRoc is a smooth fusion of Jive and Latin dance styles which is really easy to learn. Carol our fully qualified and experienced Dance teacher says, "You'll be dancing after your first session. It's very social so you will make new friends, have lots of fun and get some great exercise." You don't need a partner just pop along and be ready to enjoy yourself.

Check out the website for further information or contact Carol by email:-
carolmutiara@gmail.com



Zumba Gold Group

Starting in September, an exciting new group which is an excellent low-impact workout with a friendly, enthusiastic and fully qualified teacher. Zumba Gold workouts protect your joints and muscles while raising your heart rate and improve your balance, posture and coordination. In particular, it allows you to go at your own speed and provides routines that are easy to follow. Look out for more detail in the September newsflash or via the website.

Boxing Interest Group

This new group promotes a very different way of keeping active and is going from strength to strength. Our newest member, Mary, is doing a fantastic job of

strengthen to strengthen. Our newest Convenor, Mary, is doing a fantastic job of organising. The Boxing Development Officer, Mandy, has to limit numbers to ensure everyone has a fair time in the boxing ring. If you are interested or want more information please contact via the pigeon on the website or email:-
marymcdermott2011@yahoo.co.uk



Cycling Group

Make the most of this beautiful weather by getting out on your bike and enjoy seeing Guernsey from a different perspective. This group plans to run different rides for different abilities and types of bike. Please contact Hilary via email:

hilapod@gmail.com to obtain more information and register your interest. You will need a road worthy bike, plus a cycling helmet.



Coffee Morning

St Pierre Park Hotel

Please join us for our Coffee Mornings
Watch out for Date and time News Flash
St Pierre Park Hotel.

Please only attend if you are feeling well. Hopefully you are all regularly testing for

Please only attend if you are feeling well. Hopefully you are all regularly testing for Covid with a LFT and showing none of the symptoms.
We look forward to seeing you all.



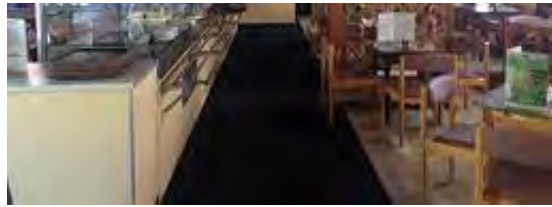
Boys' Breakfast

No date for monthly Boy's Breakfast so please watch out for the Newsflash at the beginning of the month.

Please join us, as always, for a delicious, great value, cooked breakfast.

Please only attend if you have been double jabbed and are regularly testing for Covid with a LFT and showing none of the Covid symptoms. Perhaps do a LFT before coming along to the breakfast.





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=21dcf0cf2](https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=3cc1ed5b1c&e=21dcf0cf2)

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

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

u3aguernsey.suggestionbox@gmail.com

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

Links to this newsletter and copies of this and the National Newsletter can be found on the u3a Guernsey website. All group activities can also be found on the u3a Guernsey website.

You can also read or download our Newsletter directly from the Documents section of our [website](#). To do this you will need to use a username and password, which are

common for all members and are the same for any document that is passworded on our website. 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

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 ; we would love to hear from you and to display your efforts on our website, Newsletter and Facebook pages.



[U3A Guernsey \(Closed\) Facebook Group](#)



[U3A Guernsey Website](#)
