

Pippa as our Chair, had previously sent out a monthly Newsletter. However, as you are aware the position of Chair has yet to be filled, and so meanwhile I will be producing the Newsletter on behalf of the Committee.

You will have seen Jan Badger's email asking for volunteers for the post of Chair, **please give this your utmost consideration.**

Despite the Lockdown restrictions, January seems to have passed quickly and I know that many of you have now had your first Covid vaccination which hopefully brings the possibility of a return to a somewhat more "normal way of living" one step closer.

Some groups are managing to meet via Zoom, or stay in touch by email and regular newsletters. Crystal Pearce our new Groups Co-ordinator will be soon in touch with Group Leaders to explore possible ways in which other Groups may be able join those already using Zoom.

The Committee have continued to meet regularly during the pandemic via Zoom, and some members have raised a number of questions which we will endeavour to answer in brief below:

- We are continuing our search for suitable new venues, discussions are on-going with a number of people. However, Covid restrictions currently hamper our progress! Rest assured as soon as we have positive news, members will be advised.
- Some Group Leaders have also been investigating alternative venues for smaller groups.
- The Committee has discussed the possibility of a reopening event, but it is too early to make any plans or decisions.
- Any final decisions about the defibrillator can only be made after our venue investigations have been concluded.
- Although our bank balance at the end of the last financial year was healthy, the free extension of 2020 membership for existing members to cover 2021 will have a significant impact on this and our income for the year.

The committee and many members wish for our u3a to be in a position to reopen, however we have to await guidance from the Government and National u3a on how to move forward.

u3a Day for this year is scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> of June, however we believe that the Corona virus pandemic will not be sufficiently suppressed for a large scale event to be practical, but we hope to make up for this in 2022!

It was fantastic to see so many people on Zoom for the talk by David Allan who amused us with his tales of life as a locum solicitor. David is due back in May when his subject will be "The Making of Casablanca" (the film). Meanwhile next month's speaker, on March 4<sup>th</sup> will be Susan Sayer from the Cornwall Seal Group.

Finally, Nicki John of Trevince Estate and Gardens has been in touch. They are hoping to be open to the public from 26<sup>th</sup> March and would be delighted to welcome us individually or as a group for a private guided tour with Brad Newton their Head Gardener. Tickets are £9.00 per person and must be booked in advance. Please see their website for more details [www.trevince.co.uk](http://www.trevince.co.uk).

Our website is being constantly updated so bookmark [www.stautellu3a.org](http://www.stautellu3a.org) to see the latest information, and you can also stay in touch via our Social media accounts on [FaceBook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

Best regards

Chris Crane