

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:**

Hello Members of the U3A. I hope that you have all had a good summer and are looking forward to another new U3A year. As well as established Special Interest Groups we are always looking to help develop new ones and for more information on any of them please look on our website. We also have another interesting programme of talks/events for the 2019 - 2020 General Meetings held in the URC Hall, on the 4th Wednesday of the month, further information also available in your programme or on the website. If you haven't tried these meetings before they are a good way of meeting new people, learning or participating in something that you might not have come across before and having a cup of tea and a chat. I am looking forward to the new U3A year and hope to meet many of you during the course of it.

Best wishes

Lesley Dench - Chair

## **VERY URGENT VACANCIES**

### **GENERAL MEETINGS ORGANISER**

### **GROUPS COODINATOR**

We are looking for replacements to take on either of these roles. Anyone interested please contact the Chair, [imdench@googlemail.com](mailto:imdench@googlemail.com) in the first instance for further information.

## **BREAKING NEWS**

### **Beacon**

Some of you will have seen and read articles in Third Age Matters referring to Beacon, an online membership, groups, finance and email system. Increasingly, UK U3As are adopting Beacon to manage their data and communication with 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.
- Should we adopt online payment of subscriptions, payment is dealt with in such a way that Beacon does not have access to any member's financial credit/debit card details.
- The Third Age Trust complies with its obligations under the Data Protection Laws.
- All data transfer is encrypted and every email is individually sent and tracked.
- The current cost to use Beacon is £1 per member per annum. This will be absorbed in your annual Membership.

**Your Committee has decided to adopt Beacon for Church Stretton U3A so as to eliminate the use of private home computers for the storage of data; the need for**

**spreadsheet skills; the need to use a commercial service provider (Mailchimp) to send bulk emails and the need to use Quickbooks for finance.**

Our first step will be to put membership details on to the system thus enabling us to send out information to you much more easily. We will give you regular updates on our progress.

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**

#### **September General Meeting – *Change to the published talk***

Wednesday, 25 September 2019, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

##### **Alison's Bee Class with Alison Wakeman**

Awareness of Bees & their Importance in the Environment.

#### **October General Meeting**

Wednesday, 23 October 2019, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

##### **Sing a Century with Andy Smith**

A song from each decade of the last century.

#### **November General Meeting**

Wednesday, 27 November 2019, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

##### **A Day in the Life of a Prison Chaplain by Andrew Mercer**

#### **December General Meeting – *This is an evening social event***

Wednesday, 18 December 2019, 7.30pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

**Evening Social - Quiz, Wine and Cheese Held in the Parish Rooms starting at 7:30pm**

## **PREVIOUS MEETINGS:**

### **June General Meeting**

#### **'Travels with a Penguin' by Pen Turner**

The story of a lady who, in her fifties, decided to get off the merry-go-round and work on her wish list.

Pen gave us an insight into what made her spend 6 months of her life travelling the world. She had a good life in London but this changed when her job became insecure, her dog died and she broke up with her partner. Maybe she was living the wrong life? She felt that time was slipping away. Wishing to see friends around the world she realised that nothing was stopping her.



Her travels took her to the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Sri Lanka. Some things she had planned, but it was the unplanned experiences that she particularly enjoyed – seeing whales, penguins and volcanoes amongst them.

She came back from her journey changed – more confident and self-reliant. She had coped and indeed survived. It took her a year to find another job and two years to find a house and a dog. Pen has used her experiences to encourage other people to think how they can realise their wish list. **Lesley Brown**

Note – Lesley kindly did the write up for me, as I was unable to attend. She added a note that the penguin was 6” high with a scarf and a hat and is called Scott. I think I had a senior moment because I replied to her asking whether it was a real penguin!? I thought perhaps he was stood on some ice but why he would need a scarf and hat that should have rung some bells. Needless to say it was not a real penguin!!!



## **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.

17 September, 1 October, 15 October, 5 November, 19 November, 3 December  
17 December - Singing for Christmas

We are very pleased to welcome Ru Trew who has agreed to help Margaret in the planning and running Singing for Pleasure. She was very well received at our last session!! Here is a brief outline of her musical career.

“First and foremost I love singing - and I’ve had the good fortune to have a job that meant I could do a lot of it!

I worked for Warwickshire Music Service for over 20 years as a Primary Music Specialist, but as part of my job I also directed the Youth Music Theatre, worked with a community choir, school choirs and taught world music. Just for fun I also ran a parent-and-toddler music session on a Saturday. I belonged to a wonderful chamber choir in Leamington, who aimed to sing anything from Byrd to Beatles, both sacred and secular.

After retiring three years ago we moved from Coventry to Church Stretton and I now help with the Church Choir at St Laurence’s and sing with the Church Stretton Choral Society. I also belong to ‘Sine Nomine’, a choir that only sings for church services. This year I’ve been able to sing in some amazing places including Westminster Abbey, Winchester Cathedral, Canterbury Cathedral and St George’s Windsor. My husband calls this ‘my most expensive hobby ever’, but he often comes along for a weekend away.

I’m continuing to learn to play the organ, and play regularly at St Laurence’s. Other activities include playing in the group ‘Ragleth Recorders’ and taking our young lab Bertie out into the hills with husband Robin. One day I’ll actually have the time to get my neglected violin out of its case, and learn to play the clarinet I promised myself when I retired. Whoever knew retirement could be so enjoyably busy!” **Ru Trew**

### **New Groups**

Interest has been shown in starting a **Cribbage** Group, **Photography** Group and a **Spanish** Group. If you are interested in any of these groups, please contact the Groups Coordinator.

If anyone would like to join or start a new group please contact the Groups Coordinator via the website [u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact](http://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](http://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.

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<b>Group</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
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

## **Itinerary of Assets held by U3A**

ViewSonic Projector

Junior Desktop Presenter

Boomblaster 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](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact). Your input will be appreciated. The next Jottings is scheduled for December.

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

[u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton](http://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton)

## **National Events:**

Please go to [u3a.org.uk](http://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.