

Jackie Ralph is our Publicity Officer and Bulletin Editor. She has interviewed many Trustees and Officers for the Bulletin and now I have persuaded her to allow me to 'guest edit' her profile, writes Margaret Sheppard. Her background certainly illustrates why she is so good in her roles.



'After school in East Grinstead, I left home while still a teenager. Ending up in Brighton, I worked in customer service roles before moving to London, where I explored opportunities as a 'temp' and then found a role with a PR company. This is where I decided I wanted to be, career wise, and set about studying for Marketing qualifications while working.

Financial Technology

'My marketing and PR career took me to the City of London, where I found a niche in financial technology, marketing international banking software systems. After a 20 year career, which took me round the world, I departed the City and worked as a free lance Marketing Consultant, focussing on small

businesses and charities.

Privileged

'This was the polar opposite of the work I was used to: dealing with different mindsets and minimal budgets. But I felt privileged to work with truly inspiring people, with clients ranging from an architect, debt collector, a Private Members club, travel consultant and a Musical Museum, to name but a few.

Cost-effective

'They had a need for very cost-effective ways of generating interest and I was happy to help. During this time I also volunteered for local community charities, becoming a Trustee with two of them.

Lewes

'After two years living in the United States, where I had been a frequent visitor over many years, I returned to Brighton intending to settle there permanently, but moved to Lewes in 2016. A friend had introduced me to the town and I immediately loved both the National Park location and the historic perspective.

Discovered the u3a

'When I retired in 2019 I discovered the u3a where I now enjoy the jazz, blues and art-related courses. In the future I hope to find more courses involving music, nature and arts and crafts'.

The Group

Current Affairs

is well established with Lewes u3a. The convenor, Clare Hurworth expands



This successful group has been running for more than ten years. At present it meets at the Lewes Quaker Meeting House in Friars Walk every Thursday morning.

Keen interest in news

It is a course that might appeal to anyone who has a keen interest in discussing the latest news, whether national, international or local. For example, before our Easter break, much of our focus was on the situation in Ukraine and a consideration of the potential geopolitical consequences. We also discussed other topics including NHS funding, 'partygate', pollution by water companies and Lewes bus station.

Amount of preparation

Each week a different member of the group can volunteer to act as Chair. This person chooses topics that have most recently been in the news or are of ongoing interest. A small amount of preparation, such as a list of likely discussion topics and some newspaper cuttings are worth getting ready for the group.

Members are invited to participate and make their own comments via the chair, a format which works well for supporting anyone who would like to contribute to the discussion.

Face to face

Our meetings are face to face in a well-appointed room with good ventilation. There are usually some twelve to fifteen of us for each session and there is probably room for one or two more to join the group.

Please contact the organiser Clare Hurworth at churworth@btopenworld.com with any queries.



A new Climate Change Group

Reaction to Sherman Robinson's recent Lewes Public Lecture suggests that there would be interest in continuing learning about climate change.

To better understand the underlying sciences, economics and politics at global and national levels, as well as clarifying choices for personal and community action to reduce our carbon foot prints, a new Group, the **Climate Change Group** has been set up.

Tom Crosset has agreed to convene the first meeting. For further details please contact Tom at tom.crossett@gmail.com or on 01273 473565.

HISTORICAL WALKS BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

We are fortunate to have a member, Chris Smith, who is not only knowledgeable about local public transport *and* local history, but is willing to share both with us.

'Some years ago, a friend living in St Swithun's Terrace, a street just off of the High Street, complained to me that if he took his car out there was never anywhere to park it on his return. I asked him why he did not take the bus, since most of the buses through Lewes stopped within 50 metres of his house. He confessed that he did not know where the buses ran to or when they went.

'wrong that we should add to the jam'



'Since then I have promoted public transport, latterly through my web site www.travelloglewes.co.uk It seems wrong that we should add to the jam of cars filling up our roads and parked all over the countryside.

Telling the stories

'And I began to be aware of all the history in our area that did not get a hearing. Who was telling the stories of the brave parishioners of Glynde, who stood up to their Lord at the beginning of the 20th Century, the old roads across Malling Down, the history of



who repaired our roads, the stagecoach that went up Juggs Road, the coming of the turnpikes, the failed Glyndebridge Turnpike, the inclosures of Kingston and Chailey, the bizarre Gwynne Family of Folkington and Henry the Chailey Steamroller?

'Scandalous town'

'Who was discussing how a quiet rural village turned into a haven for gentrification and partner-swapping? Who was telling the stories of that most scandalous town – Eastbourne?

'So this group was born. It shows you our local buses and trains, it gets you out for a walk, and it introduces you to all these pieces of history and more.'



Click [here](#) for more information.

Don't forget Buddies!

Although many of our groups are now meeting face-to-face, our Buddy system is still available for anyone who needs a little extra help.

This might be because you, or someone you know, are no longer able to use a computer but would like to be kept up to date with u3a news.

Please contact our Buddy Co-ordinator, Jill Townsend, on 01273 471106 for further details.

Opportunities with Lewes u3a

Groups Co-ordinator

The role of Groups Co-ordinator is currently being held by Marion Tyler, who is already the Secretary, with accountabilities for keeping the committee and its governance on track.

Understandably, we would like Marion to be free to concentrate on just this one responsible job, so we are actively looking for someone to take over the Group Co-ordinator part of her duties.

This role is the liaison between the Committee and Group leaders and facilitating Group leaders' meetings as and when required. It may suit a Convener or Group administrator, although we would welcome enquiries from anyone interested in the role.

Assistant Treasurer

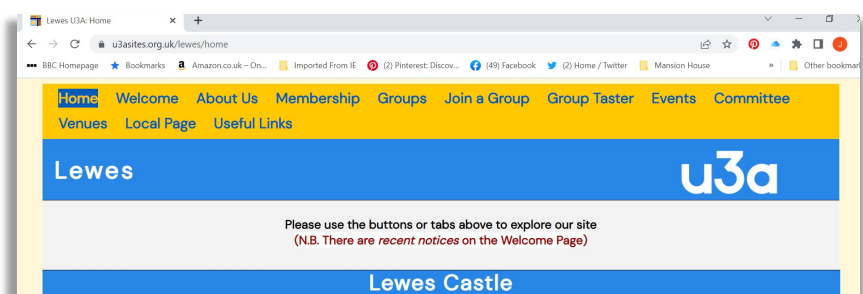
Ann Holmes, our present and valued incumbent will be stepping down at our next AGM, after many years.

However, the role is changing. While still being responsible for records of new group members and banking the cheques, the Assistant Treasurer will not be doing it in exactly the same way as Ann did. So a new person must be willing to adapt, but feel free to bring any new ideas to the table. A background in accounting or technology is not necessary, but enthusiasm definitely is!

Please contact the [Chair](#), [Secretary](#), or any committee member if you would like to discuss either of these roles.

WEBSITE WATCH

It's worth checking into our website regularly. Not only will it have the most up to date information about available Groups and



courses—particularly useful now that we do not have the old style 'terms' – but you will find interesting information and opportunities under the *Local Page* and the *Useful Links*, both of which have been recently updated.

The Lewes u3a website is one of the most information-rich websites of the u3as. You can even print off a current programme and timetable if you find the Groups pages confusing.

Big thanks to our Webmaster, Tony Wheeler, for keeping it all up to date!