

A New u3a Group Opens its Doors to Members

Chairperson: Good Afternoon Ladies and Gentleman, such a wonderful turnout today and so I welcome you all to this our inaugural meeting of the newest u3a group, here in Goreshill In the Sea. And I hope you are already drowning in enthusiasm but also on the crest of a wave to get this new group going swimmingly along.

Stony silence

I have taken the liberty in common with some other u3a groups of acronymising Goreshill In the Sea to G.I.T.S which I hope will become instantly recognisable and associated with all that we stand for here in this part of the world. G.I.T.S. we are and I hope G.I.T.S. we shall remain.

Continued stony silence

As your duly elected Chairperson

The silence grows ever more acute

I would like to outline my vision

One person gets up and leaves

for this u3a group. I want it to be the most dynamic, the most innovative of any in the country , I want it to be a model.....

2 more people leave

I want us to be an example to everyone of what a u3a group can be like if members dare to think the unthinkable (Philosophy Group) and reach for the stars which our Astronomy Group will undoubtedly be doing soon. Leave no stone unturned (Archaeology Group). Some groups have already hit the ground running and prepared their programmes. For example the Architecture group have begun plans to build a lifesize model of St. Paul's Cathedral using real stone wherever possible rather than cardboard and the Ancient History Group are staging a run through of the Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta on the beach in the Summer.

Complete and utter silence then 3 more people leave.

And our Wild Water Swimming Group will be crossing the Channel after some initial preparation in the local lido. The Embroidery Group will be making a copy of the whole of the Bayeux Tapestry (minus the short section where a monarch gets killed) in honour of her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and this will be executed (maybe not the best word bearing in mind the accession of King Charles III) in red, white and blue to underline the significance of the work. And it will certainly keep the ladies busy in the months to come.

Audible muttering and 5 more people exit all noticeably female this time.

The Walking Group will be crossing the Andes in October and our newly-assembled orchestra of which I am proud to be lead violin....

Mass exodus of at least 10 more people

will be rehearsing and giving a live performance of the whole of the Beethovenian repertoire which should play continuously for at least 48 hours without interruption.

By now little sign of any audience remaining.

I can see Ladies and Gentlemen that the response to my little introduction today

has been overwhelmingly inspiring and everyone has now rushed out to participate in their first group activity. I wait to see with great interest where u3a G.I.T.S. will be in 3 months time. Thank you.