

# CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

Newsletter No 29

27th Sept 2023

## The Outside World

### THIS EDITION

Looking outwards beyond the boundaries of the Strettons is the theme of this newsletter. U3A regionally and nationally is active on climate change all over the UK. To share with, and learn from our collective efforts is a principle that was held fiercely by our founders. Long may it continue.

### SOUTH SHROPSHIRE CLIMATE ACTION (SSCA)

Meeting with Fiona Morgan and Nick Read in a Church Stretton coffee shop earlier this month was a pleasant occasion. An outcome was their request to work with U3A. I have emailed our new local U3A Chair, Janie Davis and suggested Fiona and Nick be invited to be the main presenters at a monthly General Meeting. The initial response has been positive, and Ms Davis is going to put the idea forward to the main Committee.

### SSCA NEW WEBSITE

Following the above meeting, as you know, I was sent a draft copy of the new SSCA website to be released with the next month. An invitation was accepted to comment upon the quality and content of the website. After circulation to 'experts' in climate care and communications for their personal comments, I was able to let Fiona and Nick know that their new website was generously applauded. Your comments will be welcomed.

### U3A WEST MIDLANDS

Jean Jackson is the main contact in a region of 80 U3As including Church Stretton. I asked Jean for her recommendation on a valuable contact in another U3A in our region. Jean's recommendation was to contact David Dundas in U3A Lichfield. David has been in touch and will follow up after his holiday.

### EMAIL TO MP

Philip Dunne has acknowledged receipt of my personal email protesting, in strongest possible terms, the UK Government's decision to scale back its commitment to the Climate Emergency. Your views also welcome!

"For a whole variety of reasons, not least of which is the quality of the environment for our children and grandchildren, the world and its peoples will suffer because of this appalling, short-term decision!.

### U3A SPECIAL ADVISER

John Baxter has sent two communications during September. In the first response dated, 4<sup>th</sup> September, I quote from his email to U3A Climate Conversations:

*"Although small actions may not solve the climate crisis, they remind us that we are intrinsic parts of the world and its ecosystems. We can promote those small actions!"*

### U3A VALUES

Chair, South Shropshire Climate Action asked for some worked examples of values in action. The seven U3A values, upon which U3A was founded, were sent to Jane in response. In her reply dated 20<sup>th</sup> September, Jane said *"These examples are very helpful. We've done quite a bit of work on these examples over the years but not articulated these as core values in such a clear way"*.

Well done Eric Midwinter and his colleagues on laying a strong foundation.

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