

Patcham U3A

Autumn Newsletter

It seems such a long time ago that we were all together enjoying our various groups and activities with U3A friends. After the completion of the first Lockdown it looked as if we might be returning to some kind of normality and there was even hope that we could resume using the Memorial Hall and Patcham Community Centre. However as you know these hopes were short lived. It seems certain now that there won't be any meetings until January 2021 at the earliest !

I would like to express a sincere Thanks to Christine, the organiser of our Monday speakers. Christine has worked so hard to ensure that these meetings have continued albeit in a different format. By using Zoom we have stayed in touch with friends and enjoyed having speakers, including two of our members.. Thank you Gill and Tony. Christine has also organised quizzes and various other forms of entertainment! I am sure that if we can't reopen in early 2021, Christine will have a new programme ready for us to enjoy. If you haven't tried Zoom yet...give it a go..

Unfortunately this is my only opportunity to say another big Thank you and this is to Marilyn who is leaving Patcham at the end of December and moving to Devon. I understand that she has already signed up for the local U3A and the Bowls Club. According to my records, she first joined the Committee in 2002 and since then has played a very active part in the life and running of the U3A.. Marilyn has been Group Leader of the Gardening and Computer Clubs, she has set up and run Sussex History Through its Churches and has actively promoted the setting up of new groups. Alongside these commitments, she has been our Webmaster and vitally, during the past few months, has established and led the Zoom meetings.. Marilyn will be sorely missed. However, maybe we can link up with Honiton U3A in the future or have our annual holiday to Devon !. I am sure our links will continue.

As you know, our AGM was scheduled for 23 November but at our recent Committee meeting we decided to postpone it until after the New Year. As many of our members don't use Zoom we wouldn't be quorate. I have spoken with U3A Headquarters. It is fine to do this as we don't have a time frame for a delayed AGM in our Constitution.. The Accounts for the year ending August 31 2020 are completed and will be presented at the AGM for your approval. Of course if the disruption continues next year, the Committee may need to think again. Until the AGM, the present Committee will continue in post.

Finally a Very Big Thank you to all who decided to renew their Membership for another year in these very uncertain times....we do appreciate it. Looking forward to better times in 2021...until then STAY SAFE !