

## **St Austell u3a Christmas Newsletter**

Who can believe that Christmas has come around so quickly this year? We started 2021 in lockdown but eventually managed to get the majority of our groups back meeting if not in person then via Zoom. We have to hope that the vaccination booster programme will enable us to be able to meet safely once again in 2022.

### **Update on the Christmas Food Parcels**

Thanks to everyone's generosity Norma and Shirley were able to put together 21 Christmas food boxes, 5 huge family boxes, 16 smaller boxes and a bag full of tins for the food store.



### **Request for Shoe Boxes and Unwanted Toiletries**

Norma and Shirley are now asking for shoeboxes and unwanted toiletries so that they can make decorated boxes for people who arrive at the refuges in St Austell without any of their possessions.

You can drop these off at the Arts Centre on Membership Renewal Days.

### **Membership Renewal Days**

A reminder that Membership Renewal Days are on Thursday January 6<sup>th</sup> (9.30am to 12.00pm) and Friday January 28<sup>th</sup> 10.30am to 12.00pm). There will be free tea and coffee available on both days. The easiest way to pay is by BACS transfer, ideally 72 hours before the renewal day you are planning to attend, but we will be taking card payments and cheques on the day. There will be Gift Aid forms available for you to fill in if you are opting in to this, please do seriously consider the Gift Aid option as this is of great financial benefit to St Austell u3a and will help to keep Membership fees down in the future. You will also be able to purchase Pre-Payment Cards on both days.

If you are unable to attend either of these two renewal days, you can nominate another member to collect your membership card for you. We will keep a note of their name and membership number so we know the card has been collected.

### **Speaker Meetings**

We are looking into the possibility of being able to offer the option of joining our Speaker Meetings (restarting in February), either in person or via Zoom. If you would like some basic training on how to join via Zoom please speak to a Committee Member at one of the Membership Renewal days and we will do our best to arrange this. As things stand at the moment face masks/coverings will be mandatory in the Theatre with the exception of members who are medically exempt from wearing these.

### **Coffee Morning on December 31<sup>st</sup>**

A reminder that there will not be a Coffee Morning on New Year's Eve.

### **November Issue of the TAM magazine**

There is a major delay to the delivery of the November TAM magazine, which we understand has had to be re-printed.

### **Car Parking Volunteers**

We would like some more volunteers for the car parking team at the Arts Centre, please let us know if you are able to spare some time to do this, there will be a rota so we are not expecting you to be available for every St Austell u3a event we hold.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and their loved ones a safe and very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

***“I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet  
The words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!”***

**Henry Wadsworth Longfellow**

Best wishes,

**Chris Crane**

Website: <https://staustellu3a.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/StAustellU3A/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/StAustellU3A>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/staustellu3a/>