

Online courses from u3a, voting at the AGM and lockdown rules



Michael Austin, Course Provision Co-ordinator and Publicity Officer, tells us about himself

‘Having the privilege of being a Trustee of two local charities has helped me see more clearly the similar challenges facing both. As Course Provision Co-ordinator of Lewes u3a, I am very gratified, during this difficult period, at how potential Group Leaders are adapting to the digital technologies available, in order to reach out to as many members as possible.

Learning new skills

Being Lewes u3a Publicity Officer has also helped me personally to learn new skills and different ways of publicising our events. On handing over the post at our forthcoming AGM to Jackie Ralph, our Bulletin Editor, I know that ‘Publicity’ will be in good hands and hopefully will give me more time to concentrate on Lewes Public Lectures and future German history courses.

Previous Life

In a fulfilling previous life, my profession as a Dentist and Vocational Trainer took me, for example, to RAF Bruggen (examining), Iquasu Falls and Rio de Janeiro (international conference) Karnataka State, India (postgraduate courses), Sri Lanka (partying) and finally the Isle of Skye (working for the NHS).

Hove Progressive Synagogue

Now, myself and Sheila, my wife of nearly 50 years, enjoy our almost daily grandparenting duties in Lewes. Together we belong to Brighton and Hove Progressive Synagogue where I am Vice Chair, and I chair their Covid-19 Safety Sub-Committee.

Input from Lewes u3a members

I was pleased, perhaps partly as a result of my involvement with two different inclusive and outward looking local charities, to be appointed as an Independent Advisor representing Sussex to a new South East Thames Regional Counter Terrorism Advisory Group. We would welcome input from Lewes U3A members on any matters relating to developing community resilience to extremism and radicalisation’.

Course News

Some of our Convenors comment
on their courses

Tony Wheeler, Engineering and Technology

This Autumn we are running five morning sessions on the first and third Tuesdays of the month and I plan to do the same in the Spring.

Structure of sessions

We are using Zoom with Power Point and video presentations, which are 30 to 40 minutes with a group discussion for 15 or 20 minutes afterwards. This has worked out fine so far, although I did need a little Zoom practice on the first session!!

Content

We are looking at engineering and technology topics of interest to the group and when possible represent issues in the news.

So far this term we have had:

Magnetically levitated (MAGLEV) High Speed Trains (pictured) and,



The effect of Climate change on the Sussex Coast and engineering responses to that.

Our next session will be about the future use of the "Internet of Things" to better manage water supply and treatment systems. We tend to choose topics as we go along, rather than on a term ahead basis.

Participants

We have had slightly fewer numbers at our first two sessions (high teens compared to high 20s before). We are very happy to have new members and in fact with Zoom, I don't think that larger numbers are an issue for us from what I have seen on other courses.



Jill Townsend, Recorder

Our brand new recorder group has got off to a great start. Three members have dug out their recorders from cupboards and lofts after several decades! Another will join us just as soon as her health permits.

We are all looking forward to being able to play together but, in the meantime, we are making and sharing home recordings of music that we like. We are working on some simple duets and are all helping each other.

If you would like to join us, you would be most welcome. The only criteria is that you should be able to read music. Like us, you can polish your recorder playing skills over the winter months. At a time like this, I reckon we all need music to keep us cheerful and to exercise our brains!

Please contact me, Jill Townsend:
jilltownsend10@hotmail.com 01273 471106

Janet Kennedy, French 4

French 4 would love to have some new members. Currently, we meet on Zoom for an hour or a little longer. We take it in turns to choose a discussion topic, though we also like to just chat.

Our other way of ensuring we have something to talk about is to have a book on the go. We read a couple of chapters each week and take it in turns to summarise what we've read. We're currently reading Suite Française by Nemirowsky.

Winter Learning Programme

The u3a National body – the Third Age Trust - looks after all the u3as in the UK, providing educational and administrative support.

The Winter Learning Programme has recently been announced. It includes a Programme of **free talks** delivered by members (currently being sourced). Talks are intentionally released on a stagger to keep people's interest and participation over the winter.

Talks confirmed to date:

- Mayan civilization
- How to write your living history

Talks where booking details are not yet released:

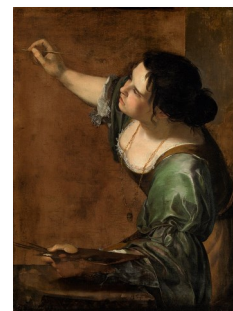
- Yoga
- Bridge tutorials for beginners /improvers
- Crown green bowling
- Philosophy
- Cryptic crosswords
- Japan

Details of all initiatives are available [here](#), or go to www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes.

The website will be updated regularly so members are encouraged to keep checking these pages.

The u3a Trust can also offer selected national events online. This includes events in collaboration with the National Gallery, Royal Institution, Guildhall Art Gallery, and the British Library (for which there may be a charge).

To begin with, there is great news for those of us who loved Kay Blackburn's talk on Artemisia Gentileschi during the winter term:



National Gallery – Life and paintings of Artemisia (£5) on 24th November 2020.

Further 'external' talks being planned include:

- Guildhall Art Gallery – Prerecorded talk about the Romans. Date TBC
- National Trust – History of the National Trust (free). Date TBC
- British Library – Christmas literature (free). Date TBC
- Southwark Cathedral – TBC
- National Army Museum - TBC

Remember—keep checking these [pages](#) for the most up to date information.

Lewes u3a online Public Lecture

Hear retired medical practitioner and Lewes activist Sonya Baksi speak on:

'Infectious Diseases: Can we beat the old ones and what shall we do about the new?'

This will be an entertaining, fully illustrated presentation which will pose questions for us all.

7.30pm, Wednesday December 16

Booking details will be circulated to everyone in due course.

LEWES U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

27th November, 10am

How to vote

There are four items that we are asked to vote on:

- 1 Confirmation of the minutes of the 2019 AGM
- 2 Acceptance of the annual report and statement of accounts
- 3 Election to the Executive Committee. (Michael Austin, Gordon Bull, Ann Holmes, Janet Kennedy, Neil McWalter, Hazel O'Hare, Margaret Sheppard, Marion Tyler, Susan Murray and Anne Williams)
- 4 Appointment of the independent examiner of accounts for next year – Steve Brentnall.

You may cast your vote in two ways:

- 1 *If you do not intend to join the meeting using Zoom you can vote in advance of the meeting by sending an email to polling@lewesu3a.uk setting out how you wish to vote for each item. **Deadline: 21st November 2020.***
- 2 You can send an email to polling@lewesu3a.uk saying you *wish to attend* the Zoom meeting, when there will be an opportunity to cast your votes.

If you would like any *items to be raised* at the meeting please send them to secretary@lewesu3a.uk to arrive *not later than 21st November 2020.*

We will **not** be taking questions from the floor on the day of the meeting.

Member *Caroline Pybus* has commented about the Grant u3a Lewes was recently awarded from Lewes Town Council for the Zoom licence:

'Considering we are not paying them any income for use of premises, this seems very generous. Did we really need it? I have Zoom and am grateful for it, but there are many in the upper age group of U3A who are shy/reluctant etc, thereby depriving themselves of a useful means of communication.'

Our Covid Rules in Lewes.

Getting confused?

A recap of what you need to know:

Lewes is a 'medium risk' area, however, up to and including Wednesday 2 December, along with the rest of England, a summary of the rules are:

- You can exercise or meet in outdoor public place with **one other person** not from your household. You cannot meet in a private garden. No in-person u3a activities can take place during this time.
- You must **not meet** socially indoors with anyone who is not in your household or your support bubble.
- You cannot **travel** within the UK or overseas unless for work, education or other legally permitted reasons
- **Face covering** must be worn indoors where social distancing is difficult, eg retail establishments.



For further information visit: www.gov.uk/coronavirus