

**Witham and District (Essex) u3a**

# **u3a BULLETIN**

***Keeping members informed between newsletters***

January 2024

Registered charity 1100042

Edition 4

---

## Resolving to keep you all up to date ... and in touch

MY resolution for 2024 is to keep the information flowing.

Sadly, my first year as your chairman was marked by a lack of either Bulletins or Newsletters.

It was not what I planned or set out to happen.

However, circumstances and situations combined to see time available to wear my Publicity Officer hat vanish.

But I am confident 2024 will be better.

We have a secretary, which lifts a great weight off my shoulders.

Our treasurer has agreed to help us through three more years.

And two very efficient members sharing the role of Membership Secretary.

Factor in an experienced Vice Chairman and two more committee members willing to help where needed, and we have a robust team to take us forward.

It leaves me more freedom to concentrate on both keeping all members up to date and plan recruitment events to generate the fresh blood that every organisation needs.

For starters you will have a Bulletin or Newsletter every month.

**Ray Hardisty, Chairman and Publicity Officer**

# Chairman's appeal to the 2023 AGM

MY message to all of you from my first year is to please be more receptive to requests for help and support.

All tasks from setting out chairs, making refreshments, keeping membership records, looking after our money, arranging the monthly meeting speakers, liaising with venues, co-ordinating groups etc, is all down to us doing it for each other.

I believe if every member took on one task, life would be so much better for us all. I am sure you all believe organisation could be better. Then why not step up to being involved in making it better?

Here I must make special mention of **Anne Charles** who returned to take up the secretary role this year. However, we are now urgently looking for a permanent replacement. The only member who stood up has now withdrawn on health grounds.

The Charity Commission insists the role is filled if we are to continue, so someone needs to save us at the eleventh hour!!

Special thanks too goes to **Jane Barton** who has arranged the monthly meeting speakers for next year alongside her Group Facilitator role and personal family tragedy.

Other positives to mention from the year are:

- 1 The launch of Trips and Outings thanks to **Sheena Campbell**.
- 2 Growth in membership
- 3 A very successful summer Open Afternoon
- 4 Formation of a team to both prepare the hall for monthly meetings and look after refreshments
- 5 Creation of our first u3a Calendar by the Photography Group.
- 6 Members circulating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary leaflets far and wide.

Finally my thanks and gratitude to fellow committee members for their support; to the group co-ordinators for keeping the interests and activities running efficiently and, of course, to all members for being part of an organisation that keeps our brains ticking over and every one of us socially involved.

**Ray Hardisty**

We do have  
a secretary

**Special thanks to Jackie Gascoigne for coming forward and taking on the role of secretary after the AGM.**

**Hopefully she has the support of you all as she settles into her new role.**



## Introduction to British Sign Language

OUR free monthly meetings at the Witham Football Clun Social Club kick off on Thursday, January 25, with an introduction to British Sign Language.

Lindsey Barrell is visiting to take us all through the basics of how to communicate with those who are hard of hearing or deaf.

Please be there by 2pm and bring a mug if you would like to enjoy tea or coffee.

There's also the chance for those of you who did not provide envelopes when you renewed your subscriptions to pick up this year's Card and Members' Directory.

# Let's refresh our group activities

BIRDWATCHING was the only new group to launch last year.

But a number listed in the Members' Directory for 2023 have fallen by the wayside.

Gone from our offer are:

Easy Walkers, one of the Family History groups, Reading, two Scrabble groups and History.

Hopefully they are not gone for good and will be rescued by other members with a thirst to enjoy them and a willingness to breathe new life into them for others.

Still more ideas have interest sheets on the Publicity Table.

Groups Facilitator **Jane Barton** is the person to speak to about them all. She will be at the monthly meetings.



Members' Directory  
confusion .....

This is Marion  
Stubbings with  
examples of her  
Patchwork and Quilting  
Group and has nothing  
to do with Bobbin Lace  
as the heading tried to  
mislead.  
Apologies all round for  
the mistake.

# We have two u3a roles up for grabs

CHANGES in **Sheena Campbell's** life taking her away to London and away from organisational roles at Witham u3a for a while, leave us with two areas that have gaping holes.

Firstly is the Trips and Outings offers that she started last year.

Can someone, please, step into her shoes?

It's all a matter of organisation and ensuring members know where to be and at what time to travel to activities they have booked.

Meanwhile committee member **Hazel Lawrence** has agreed to have coach trip details at the monthly meetings. But members will have to book them themselves and work out the travel details.

Secondly, we urgently need someone to come forward who is proficient at using Wordpress.

Our present web site will be going over to that, under the heading of Siteworks, all too soon.

So we need a member to learn about our present web site alongside Webmaster **Alan Stevens**.

He is not moving to Wordpress, so we must have someone else to make sure the switch goes smoothly.

Alan is the person to speak to for details.

Neither post needs to be a committee member but, if either candidate wishes to take on that role, we do have a spare post at the moment.

First come, first served!

**Ray Hardisty, Chairman**