



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Jottings

The Newsletter of Church Stretton U3A

December 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

This is the last Jottings for this year so I will wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Our meetings so far have been well attended but the more the merrier. Best wishes Lesley Dench - Chair



VERY URGENT VACANCIES

GENERAL MEETINGS ORGANISER

GROUPS COORDINATOR

We are looking for replacements to take on either of these roles. Anyone interested please contact the Chair, lmdench@googlemail.com in the first instance for further information.

BREAKING NEWS

U3A Beacon

The Committee are delighted to report that Beacon is now up and running for Church Stretton U3A. For those unsure what Beacon is, this is part of what we published in the last Newsletter:

- Beacon is an online system that manages data and communication so that U3A's can contact their members easily and efficiently.
- Beacon is managed, on behalf of the Third Age Trust, by a team of U3A volunteers, with some software support from an outside contractor.
- The Beacon System stores personal data about members of the participating U3As within its database including the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses of U3A members. In addition, the System may store other data, such as group lists, related to their members' activities within the U3A.

The only person who has access to all the information on Church Stretton Beacon is Sylvia Davidson as her role as Administrator.

From next month we shall start sending emails to members using Beacon. When the email reaches your inbox it will look a bit different from the emails we sent via MailChimp. They will come from:

"Lesley Brown via Church Stretton U3A"

Lesley will be sending the emails as her role as Membership Secretary. She has only been given access to the parts of the system which she needs to fulfil her role. If you need to reply to the email there will be a link to her email account.

Please go to <https://beacon.u3a.org.uk/terms> to view the full Terms and Conditions for Beacon User U3As.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

2019

December General Meeting

Wednesday, 18 December 2019 - **Evening Social**

QUIZ

A social event for members of Church Stretton U3A and their guests, organised by the Committee.

Come as a group or individually.

Quiz master: Grahame Hurst

Wednesday 18th December, 7:30pm
Parish Centre

Members Free Guests £2

Wine and Cheese refreshments provided

Booking essential for catering purposes
Tickets available from Committee members, Group
Coordinators or phone Lesley Brown 724330

2020

January General Meeting

Wednesday, 22 January 2020, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

1975 – A Year in Nepal with Les Mackay

February General Meeting

Wednesday, 26 February 2020, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

Britain's Bloodiest Day with David Skellen

March General Meeting

Wednesday, 25 March 2020, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies with Martin Lloyd

April General Meeting

Wednesday, 22 April 2020, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

Remember the Swinging Sixties with Mike Watkins & Wilma Hayes

PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

September General Meeting

Alison's Bee Class with Alison Wakeman

Alison is a lovely lady who gave us a very interesting talk into the life of the bees. She started the talk wearing the protective clothing which was required, especially around the eyes which is where the bees would attack first if they felt threatened.

Her interest in bees took on a new dimension 5 years ago when she wrote a programme to teach school children about bees, during which they observed a hive. This was done for no payment. She has since spoken to 40 schools consisting of 40,000 children and has received an award for her contribution to education.

She told us that there are 250 different types of bees, and then gave us details about the complicated production of honey, beeswax, candles etc.

She explained the workings and sections that made up the beehive and all the different jobs the bees undertake. Not being at all sexist she explained that the female bees do all the work in the hive. The drones leave the hive from around 11 am just to hang around with other drones and arrive back around 4 in the afternoon. Once the Queen is ready to mate she flies to the congregation area and once that takes place the drones are not allowed back into the hive so they die or are killed by other bees.

To help encourage bees into the garden, lavender, herbs, crocus and snowdrops are a few of the plants that will attract them.

The Asian hornet is a threat to colonies here in the UK as they kill whole colonies. There have been a few sightings in the UK but not prevalent here at the moment.

There were pots of honey and beeswax cloths on sale and I have been told that the honey was very, very nice. **Julia Felton**



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

Singing for Pleasure

This group meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month in the Parish Centre from 2:15pm to 4:15pm. Please just come along, new members are always welcome.

3 December

17 December - Singing for Christmas

7 January

New Groups

If anyone would like to join or start a new group please contact the Groups Coordinator via the website u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact for further details.

Contact a coordinator through the Church Stretton U3A website via the website link u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/groups, then select the group page.

Select the link next to the text send a message and complete the form. This information will only be seen by your choice of message receiver.

If you do not have an email address you can still get in touch by typing none@none.com in the email line and some contact details in the message section.

If anyone would like to join or start a new group please contact the Groups Coordinator via the website u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact for further details.

Group	Coordinator
Art – drawing and painting	Daphne and Stewart Rankine
Art History	Sue Toghill
Book Group	Susan Lees
Book Group 2	Margaret Haynes
Bridge	Eric Brown
Classical Music	Ian Templeton
Family & Social History	Peter Thorpe
Hill Walking	Dick Ward
Landscape Archaeology	Ian Dormor
Philosophy	Bryan Pryce
Popular Music	Trevor Halsey
Scottish Country Dancing	Alison Bradley
Singing for Pleasure	Margaret Sinden
Writers' Group	Lesley Dench
Writers' Group 2	Jenny O'Shea

Your Elected Committee:

Chair - Lesley Dench
 Vice Chair - Colin Carson
 Treasurer - Grahame Hurst
 Business Secretary - Jennifer O'Shea
 Membership Secretary - Lesley Brown (01694 724330)
 Groups Coordinator – Vacant
 General Meetings Organiser - Vacant
 Newsletter Editor - Julia Felton
 Webmaster – Sylvia Davidson

Assets held by Church Stretton U3A

- ViewSonic Projector
- Junior Desktop Presenter
- Boombuster B100 plus accessories
- Sony MHCV11 Black - High Power Audio System with Bluetooth & CD Player

Jottings

Updates and news from groups and comments on recent events from members are always welcome, and should be returned to me, **Julia Felton**, via the website u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact. Your input will be appreciated. The next Jottings is scheduled for March 2020.

Keep up to date with what's going on in Church Stretton U3A by checking the website at:

u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton

National Events:

Please go to u3a.org.uk for more details of National Events (You will have to create a login account to access pages for members) or the magazine Third Age Matters. If you have no access to the internet you may contact a committee member to help you.

