

## **August**

Despite the fact that we haven't physically met for some time, your U3A committee have been working hard behind the scenes. There are a number of changes afoot and we would like your views.

**Firstly** – we are looking at a new way of being a U3A.

There are monthly meetings via Zoom being considered with the first one planned for October.

- Melissa Thorpe, Head of Engagement from Spaceport, Cornwall is going to be presenting.
- Ian Mitchell will be talking in November about "How quickly do you make up your mind". Ian spoke last year about "Pathways of the Brain" which many of you enjoyed.

I'll be sending a link out soon confirming the event.

Some groups are meeting on-line, newsletters are being shared and members staying in touch.

- There's a new on-line book group and an outreach group has started up to improve our connectivity.
- The computer group, Spanish beginners and family history are meeting up on-line and via email.
- Both the camera and digital photography groups are in touch and critiquing pictures.
- Travellers Tales have been sharing stories.

The committee are planning to meet this Friday to give you some clearer direction about resuming any activities. After the meeting we will be putting links on the website to ensure that you have access to all the necessary forms that you will need for compliance to keep our members safe.

It is difficult keeping up with the frequently changing advice for England about Covid, facilities, venues, etc. Jonathan (Arts Centre manager) and I have discussed the Arts Centre and cannot find a practical way to ensure that all Covid compliance is adhered to.

**Secondly** – we are looking at alternative venues for future meetings that will provide us with better facilities.

Jeremy Preece, committee member, has proposed St Johns Methodist Chapel, which has a lot of space, good access and facilities plus a robust AV system for

the speakers. The committee think that this would be a positive place for our monthly meetings.

Beyond that we are looking at the Old Eden Café in the town centre for our ongoing use. Would anyone be interested in joining a small working group looking at the feasibility of this? We particularly need a commercial negotiator with knowledge of charity law – nothing too specific! However anyone to assist with the risk assessment would be welcome.

**Thirdly** – there's a move to a cashless system. Chris Scott, our new Treasurer, has been researching ways to change our dependency on cash. We plan to move lots of our payments to contactless, online and prepaid cards at the end of this year.

### **Other Bits and Pieces**

Currently we are operating outside of our constitution, with several co-opted committee members, no AGM in sight and a number of unelected committee members. This is clearly not through choice. Please speak up if you feel that there is something we could be doing differently.

Sally Haywood is picking up from Sue Brown as Groups Co-Ordinator and Beacon Administrator with the support of Anthea McWatt

Sue thank you for all that you have been doing behind the scenes, I know that there are a raft of procedures ready to share that you have produced.

Chris Crane is going to be looking after our outward facing communications with social media taking a higher profile. Look out for Twitter, Facebook and Instagram

Pat Bryar stood down as Minutes Secretary after doing a very helpful stint supported by Wendy Cramp. Carol Folley will be stepping into this role when we physically meet again.

Bridget Spear and Ann White have both moved away leaving some of you needing group leaders. Bridget and Annie thank you both for all that have done, do we have anyone ready to take on their groups?

We also need leaders for German and Italian if anyone is willing to carry on from Werner and Fran.

For those of you who knew Fran, her daughter Patricia, sent a memorable card to all of you who wrote to the family, its on the website on the relevant group pages.

Finally a word of warning... The scammers are currently busy both online and by phone and I was asked to make everyone aware of the need to be vigilant.

With best wishes

Pippa