



Washington Village

**MEMBERS' NEWSLETTER**

*(Registered Charity Number 1179094)*

**NOVEMBER 2021 EDITION**

**Members Liaison**

Marie Gallagher

Well, its 'Hello' time from me again. Where has this year flown too? Since restrictions lifted allowing us to meet up again, time seems to be passing by so fast. Guess it's because we are so busy catching up with family, friends, belated celebrations etc., setting up, starting up our Interest groups again. I could do with a couple of extra days in my week.

So much I would like to join but just can't make the time at the moment. New groups are in the making. I am looking forward to the Bridge Group. Thanks to Marie and Gianna for pulling this together so quickly. I've not ever played before, but it's never too late to start, I am sure. I have bought a book for beginners, but not had time to read it yet. I am told playing Bridge is very good for stimulating and maintaining brain activity, so if it maintains my level as it is I will be happy. I just hope it is active enough to learn and master the skill. Well done, to all our group leaders, we have a super choice of activities. I had another lovely afternoon out at the Theatre Royal to see, "Everyone's Talking about Jamie." Interesting, to say the least. With humour, super dancing, and singing. Thanks Marilyn, and also Brenda for organising the transport. It was great to travel along together.

I believe and it is my thinking, Washington Village u3a must be one of the best, if not 'the best' in the UK. We are amazing, membership is increasing and groups are doing fantastic. Becoming a member some 5/6 years ago and also a committee member, starting my second term in office, fulfills my need in life to stay active. It's not too late to get yourself nominated as a committee member; we need a full committee to take us through into the New Year. If I can do it, you can. Its good fun, as well as working together.

Once again can I remind you that the main purpose of my role as Member's Liaison is to contact any of our members who are not feeling 100% for whatever reason and send them a card to let them know we care about our members. I know members who have received cards have expressed very positive gratitude. So please let me know of anyone who is not feeling 100% and who would be comforted from a special card from me.

I have had both flu and Covid booster jabs, with no side effects to date. I hope you all stay safe and well and keep following the guidelines. It is looking like face masks, sanitizing, and safe distancing in crowds, will continue for some time yet.

Christmas time is creeping in fast now. I feel it may be played down somewhat this year. Hopefully flooding and weather warnings don't hit us too badly.

My warmest regards to you all! Those who are not feeling too well and have not received a card, it is because I haven't been told about you. So do take good care. We do wish you well. Stay strong and positive and most of all don't lose your amazing smiles. Best wishes to everyone.

Regards

Marie.

My contact details can be found on our u3a webpage

### **Chair's Update**

From Pauline Palmer

Like many other u3as we are now hosting our monthly meetings at the Stella with many members attending and enjoying meeting with other members. Our next meeting in November at the Stella will host our AGM. Last year we held a virtual AGM. Even though this was a little strange we had a good response. It did surprise me that we had so many people link in to the virtual meetings but like most people I'm glad that we have been able to move forward to meeting in person. I am also pleased to report that our membership is increasing which is great news.

We have recently purchased a new laptop as the previous one was taking several hours to update. This new laptop and projector can be borrowed and used by any group leader by a request to Richard Sidney via the website. The old laptop has had the data removed and has been donated to a charity.

At the last monthly meeting I made a request for volunteers to assist with tea and coffee and I'm delighted to thank those that have agreed to help.

Christmas is fast approaching and your Committee has made plans for the December's meeting. It will be a ticketed event as usual, however this year it will have to be different to the usual event. We will commence the meeting with a guest speaker followed by beverages collected in our now usual way. Pie and Peas will be served to your table by Committee members. This will ensure that we have as little disturbance as possible and give time for you to chat and meet other people. Well, that's the plan! Let's hope it all works out and we enjoy seeing everyone in their Christmas jumpers. We will also be hosting a raffle at the Christmas meeting and donations of raffle prizes will be gratefully received on the day.

Because we are now holding face to face month meetings, December's edition of the Newsletter will be our last and will be a full edition containing contributions from our members. I will take this moment to thank all contributors for their efforts throughout the past months. It is thanks to you that members were able to keep in touch through a difficult, isolating period.

Can I also take this opportunity to remind members to welcome new faces to their tables at meetings and not to keep seats for others. Please remember to continue to follow the guidance for meetings to assist with keeping our members safe and well

- Do not attend if you are symptomatic or have Covid 19.
- Wear a face covering upon entering the premises and when not seated in the venue.
- Use the hand sanitiser on entering the venue.
- Move to a table as quickly as possible after your personal registration. You can then remove your mask or face covering.
- Each table will be numbered please remain seated except when you are invited by a member of the Committee to be served tea/coffee at the serving hatch.
- If needed, use the toilets beside the entrance to the venue.
- Milk sugar and biscuits will be placed on your table.
- Cups etc. will be collected by Committee once members vacate the premises.
- Tables will be cleaned by the venue and also by a u3a member immediately prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your co-operation.

### **Money & Membership Matters**

From Lyn Bossons (Treasurer and acting Membership Secretary)

I am pleased to report that 4 new members and 4 lapsed members joined at the October monthly meeting though, sadly, one of our members has had to resign on health grounds. This brings our total membership to 193. A special welcome to new members: Margaret Rowan, Lynn O'Connor, Susan Temple & Marie Lamb. I know that they will be warmly welcomed by the rest of our members and by any Groups that interest them.

83 (43%) members attended the monthly meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> October, which is not far short of the average 'normal' attendance.

**U3a Diary.** The 2022 diary is available to buy online from the u3a Brand Centre for £3 plus £3.99 postage. However, the postage charge is per order, not per item, so it would be much cheaper for me to place a bulk order rather than for you to order directly. For example, if 10 members ordered diaries through me the cost per diary would be £3.39, which is considerably cheaper than the £6.99 it would cost you to order directly. Should you wish to order a 2022 u3a diary please let me know by **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November**.

## PR Update

From Tania Le Marinel



I'll be bringing our new pop-up banner to the November meeting so keep an eye open for our new slogan: "From Retired to Inspired!" We'll be using this strapline in future PR material, including hopefully an advert in the next edition of the Washington Way. If there's anything you'd like me to promote – activities starting up again, interesting stories or funny happenings – on our website or Facebook page please email me via the link on our u3a website

## Group News

From Richard Sidney (Group Co-ordinator)

### Walking Group



Stunning autumn scenes from the group's recent walk along Wylam Waggonway.....and enjoying a turn on the roundabout!

For November, we have a walk on 12<sup>th</sup>, from the Biddick Inn to South Hylton, led by John Thomas. There are two alternative routes, depending upon the weather. The Walking Group

webpages provides details of each. Walkers need to be aware that the paths via the river will likely be muddy.

On 26th November, it's the Tyne Bridges walk led by Dorothy Stewart.

**Drawing & Painting Group** are continuing to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month The next one is planned for 17<sup>th</sup> November, outside but under cover (heaters installed) at Washington Arts Centre between 2.15 and 4pm. Research is underway to find a suitable room to meet in from January. Meantime, the WhatsApp Art Group is very active with a different monthly theme, November's being 'Autumn'. If you want to join in, or to know further details, send a message to the Admin Contact via the Group's webpage.

Two **new groups** are in the embryonic stage:

**Bridge** - over 20 people showed interest. Gianna Ulyatt and Marie Lamb are meeting to discuss way forward and will inform me of progress

**Boccia** - June Turnbull is still having a problem producing Boccia balls for indoor use. She intends testing if her memory stick works with the lap top so she can show and generate interest.

Otherwise most groups are getting back together.

### **Research project likely of interest to U3A members**

I'm Dr Andrew Lacey, Senior Research Associate in the Department of English Literature and Creative Writing at Lancaster University.

The Davy Notebooks Project ([wp.lancs.ac.uk/davynotebooks](http://wp.lancs.ac.uk/davynotebooks)) is currently doing some exciting research, with the help of the public, that may be of interest to your members. We and an international community of over 1400 volunteer transcribers are currently transcribing, using the people-powered research platform Zooniverse, Sir Humphry Davy's (1778-1829) handwritten notebooks (around 70 in all), many of which have never been transcribed before. Davy was the leading chemist of the early nineteenth century, but also a poet, moving in the same circles as Lord Byron, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and William Wordsworth. His notebooks contain not only chemical notes and poetry, but also material encompassing philosophy, medicine, geology, mathematics, astronomy, and more. Anyone interested in any of these topics, or science or history more generally, will surely find the much of the material we're making freely available - in most cases for the first time - stimulating.

Our Zooniverse project page is here:

<https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/humphrydavy/davy-notebooks-project>

We'd be very grateful if you'd please circulate this amongst your local members, and help us to spread the word. Contributing transcriptions to our project is entirely free, both interesting and

rewarding, and no prior experience is necessary - we provide full guidance on the transcription process on our Zooniverse page, and the project team is on hand through the Talk forum feature to answer any queries.

If you have any questions, please email the Davy Notebooks Project. Our email address is:

[davynotebooks@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:davynotebooks@lancaster.ac.uk)

A member of our project team will respond. We can provide further promotional materials (e.g. newsletter item text, images) if you'd like them.

With many thanks, and best wishes,

Dr Andrew Lacey, on behalf of the Davy Notebooks Project team

### **Next Issue**

If you would like to contribute an article to our 'Christmassy' December Newsletter, please email your contribution to Sandra Graham via the link on our u3a website.

Thank you!