

COURSE FEES CHANGE

By now you will have heard from our Chair, Gordon Bull, that individual course fees are increasing from £1 per session to £2. *This is for a course only, not the annual membership*, which remains at £10 per individual. The Public Lectures remain free of charge.

Decision was deferred

Knowing that we needed to increase fees to cover the costs of venue hire—a decision which was deferred from last year, when circumstances were exceptional—the Committee considered increasing membership fees substantially to cover the costs of all courses in one annual payment, but this was felt to be unfair for those who only took one or two courses, while theoretically paying for four or five.

Fairest way

So the Committee felt that increasing the cost of individual courses was the fairest way of covering the costs, which is the first increase in nine years.

Any raising of costs may be hard to accept, particularly when it is unusual for Lewes u3a, but, as our Chair has said, 'this still represents good value for money and [we] hope that this price rise will not deter you from joining the groups you love.'

NEWS OF NEW COURSES

Here are some of the new courses that you will read about shortly on the Lewes u3a website:

- * Historical Guided walks
- * Historical Highlights of Lewes—Zoom
- * Basic Buddhism – Zoom
- * Tales Beyond Folk Culture – Zoom
- * Edgar Allan Poe Stories
- * Tales from the Dark Continent
- * The Teller & the Tale
- * Germ's Eye View – Zoom

Also returning for 'live' sessions:

- * Listening to Musicals
- * Playford Tea Dance



This is not an exhaustive list—the full schedule is published on the Lewes u3a website at the end of August.

WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES

Hilary Golden, our Programme Editor, describes how her role takes up a large part of the year.



now able to offer face-to-face meetings in the coming Autumn Term. Some Conveners have chosen to remain with Zoom meetings, but others will run their courses in their own home

‘When I took over the role of Programme Editor for the Lewes U3A in the spring of 2020, I was amazed by how much goes on behind the scenes, so I thought members might be interested to read about the processes involved in putting together the programme of courses and events for each term.

Establishing dates

The **first task** involves establishing dates for sending out emails to Conveners (requesting their entries for the coming term), choosing proof readers, and agreeing deadline dates with them and the Web Editor.

Limited print run

For the coming term we are planning a limited print run to allow the Programme to be sent to members without email addresses. I will send the printed copies to the relevant member’s homes.

Face to face meetings

Lewes U3A currently runs over 75 courses during the year. The **next task** I have is to contact all the Conveners asking if they want to run a course during the coming term and, if they do, to send their course details. Since lockdown, courses have run via Zoom but we are

and gardens, or have contacted the Accommodation Officers who have/will find suitable accommodation for their courses.

When Conveners get back to me with the details of courses, I put this information into the Programme document, the Timetable, “Green Form” and an up-to-date table of current Conveners. These activities take up the bulk of my time and, depending on how quickly Conveners reply, it can take up to 6 weeks.

After the cut-off date, I forward electronic copies of the final Programme, Timetable and Green Form to the printers. When the printers have printed them, I collect and post them out.

My **final task** is to remove contact details from the Programme, and email a pdf copy plus the other documents to the Web Editor.

Ready to see

I am expecting, by late August, that the information about the courses in the coming Autumn Term will be ready for you to see, either via the website or in a printed Programme booklet.’

Lewes Public Lectures

August 25 'Russia and Ukraine', Roger Cockrell. A few places are available [here](#).

Forthcoming lectures:

September 29 'Oliver Cromwell – Lord Protector', Roger Murray.

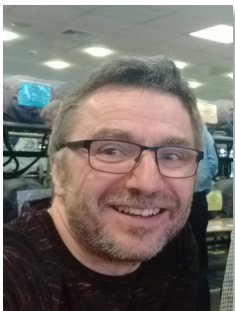
November 10 'The Architecture and Conservation of Commonwealth War Graves', Sarah Nathaniel CWGC on the day before Remembrance Day.



December 8 'Resounding collapse – what Soviet Music tells us about the 1991 disintegration of the USSR', Terry Metheringham in the month of the 30th anniversary of the end of the Soviet Union.

Further details of these events will follow in due course.

Meet our new Equipment Officer, Nigel Oxley



We are delighted to welcome Nigel as our Equipment Officer. Here, he tells us about himself.

'Whilst my wife and I have lived in Lewes for 30 years, I have never worked locally, but always had to commute – Eastbourne, Crawley, Leatherhead and finally Esher so getting further away with every job change. We were both lucky enough to take early retirement in Autumn 2019 (me from a career in IT) and I joined Lewes U3A in Spring 2020.

Retirement was meant to include taking up new hobbies, be full of country walks, bike rides, pub lunches and cream teas, all somewhat scuppered by the arrival of Covid.

I haven't really succeeded in exploring much of what's on offer in U3A nor outside in other activities – that's all still to come. To date, the three U3A activities I have managed to join in with are the series of Zooms on Electric Cars (very interesting), the Science Series (fascinating) and a couple of Bird Watching walks, equally interesting and enjoyable (pub lunch as well). I've always enjoyed walking/hiking so before Covid struck, had managed to join the Monday Group, meaning most of my Monday mornings are taken up with some form of footpath maintenance.

I am currently in the process of working with Derek (my predecessor) to understand the fine detail of all of the U3A equipment that I'm responsible for and the many ways in which it is currently used and could be used if it were needed. From what I've seen so far, the group has an excellent set of equipment at its disposal that certainly seems to meet everyone's needs'.

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

You will shortly receive an email from Janet Kennedy, our Membership Secretary, reminding you that your renewal fee is due for 1st September.

IF YOU ALREADY PAY BY BANK STANDING ORDER YOU DO NOT NEED TO DO ANYTHING—WE AUTOMATICALLY RECEIVE YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE FROM THE BANK.

Other ways to pay

Now, there are others way to pay: through the website using PayPal or by Bank Transfer.

For *Paypal* you can use a credit card or a debit card and you do not need to be a member of PayPal. You will need your membership number to get to the correct Beacon page. If you don't have this, contact the Membership Secretary for the number.

To pay by *Bank Transfer* please contact the Membership Secretary for bank details to facilitate this—

Janet will also need to know to look out for the payment.

Finally, you can still pay by *cheque*, posting it to the Membership Secretary at the address given on the website.

Receipts

The Membership Secretary will acknowledge by email receipt of renewal fees paid by cheque or bank transfer—although it may take a few days longer for bank transfer acknowledgement, as details have to come from the Treasurer, who keeps the bank statements. Paypal payments are automatically acknowledged through Beacon.

Full details including all Janet's contact details are under the [Membership](#) tab on the website.



The Committee is delighted to welcome, as well as the equipment officer, NIGEL OXLEY, new HEALTH & SAFETY OFFICER, SUSAN YATES, and ACCOMMODATION OFFICER, ANNE WILLIAMS who is already a Trustee.

Enquiries, comments or suggestions? Email Bulletin@lewesu3a.uk