

Witham and District (Essex) u3a

u3a BULLETIN

Keeping members informed between newsletters

May 2023

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Edition 1

Great way for you to hear all about it

WELCOME to the very first edition of Witham and District u3a's brand new publication aimed at keeping all members up to date with what is going on.

It is simple, straightforward and being created to fill the gaps between our regular newsletters which are moving to being published quarterly.

Quite honestly, this was not planned.

But it has been born out of circumstance.

Members wanted me to continue in the Publicity hot seat after I became your chairman.

I thought I could manage a reliable output. However, the first few months have shown that not to be realistic.

Output, despite my best efforts has been nil.

So let this be a new start. It's an easy to read style with few images but, hopefully, packed with items of use to you.

Ray Hardisty, Chairman

Welcome Pack on the way to introduce new members to us

NEW members joining our u3a will be given a special Welcome Pack to ensure they know how different our organisation is from many others.

We're a mutual help body where members help each other rather than having things done for them.

So the pack explains that and encourages those who join to not only think about activities to enjoy but also what they can assist with.

Take stock and see where you can help



THIS is a great time for all members to consider how they can best use their talents to help out our u3a.

King Charles set the scene by declaring the Bank Holiday he gave us to celebrate the coronation as a volunteering day.

The Big Help Out saw many people using their skills to help others.

But in u3a every day is a big help out day!

Everything we do from groups, to the monthly meetings, this Bulletin, our web site and the committee which oversees everything, is down to volunteers.



And the first week of June is when time givers are celebrated through national Volunteers' Week.

So, why not have a think about how you can do something for your fellow members.

You could help run a group you are a member of. Maybe put out chairs at the monthly meeting. Or even help produce the Bulletin and Newsletter. Drop me a note on what you would like to do.

Opportunities are endless and whatever you have a go at, other members will be there to support you.

Ray Hardisty, Chairman

Groups with vacancies for new members

SEVERAL of our groups and activities are looking for fresh blood to building up momentum after the pandemic.

We will list the names here and leave you to make contact through the blue bird system on the web site or through the email and phone numbers listed in the annual members' directories you all have.

They are: Art Appreciation, Art For All, Board Games 2, Family History 2, Fruit and Veg Growing, History and Photography.

Others always will to expand are: Carpet Bowls, Gardening, Quizzing, Social Dining, Strollers, Ten-Pin Bowling and Walkie Talkies.

There are also fresh ideas looking for support on the Publicity Table at monthly meetings.

2023 Monthly Meeting Topics

May 25

Cyber Safety with Barry Linton of Thorpe Bay u3a and Gavin Saunders of Essex Police.

June 22

Margaret Mills on Get Well Soon (folklore remedies etc)

July 27

Mental Health: Suicide Awareness Presentation by Mid and North Essex Mind

August 24

Witham and District (Essex) u3a Open Afternoon with group displays and special presentations from group co-ordinators and their teams.

September 28

Richard Bale on Hadrian in Britain

October 26

Mervyn Linford on Paganism in Essex

November 23 ... AGM

Lost Direction singing group

December 14

Festive quiz and raffle

Chief in the u3a hot seat

IF you fancy asking questions of the person at the top of the u3a pyramid, you have the chance to do so.

Chief Executive Officer Sam Mauger is putting herself in the hot seat at an online meeting on May 11. Book through the national web site.



JOIN in an evening of fun at our very own Witham and District u3a Quiz Night.

Come in a team or come on your own and we will make up teams on the evening.

It's at the Henry Dixon Hall, Rivenhall, on Friday May 19 from 7.30pm and costs just £3.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Please let Ray Hardisty know you are attending on **07434 309261** or ray.hardisty@btinternet.com

Trips and Outings has launched well

REPORTS from members on the initial batch of Trips and Outings were all positive.

So a new selection of offers have been negotiated and there's a full list under 'events' on the u3a's web site.

There is also the chance to look through what is on the cards at each monthly meeting.

Sheena Campbell has worked hard to try and cater for the wide range of requests from members.

So, please ensure you support the programme where you possibly can.

And thanks for all the very positive comments on how great it is to see such offers returning.



Edition of the newsletter is planned for June

OUR next Newsletter with all the usual group and activity reports is planned for June.

Please contribute reports you would like to see published as they happen so decisions can be made on where to use everything ... Newsletter or Bulletin.