

## **Launch of u3a Day with Mrs. Aileen Brewis 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**

The Lord Lieutenant for Wigtown, Mrs. Aileen Brewis, launched our very first u3a Day online via Zoom, saying she was delighted to be taking part and welcoming everyone to enjoy the event.

She pointed out that Wigtownshire u3a has been in existence since 2008, has 190 members and over 20 activity groups with a wide range of interests including art, music, philosophy, gardening, literature, current affairs, gentle rambling to name but a few. She explained that the groups are member led, that there are no qualifications and it is open to semi- and fully-retired people i.e. no age barrier either way! Mrs. Brewis said that around five groups had embraced Zoom and were still meeting and more would be opening up in the coming months again hopefully. The organisation was brilliant for making friends, learning new skills, refreshing old ones. It is part of the national [u3a.org.uk](http://u3a.org.uk) website: <https://u3asites.org.uk/wigtownshire>.

Turning to the day itself, Mrs. Brewis said that most of Wednesday's events were going to be virtual (free and online via Zoom), but that a litter pick was taking place at Rigg Bay and there was to be a big presence in Wigtown with the marquee in McGuffie Park for our Readathon. Volunteers from the Exploring Literature Group would be reading extracts from their favourite pieces of literature from 10.30-4.30pm and they would be raising funds for Relay for Life in the process so she hoped people would come along to support it.

In summary, the Lord Lieutenant said the u3a was a great antidote to loneliness. She wished the organisers every success, and hoped she could come along in person at some point in the future and take part in group activities.

*Lesley Miller*