

From: u3a Guernsey Media Team u3aguernsey.news@gmail.com
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u3a Newsletter

News From U3A Guernsey

Issue 57

November

Membership - 1011

Dear Ian

Hi, it's that time of year again. Christmas is definitely approaching, the shops filling up with those enticing morsels. I saw the first tell-tale signs whilst visiting my sister-in-law last month. Soon we'll be seeing things appear in August! "What do you want?" ask my children. As usual my reply will be nothing thanks, and then I thought, actually you can pay my u3a subs! Job done and cheap at twice the price.

Just a short missive this month, I hope that you're fit, well and enjoying taking part in something interesting.

Live, Laugh and Learn.

Ian Jowitt,
Newsletter Editor

Message from the Chair

Well October seemed a busy month for u3a Guernsey as we celebrated reaching a 1000 members - afternoon teas, lunches and a disco and I missed every single event as I was isolating due to COVID. To make matters worse I was quite poorly with it and I'd had my booster and flu jabs just a week before contacting the dreaded

with it and I'd had my booster and no jabs just a week before contracting the dreaded virus! So that is life! Looking on the positive side, I did manage a bit of knitting while catching up with watching loads of television and films on Netflix!!!

Since recovered, I've seen quite a few members out and about. I took my Husband to play Chess on Tuesday. This Group is increasing in numbers and some are playing very skilfully so I am told. Well done to Martin (Convenor) for his encouraging remarks and sunny disposition. The Friday Dart's Group had a busy day. They played darts at the Hampshire Lodge in the morning then a quick drive to enjoy lunch at the Driftwood Inn. A friendly group, supportive of each other and having so much fun. On Tuesday 8th November the Canasta and Board Games Groups almost filled the Bar area of the Hampshire Lodge a wonderful sight to see so many people challenging their brains and having fun. Parking was certainly limited so I decided to move the Board Games Group to start at 1.30pm. Hopefully we may get a few more wishing to join while the bad weather makes activities outside less attractive. The Boxing Group is becoming more popular but is still looking for their first male to join! The ladies are doing some fancy moves and getting stronger each week. Well done to Mary (Convenor) for her brilliant organisation using Whats App for keeping everyone in the loop and to Mandy (Boxing Development Officer) for her entertaining sessions.

u3a Guernsey is very much about making new friends or reacquainting with people from your past. The Coffee mornings are a great way to do this but we should also be aware that some people find going to a venue for the first time quite difficult.

Please do your best to make new members welcome and encourage them to sit at your table. Hopefully we will have a small festive activity for you to enjoy at our December Coffee morning on the 6th. Please do pop along and join in the fun.

As the days get shorter I start to think about Christmas and certainly this year I have been thinking about the u3a Pantomime. Perhaps this is because I have been busy sewing 'bear' outfits. I can't wait to see our members dressed in the outfits and see what entertainment Margaret and her group have been busy working on. Always good fun and watching a panto always makes it feel more like Christmas. This year is Goldilocks and the Three bears and it takes place on Monday 5th December starting at 10.15 at the Vale Church Hall and its free entry. Please do support the Drama Group they are a lovely group of people who spend hours rehearsing and learning lines. You can even finish off the morning with a biscuit and a free cuppa. I hope to see you there.

Finally, at this time of year I need to remind you to sort out your payments for membership. Convenors of all groups will be checking that you have a new membership card in January. The membership fee for u3a Guernsey covers the period from 1st January to 31st December and is currently £15 and this has not changed since the organisation started in Guernsey in 2015. The fee includes a

Capitation Fee which goes to our national organisation The Third Age Trust, which provides a wide range of services and benefits, including liability insurance cover. If you took advantage of our £10 subsidy to events in October then you certainly got a lot out of your fee this year. The Committee are committed to ensuring you have value for money and I believe the members do have a great deal so please do spread the word.

On 22nd November at the Vale Douzaine Room we are holding a New Member's Coffee Morning starting at 10am and this time we are opening it up to all members who may have a question or a suggestion to improve the running of the organisation. I look forward to meeting members and hearing your views.

Perhaps I'll see you at the New members Coffee Morning, the Pantomime or the Coffee Morning at St Pierre Park Hotel, if not very best wishes for a Happy Christmas and I look forward to more adventures and new possibilities in the New Year.

Best wishes.
Live, Laugh and Learn,

Jane

Booking Events

Now that we have 1,000 members, booking events has become a huge task to undertake manually using sheets of paper & pen, and handling cash & cheques and credit card payments, etc, especially as most people now want to pay by credit/debit card. Having researched various options for an on-line booking system, we have chosen to use Eventbrite, which is used extensively by many organisations for events e.g. St James Concert Hall, Guernsey Chamber of Commerce, La Société Guernesiaise. Whilst the booking process through Eventbrite is relatively simple, we have prepared a simple step by step guide to assist members with the process, which you can download from the u3a website.

Instructions can be found on our website by clicking on this link:

https://mcusercontent.com/78a3ae6f48fcb731309468ff0/files/27e83b4d-b9d6-6238-980d-897593530b11/Eventbrite_Booking_Guide_2022_Sep_.pdf

Please only attend interest groups or u3a events if you are feeling well. Hopefully you are all regularly testing for Covid with a LFT and showing none of the symptoms.

"The Creative Stitches group are once again putting a Christmas tree up in the Town Church. Please pop along and view the work produced by these talented members. The trees will be on show from the 2nd December". Hopefully photos to come for next months issue.

**Christmas Lights Tour
Tuesday 13th December
Liberation Monument
5.30 - 8.00**

We have managed to reserve an Island Coachways 33 seater coach for a round the Island Christmas Lights Tour. This is a great opportunity to see the lights in comfort and from a raised seat. The tour is on Tuesday 13th December, starting at 5.30pm from the Liberation Monument, lasting two and a half hours. This includes a stop at Patois Brasserie to view the lights and have a hot chocolate and mince pie. The cost is a discounted £10 per person.

Names and cheques made out to :- u3a guernsey.

Please send to:-

Gill Slimm
Lynden Lodge
Saline Road
St Sampsons
GY2 4FH





Driftwood Lunch Photos courtesy of Gill Slim.



Coffee Morning for New Members plus Existing Members
Vale Douzaine Room
Tuesday 22nd November
10:00

New Members' Coffee Morning

Invitation Now Extended to ALL Members

To help us improve our u3a Guernsey Activities, we always welcome feedback from members. Therefore we are opening our New Members' Coffee Morning on Tuesday 22nd November 2022 at 10 am, to any member who wishes to come along and have

a chat about how we can make u3a Guernsey, even better than we think it is already!

What else can we do to improve what we do, or do things that we don't do?
After all, the u3a ethos is: by the members, for the members!

If you would like to come along and join in the chat, then please let us know that you are coming at:- u3aguernsey.newmembers@gmail.com

Christmas Gift Workshop

Guille-Alles Library
St Peter Port

Tuesday Evening 6th December 6 - 8pm
or
Saturday Afternoon 17th December 2-4pm

Dear Members,

I have secured two dates for members to make Christmas themed items using some of the excellent technical equipment in the Fab Lab at the Guille-Alles Library.

Select the date that you wish to come along and email me, Mary Brogan, using the email address below asap. There are 10 places available for each workshop.

Another date will be added if there is enough demand.

Email Mary at :- u3aguernsey.social@gmail.com

We will meet downstairs in the reception area. You may also wish to plan a supper or a lunch around your chosen workshop with friends.

There is help available as we are shown how to use the equipment and the only charge is for the item you will be using. Examples of some of the items are below.

You are advised to bring one to two digital photographs on a memory stick, iPhone or iPad as the result is apparently better than using a printed photograph.

You will be shown how to use a basic graphic design software package to add a graphic design image and/or a digital photo or photos to one of the following:-

Mug - £4

Zipped pouch - £3.50

T Shirt - £8

Xmas Sack - £8

Xmas Bauble - £2.50

Tote Bag - £5

Apron - £5

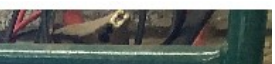
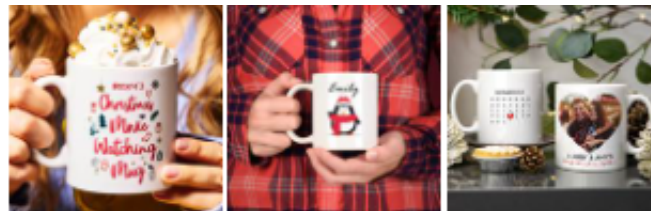
Cushion - £5

Payment is on the day of the workshop.

If you wish to reserve a place on one of the workshops, please email with your name and membership number plus the date of selected workshop.

As always, let me know if you are unwell and can not make it so that your place can be given to someone else.

Mary Brogan :- u3aguernsey.social@gmail.com





To celebrate having 1000 members we are having a commemorative bench made by our wood working group. The oak wood has arrived as shown in the photograph and work will be going on throughout the Winter months.

Best wishes.

Jane

Guernsey u3a members are silver surfers!

Virtually every business, governmental or voluntary organisation uses commercial software to send out newsflash emails to their customers, members, etc. We use MailChimp, which is one of the world's most popular email marketing platforms to send out our newsflashes to our 1,000+ members.

But MailChimp does far more than just hold our database of members' email addresses and sending out emails to your email address. It also gives us feedback as to who is opening our newsflashes, how often and whether you click through to the various links to other websites, documents, etc that are embedded in many of our newsflashes.

Most organisations hope to beat the industry average “open rate” (i.e the recipient actually opened the email and hopefully read it, rather than simply deleting it without ever opening it) of 21.3%. Governmental organisations normally get the best response with an industry average open rate of 28.7%. General e-commerce companies barely achieve a 15% open rate. Non-profit organisations, which would include all voluntary organisations such as u3as, do much better at a 25.1% open rate.

Now guess what the average open rate is for u3a Guernsey: 25%? No. 30%? No, try higher.

How about 50% then? Sorry, still not high enough.

Okay, how about 75%. Still no!

Our u3a Guernsey response rate for opening our newsflashes is a staggering 78%. Which is AMAZING!

We can see that you like opening and reading our newsletters, like this one, with a typical open response rate of 80%, closely followed by our monthly Interest Groups' Update newsflash with a 79% open rate.

Which all goes to show that u3a Guernsey is made up of a huge cohort of silver surfers who are riding the waves of the online revolution. And that most of you are keenly interested in what is going on in our u3a!

PS Many u3as in the UK think that they are doing well to have at least 50% of members with an email address. So, most u3as also use paper & ink to communicate with members, which is both costly and infrequent (due to the cost and administrative effort involved). By comparison, u3a Guernsey has 96% of members with an email address (including those with with a family or friend acting as an "email buddy"). Again, this is a staggeringly high proportion and the envy of many other u3as that we talk to in the u3a networks. (u3a networks - what are they you may well ask? I will reveal more another time!)

Ian Daish
Media Team Leader

Thermomix Cookery Demonstration by Julia Le Moignan
Wednesday 30th November

2pm - 4pm
Guernsey Aeroclub
Planque Lane
Forest

You are invited to attend a cookery demonstration by Julia Le Moignan, focusing on Xmas Treats and introducing the popular Thermomix kitchen appliance.

The venue is the Aeroclub, near the airport, on a bus route and with plenty of parking. Buses 91, 93 and 95 from the Town Terminus will take you to Planque Lane. There will be various foods to sample and coffee or tea on arrival.

The cost will be £5 to be brought on the day and will go towards the cost of the venue and the food.

Please contact Mary Brogan (email below) to book your place.

NB. If you have booked and later find you cannot attend due to illness, please inform Mary as soon as possible so that your place can be allocated.

Thankyou,
Mary Brogan.
Mary Brogan :- u3aguernsey.social@gmail.com



Coffee Morning

St Pierre Park Hotel

ST PIERRE PARK HOTEL

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

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.

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](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.

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](#)
