



## Learn, laugh, live

### Newsletter, November/December 2023

Dear Member

I hope you are all safe and well and haven't suffered too much damage in last week's storm. The cancellation of our meetings at the end of the week felt a bit like going into lockdown again, but I hope we can get back to our normal activities this week.

#### Lunch

I have just sent our menu choices and seating arrangements to St Brelade's Bay Hotel – hard to believe that our Christmas lunch is just over 3 weeks away, on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> November. There are 47 of us going – I added extra when the original 40 places booked was exceeded. As we have 4 tables of 12, we could easily fit in one extra if anyone else would like to go.

The organisation of this fell to me as we have had no volunteers to take the job on. We urgently need someone – it could be two friends – to take on the role of social secretary. It would just involve finding a venue and compiling a list of interested members – sometimes with their menu choices, about every 3 months.

#### Quiz Night

I intend to organise a quiz evening in the New Year. One of our members has a partner who has organised some successful events so I hope to have a session one weekday evening, possibly in a pub in town – watch this space.

#### Membership

We have now 289 active members – 60 more than this time last year, with more expected shortly as a subscription paid now would cover 2024. This growth is entirely due to member recommendations and to our convenors who provide such enjoyable and interesting activities. Though I contacted the parishes, as a way of raising our profile, I declined an invitation to contribute to St Peter's Parish magazine, as I feel we have almost reached saturation point unless more of you could volunteer to convene new groups. The committee would welcome anyone who would like to convene a new group or a 'spillover' group if your current group is full. We can help with venues, and the u3a magazine is a source of ideas and help from subject advisers. We would particularly like someone to organise another walking group – perhaps for those who like to go a bit faster than the current group. If you are interested, please contact Pat Davis ([patdavis5@live.co.uk](mailto:patdavis5@live.co.uk)), who can help you with starting points and routes.

#### Group News

Michael Talibard is about to start his new group on **Foreign Language TV**, though so far with only a small number. He says this will bring a breath of fresh air to your television room.

The programmes he intends to introduce to you are subtitled and entertaining – don't imagine that this will be too serious. If interested, please email him on [michael@talibard.com](mailto:michael@talibard.com) for all the details.

**Local history** Some people have been deterred from attending this group because they think they will be required to give a presentation – this is not necessarily the case. Juliette writes: Local History is a group of enthusiastic U3A members who engage in learning and discussion about local history topics once a month. We have moved to the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of month so on 23<sup>rd</sup> November we will be delving into Jersey Transport History and on the 28<sup>th</sup> December the topic will be the mysterious subject of Crown Revenues. More members are most welcome to join us. Contact the convenor Juliette White on 01534 767008, email [hopetoretiresoon@outlook.com](mailto:hopenoretiresoon@outlook.com) or click on the “carrier pigeon” on the U3A Jersey website Local History Group Page to send a message.

**Poetry** – held on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, this is a friendly and fun group where people read their favourite poems. For further information contact Marlene using the details on the groups list.

Please could members and convenors ensure those attending are paid up members or those having a taster session (one only) before becoming a paid up member. Guests are not allowed, as this will affect our insurance. I believe this not the case for events like our lunches and coffee mornings, where we are in a shared staffed venue. I believe most convenors are very diligent, and contact me to check if new attendees have paid.

### **Subscriptions**

Though subscriptions are not due till January, Juliette would be happy to receive any subscriptions for 2024 from now on, especially from those of you who plan to be away for Christmas and the New Year. I will attach a reminder of how to pay.

Thank you all, and especially convenors for your continued support. I hope to see many of you at next week's coffee morning and/or our Christmas lunch.

Although it is a little early, I hope you all enjoy the festive season and have a healthy and active New Year.

Best wishes

Anne