

If you have joined a new course at any time during your u3a membership, you will have had contact with *Ann Holmes*, our Assistant Treasurer who has the responsibility for taking bookings for new courses.

Ann was born in Edmonton, North London, the eldest of four. She left school after one year in the Lower Sixth & worked firstly in the BBC News Department & then for a stockbroker in the “box”, the hub of activities, just off the floor of the Stock Exchange.

She met her future husband, Tony, through the Old Pupil’s Association of the grammar school they had both attended. They married in 1958 & the following year, Tony’s job brought them down to East Sussex, firstly to Hailsham & subsequently to Lewes. Their two children were born in Eastbourne.

Ann was a stay at home Mum until her children were teenagers, when she became the laboratory technician at Southover Manor School. She then worked as a library assistant at the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex.

### *Voluntary work*

Ann has always been interested in doing



Ann and husband Tony

voluntary work, having been involved with the Oxfam & British Heart Foundation groups in Lewes. She was Box Office manager of Lewes Little Theatre for some years & oversaw the introduction of the computerised ticketing system.

### *u3a*

She has been a member of Lewes u3a since 2000, & has served on the Committee, firstly as Publicity Officer & then as Assistant Treasurer, a post she has held for eleven years. She assisted Tony with the two sets of bridge classes that he ran, resulting in the very popular Bridge One & Two groups within our u3a.

She says, “The Committee has been investigating the possibility of registration & payment for courses on line, but for the Autumn term, at least, we are using the green form as usual”.

[Editors note: Ann also does sterling work as a regular proof reader for many u3a documents, including Bulletin.]

## Tutors and Conveners meeting



*Last month conveners, tutors and some committee members met over zoom to discuss issues of concern.*

Our new Health & Safety Officer, Susan Yates, and Equipment Officer, Nigel Oxley were also introduced.

Susan has been updating and adapting the Health & Safety documents issued by the Third Age Trust to make them more specific to Lewes u3a. This will be completed shortly and, in addition, Susan is in the process of visiting the venues we use from a Health & Safety perspective.

Nigel confirmed that all the u3a Lewes equipment is in good working order. He stressed that all groups needed to be self sufficient in their technical operation, but in case of any doubts he had prepared detailed written instructions. Nigel will also conduct a couple of 'open' sessions for conveners to make sure they were comfortable with the technology. Conveners will be notified about these shortly.

Zoom is different, and to collective sighs of relief, Derek confirmed that he will still be available to help with any zoom issues.

Finally, the conveners accepted the changes proposed by the committee about the future of our u3a, which included changes to fixed terms and dispensing with the printed programme.

### *We need your help.....*

Could you act as 'back up' for our Equipment Officer Nigel? If, for some reason, Nigel is unable to assist with a specific issue, he would like to be able to call on one or more people to assist.

Do you use a **hearing loop**? If so, Nigel would like to talk to you. We are currently assessing the facilities in the Town Hall (initially) and ideally would like the help of more than one person



to accurately diagnose any potential issues and ensure all runs smoothly in the future.

### *We are on the radio (again!)*



Radio Sussex recently contacted us to request that someone from Lewes u3a take part in a discussion on air about retirement, and how it affects people.

Vice Chairman Susan Murray stepped up to the plate and spent 10 minutes in conversation with Sarah Gorrell, who presents the morning show on Radio Sussex.

Susan said that, through Lewes u3a, there were many opportunities of all different kinds available to retirees, including the opportunity of starting a group and sharing skills and knowledge acquired during working life.

You can hear the talk on the [Radio Sussex website](#).

## WHERE IS MY PROGRAMME?



*The Committee has made the decision that the printing and mailing of termly programmes is no longer practical, cost effective or environmentally viable.*

So we have made very sure that all information you need about current Groups and courses are on the website, and there is even a digital version of the programme you can download.

### Exception

An exception has been made for those without any internet access *at all*. These members, who make up about 5% of the membership, are sent printed versions of the programmes.

### Contact details of Group Leaders

The printed programme is the only place you will find contact details for the convener other than email. There are strict data protection rules around the availability of an individual's contact details so we are now very restricted about making them available.

### TIC or Library

If any member needs the telephone number of a convener and cannot use the email from the website, they can see the programme kept in the Tourist Information Centre, where they keep a copy behind the counter, or in the Library upstairs.

The conveners accepted the changes proposed by the committee about the future of our u3a, which included changes to the term structure and dispensing with printing the programme.

## Lewes Public Lecture

Oliver Cromwell—our Lord Protector

September 29th 7.30pm

Talk by Roger Murray

For further details and to register:

[Click here](#)

## WHAT'S HAPPENED TO OUR TERMS?

You may have noticed that there are no term dates published after 2022 on the website. This is because Lewes u3a no longer runs its courses on a termly structure. In future, the Group information will be updated quarterly: September, January, March and June.

It will be entirely at the conveners' discretion how they run the courses, be it monthly throughout the year, in 5 fortnightly sessions, occasionally when there is demand, or at any other frequency. They can also plan Easter, Christmas and summer breaks, if any, at their convenience.

The old academic style 'terms' will be dispensed with, as u3a is not an academic institution and there is no reason why Groups should not meet at any frequency throughout the year as and when they wish, as many already do.

It is hoped that this small change will encourage more summer activity and keep u3a active in some way all year round for the enjoyment of the wider membership.

# COVID HERO AWARDS



## Our Buddies



Pictures show the award itself and Derek Blayney receiving the award from Mayor councillor Stephen Catlin. Jackie Ralph substituted for Gordon Bull as the proposer for Derek's award

Derek Blayney, our Beacon Admin Officer and former Equipment Officer, received an award as a Covid Hero recently in a presentation ceremony, which took place in the Town Hall.

There were some 35 people receiving awards, from all age groups (the youngest was 7 years old) and for many reasons, from selling friendship bracelets, organising food distribution, keeping Lewes News going or being a carer. Derek had been nominated for his contribution to keeping u3a courses going by introducing and supporting zoom, with the result that the majority of Lewes u3a members could continue to enjoy their Group activities during lockdown.

The 'Buddy'

Scheme in Lewes u3a was launched last September, when we realised that some members, who do not have access to the internet— essential during the last 18 months—for both courses and news about the u3a.

Member Jill Townsend immediately volunteered to co-ordinate the initiative and after a story in the Bulletin had an encouraging response from members. We had thirteen members who requested Buddies to print Bulletin and to keep them informed about the u3a.

### *A year later*

A year later, Jill says the Buddies are still operating. She says, 'Our Buddies' remit was to keep their partners up to date and pass on any news, bulletins, etc that would be of interest plus, of course, being a friendly contact as well.

Lewes U3A has been brilliant at keeping things going via Zoom and now some outdoor activities as well, but the best news that our Buddies could pass on will be definite dates for meeting in person again!

As soon as we have dates of groups meeting face-to-face, Jill will contact all our Buddies to make sure that they are able to pass on this message.

*Enquiries, comments or suggestions? Email [Bulletin@lewesu3a.uk](mailto:Bulletin@lewesu3a.uk)*