

Comment

Since becoming
Chair, I believe that I

It isn't what we say or think that defines us. It is what we do...

Jane Austen

have visited all our interest groups. I now attend two more groups than I did before. There are two others that I would love to go to – the choices available to us are endless. I visited *Shanty Singing* and *Quiz* in February, and had a great time in both groups. I humbly suggest to you that our aim this year should be to challenge ourselves more. You can do this!

We are hoping to introduce two new interest groups soon. *Indoor Bowling* will be meeting in April, providing there is support from those interested in helping to run the group. Another new group is for members on their own, *MOTO*, and it will be for those members to decide what to do and when.

Perhaps there is something you want to do that is not available to us at the moment – Kite-flying? Spanish? Electric Bikes? It only takes a few of you to get things going. Also, if you were in a group that has lapsed, think about restarting it. I have been impressed by the enthusiasm of one long-standing member who has been working hard to get *Indoor Bowling* running again, despite challenges facing her.

We are a rare organisation that voluntarily shares our time and expertise freely. I get it, I really do.

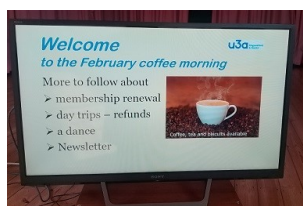
Speaking from my own perspective, I was reluctant at first to be involved in the *Gardening* group. But I have to say that Mike and I get a fantastic buzz from sharing our horticultural knowledge whilst also learning from the group. Is there a group that you could co-lead?

We all have talents that we can share with each other, so think about this – our u3a is a vibrant community but how much better could we be?

Lynda Brettell
Chair

On the telly

We now have a 'new' TV, replacing one that was unfortunately damaged beyond repair. A member of the jazz appreciation group generously gave us a nice Sony he no longer needed. The new TV has already been used by the jazz appreciation and history groups, and is also being put to good use on coffee mornings – pictured.



Renew by 31st March 2024

You must renew by 31st March to remain a member and come to u3a. All our activities are for members only. Thanks to those who have renewed already.

Membership fee £15 per member

Pay by bank transfer – new bank details:

Sort code **30-99-50** Account no **70741868**

Reference **Membership number & SURNAME**

eg 1234SMITH (couples add partner's mem number)

You can then collect your card at coffee mornings or by arrangement with Ian Scott.



Pay in cash or by cheque payable to:

Kingswinford & District U3A at coffee mornings

Day trips

Regrettably, the planned trip to *Coventry* in March did not have enough support to go ahead. So, the first trip this year will be:

1st May 2024 to *Charlecote House and Stratford*.

Tickets go on sale at the March Coffee Morning.

The morning will be spent at Charlecote – then on to Stratford at lunchtime, where you can go on a short guided walk or just look around.

Tickets are £16.50 for National Trust (NT) members and £30.00 for non-NT members. The walk is free.

Dates for your diary

speaker meetings from 10am, speaker at 11am

15th March 2024 *The History of the Bra*
by Val Campbell

19th April 2024 *A Perfect Place to Live* by Ned Williams

17th May 2024 *The Rise, Fall and Renaissance of the Bandstand* by Sue Ash

coffee mornings from 10am to 12 noon

22th March 2024 last chance to renew in person.

26th April 2024 plus Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The AGM will start at 10 o'clock prompt. Doors will open earlier, so you can be seated ready.

an evening of 50s, 60s, 70s music with Mike Prince back by popular demand on Friday 19th April 2024 at 7pm. Tickets, at £7 each, are selling fast – contact Chis or Jim Brookes on 01384 288920 to reserve.

Next issue for May/June comes out in early May.

Contact Ian Scott 01384 839277 with any items.

† There is a waiting list to join these groups. Contact the Group Leader to go on the list until a place is available.

Architecture

Peter Bates 07939 476780 – 4th Wednesday pm

Art (St Mary's)

Alan Westley 01384 822497 – 2nd & 4th Tuesday am

Ballroom Dancing

Chris & Jim Brookes 01384 288920
– 1st Monday pm. Back after a winter break.

Board Games

Doreen Darby (acting GL) 01384 345644
– 4th Wednesday pm

Book Group

Anne Mole 07742 064252 – 4th Friday am

Butterfly Tai Chi

Geraldine Hammonds – 2nd & 4th Monday am

Chess

Ian Campbell 07790 935743 (text) – 2nd Monday am

Craft

Joan Johnson 01902 672246
– 2nd & 4th Tuesday pm

Creative Writing

Betty Burns 01384 292108 – 2nd Monday am

Discussion

Adrian Barrett 07905 302813 – 3rd Thursday pm †

Gardening

Mike Brettell 07866 610444 – 3rd Monday am †

Genealogy

Clem Phillips 07340 314908 – 4th Wednesday am

Guitar

Philip Emery 01384 293958 – 1st & 3rd Thursday am †

History

Charles Frankis 01384 404491 – 4th Monday am

Jazz Appreciation †

Ian Scott 01384 839277 – 2nd Tuesday pm

A reminder that group leaders need to ensure those attending groups are members. Please help them by being ready to show your membership card when asked, to confirm that you have renewed.

Kurling

Peter Bates 07939 476780 – 3rd Wednesday am †

Latin

John Hunt 07539 864876
– 2nd Tuesday am advanced group
– 4th Monday pm beginners group

Line Dancing

Cath Robinson – 07951 036055
1st & 3rd Tuesday pm †

Play Reading

Judith Elmes 01384 271798 – 3rd Monday pm

Quiz

Robert & Pamela Wantling – 07850 623071
2nd Wednesday pm †

Recorders

Jean Green 01384 392876 – 2nd & 4th Tuesday am

Shanty Singing

John Owen 07933 288223
– 2nd Wednesday pm

Singing for Fun

Judith Humphry 07958 545547
– 1st & 3rd Thursday am

Strollers

Pauline Buswell 01384 896915 or 07759 347715
– 2nd & 5th Friday am

Ukulele

David Westley-Smith 07855 256240
Chris Thompson 07971 641629
– 2nd & 4th Thursday am †

Walking Groups

Jane Artist 07759 030931 – 1st, 2nd & 5th Friday am

Group Leaders will be meeting with Lynda (Chair) and Cath (Co-ordinator) on 4th March 2024. An opportunity to get together, hear the latest news, share ideas and discuss any areas of concern.

A voice in the village

Readers of *Village Voice*, a free community magazine, may have seen us in the January issue, and in March too. This is part of promoting our u3a and recruiting new members.

If you don't get *Village Voice* delivered, you can get one at the Library, and at the Community Centre sometimes.

Trustee Committee and contacts

Lynda Brettell	Chair Tel 07855 173096
Mike Jones	Treasurer Tel 01384 821891
Sue Helm	Business Secretary Tel 07989 766623
Ian Campbell	Membership Secretary Text 07790 935743
Elaine Baytug	Speaker Meeting Co-ordinator
Cath Robinson	Group Leader Co-ordinator

Chris Brookes	Trustee
Jim Brookes	Trustee
Diana Elsby	Trustee
Bob Parker	Trustee
Martin Snell	Trustee