

University of the Third Age



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Stratford-upon-Avon
u3a

Newsletter

August 2021

Message from the Chairman

This newsletter, we hope, marks the beginning of a return to normal u3a activities. We look forward to welcoming back old friends and meeting new ones. We have a programme of lively speakers planned and interest groups ready to swing into action again. But this is **your** u3a and we welcome **your** ideas for future developments - as well as your help. Read on to see how you could be involved...



Message from the Membership Secretary

Some reminders, now we are beginning to get back to normal.

At the present time we have 83 members. If you paid in 2020, this year is free. But **you do need to tell me** if you wish to remain a member. If you have not yet done so, just email or phone and I will add you to the list. For those who did not join last year the fee is still £14. Contact me for a membership application form. In order to join one of our groups you must be a member of one of the five South Warwickshire u3as: Stratford, Heart of England, Shottery, Alcester or Dene Valley.

Looking forward to see you all in September.

Sheila

Help needed

A u3a doesn't just happen. To keep ours flourishing and active we need people like you to join our committee - an enjoyable and far from arduous commitment. So, if you value the companionship and activities we offer, do consider volunteering. No experience required.

We need a Chairman to host our monthly meetings, a Secretary to liaise with organisations such as the Third Age Trust and Charity Commission, and a Minutes Secretary for reporting committee meetings. Our Speaker Secretary wishes to hand over his responsibilities too, so do get in touch if you would enjoy planning talks and speakers for meetings from March 2022. It would also be great if someone would like to organise outings again from time to time. And is there anyone who could give our u3a a presence on facebook?

Contact any member of the committee if you might be interested and/or want to find out more.

News from Interest Groups

We currently have 16 interest groups, all described on our website (address on p1): do take a look and read their latest news. The information has been updated to the best of our ability, but if you are a group leader wishing to make further changes, do get in touch with Margaret who will make any amendments. Sad news, however, from the Ukulele Group: unless a tutor can be found it will have to fold. Any ideas?

But there are plans for three new groups! Basic Italian, for anyone with a smattering already; Music to Share, for lovers of any kind of music to bring along an interesting piece for all to discuss; Free Timers, a social group for members with free time to share in activities with others eg, theatre, meals, outings etc. Further information in October.

If nothing still appeals to you, why not get together with a few others who share an interest and form your own group? No qualifications needed, just enthusiasm. Something crafty? Literary? Technical? Sporty? Relaxing? Esoteric? Whatever. Now's your chance! Contact Sue to find out how to get started.

Forthcoming meetings

It is clearly impracticable to hold our AGM in September as we had hoped. So, Covid willing, it will occupy its usual March slot next year. Events subject to alteration, of course, should the rules change yet again.

Speaker Programme from September 2021

September 29th	The Staffordshire Hoard	Ron Gallivan
October 27th	How I became an Author	Philip Caine
November 24th	The Art of Punch and Judy	Peter Barratt
December 15th	Christmas Quiz	
January 26th 2022	Songs and Magic Tricks	Dave Moylan
February 23rd	Auction Room Tales	Steven Bruce - talk and slide show Bring your own treasures for a valuation
March 30th	Annual General Meeting	

West Midlands Regional Newsletter

The new West Midlands Regional Newsletter has a useful section, *At the Podium*, naming speakers willing to speak to a local u3a. If any appeal to you, please mention it to Jeff or any member of the committee.

It also includes a number of other items of interest. Would you like to dip into a Zoom session in Regional Philosophy Week, 6 - 10 September? Or to join the new u3a Chess Network? Might you be tempted to upcycle your wardrobe (think The Great British Sewing Bee's transformation challenge!) or take part in the annual national Quilt Competition? Details of all this and more online: <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/west-midlands/doc/wmregionnews06julyaug2021.pdf> (clickable shortly from our website).

Jackie Checketts

Jackie now wishes to step down from her role as Chairman. She set up Stratford-upon-Avon u3a in 2000 and nobly took the lead once more recently when Norman retired through ill-health. We owe her an inestimable debt of gratitude and wish her much happiness and good health in future. As an honorary life member of Stratford-upon-Avon u3a she will be warmly welcomed whenever she wishes to visit.

Thank you so much for all you have done, Jackie.

Committee Members

Chairman *	Jacqueline Checketts	01789 412906; checketts67@gmail.com
Membership Secretary	Sheila Gullick	01789 601572; sheila@gullick.co.uk
Treasurer	Stephen Kaye	01789 299399 stephenkaye123@gmail.com
Secretary *	Sue Crowley	01789 292970 sue.crowley25@googlemail.com
Interest Groups Coordinator	Sue Crowley	01789 292970 sue.crowley25@googlemail.com
Minutes Secretary*	Sue Crowley/Sheila Gullick	Jointly until replacement in post
Web Updating & Newsletter	Margaret Dews	01789 209900; km27dews@gmail.com
Speaker Secretary *	Jeff Cox	01789 551948; jtcox555@outlook.com
Catering Officer	Audrey Spencer	01789 61615 peterandaudrey2011@btinternet.com

* replacement sought

Brief Description of *Roles

Chairman/woman

Takes charge of committee meetings, our monthly meetings and the AGM; addresses matters of concern or suggestions from members; liaises with local u3as, the Third Age Trust and other organisations. Needs to be positive, flexible, diplomatic and approachable, willing to listen and able to make decisions.

Secretary

Makes bookings for monthly and committee meetings; prepares and circulates agenda and other papers for committee meetings (4 per year) and AGM; handles u3a publicity; deals as appropriate with regular mailings from the Third Age Trust; updates information on u3a required annually by Charity Commission.

Minutes Secretary

Takes and circulates minutes of committee meetings.

Speaker Secretary

Puts in place a programme of speakers for our meetings: contacts suitable speakers months ahead re fee/dates etc; contacts again prior to meetings to confirm attendance and check requirements; looks after speaker at meetings and sends formal thanks afterwards; produces a brief report for the Stratford Herald.

Logo and Print Size

It may look unfamiliar but we are now using the new u3a logo, love it or not. We are also using a slightly smaller print size (there is so much to fit in!) which we hope you will find acceptable. If you are unhappy with it, please let Margaret know.