



News

December 2021

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. We are looking forward to seeing old and new faces in the interest groups and at the general meetings in the new year. Thank you all for your commitment and hard work. Stay safe.

Lesley Dench (Chair)

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted by the influx of new members since we made our presence felt again in October. Some of our 20 new members are bringing previous u3a branch knowledge with them and many of the new group proposals have come from their experiences.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

General Meetings

We are planning a monthly General Meetings programme to run from 26 January 2022. With Covid-19 regulations in mind, meetings over Zoom are being considered. Meetings held at the URC Hall will have an attendance charge of £2 towards the cost of hiring the hall.

Information about meetings will be sent out by email, and will be on the website.

Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a

These events have been very successful and provide Church Stretton u3a with a public face.

New members have come along to introduce themselves and find out what we are about, old members have stopped by to catch up on the proposed new groups and one lady just sat down for a chat! Membership fees have been collected and newsletters given out. The list of proposed new groups has raised a lot of interest. As a result, the committee proposes to continue the drop-ins by holding one a month on the 2nd Monday of the month from 10am to 11am at the Health and Wellbeing Centre, Easthope Road, starting Monday 10 January 2022.



GROUP NEWS:

Our list of 13 current interest groups has grown!!!! What is really good news for Church Stretton u3a is new members offering to be group coordinators.

Current Groups

What	Coordinator
Art 1	Daphne & Stuart Rankin
Art 2	Still in the planning
Art History	Vivienne Thorpe
Book Group 1	Susan Lees
Book Group 2	Barbara Thurston
Bridge	Eric Brown
Classical Music	Ian Templeton
Climate Conversations	Barry Oxtoby
Cryptic Crosswords	Margaret Ramage
Family and Social History	Peter Thorpe
French – Basic/Rusty	Jean Cuthbert
Hill Walking	Roger Spittles
History Of Plants & Gardens	Sue Clifford-Webb
Mahjong	Peter Toghil
New Experiences	Dave Lyons
Opera	To be agreed
Philosophy	Paul Eade
Poetry Appreciation	Margaret Ramage
Popular Music	Trevor Halsey
Scottish Country Dancing	Alison Bradley
Singing for Pleasure	Margaret Sinden
Writers' Group 1	Lesley Dench
Writers' Group 2	Jenny O'Shea

Art 1, Book Group 1 and Popular Music are FULL.



Proposed New Groups

We still have a list of suggested new topics. Some already have 1 or 2 names against them, and a couple need better weather before starting. Please keep showing your interest as it only takes 3 or 4 to get a group going.

- A Good Read
- Appreciating Folk Music & Stories – individuals bring their favourite tracks & the group discuss the stories behind them.
- Board Games
- Card Games
- Literature
- Petanque – possibly for summer months. Terrain already in place.
- Scrabble
- Short Stories Reading Group – take turns to read sections of the text followed by discussion of each story.

If you are interested in any new or existing groups please get in touch in the usual way

- through our website <https://u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact>
- by email [strettonu3a at yahoo.com](mailto:strettonu3a@yahoo.com)
- by phone 01694 724330

New Experiences Group

Dave Lyons writes: *“Inspired by a similar group being run by friends in a u3a in another area of the country, we’d like to offer the opportunity to try out a diverse range of activities, some more active than others, monthly. A programme will be published in advance and group members will be able to book onto any that appeal on a first come first served basis.*

While we have several ideas to get us started it’s hoped that ideas for forthcoming activities will come from within our membership to increase our pool of ideas and widen the appeal.

To give an idea of our current direction here are just a few ideas: Snailbeach mine tour, zip-wiring, segwaying, factory visits, brewery tour, recycling centre tour, abseiling, laser tag, cheesemaking, sausage making, gin/whisky tasting, Acton Scott Hall visit, pottery painting, gliding, Spaceguard Centre tour.

Days and times of activities will vary according to availability of each venue but will hopefully slot into the third week of each month. Independent travel will be involved to most activities although some group travel may be possible to occasional sites where appropriate. It is anticipated that most events will incur costs for members.

We’re planning to hold an initial meeting early next year to gather interested folk and discuss the outline plan so watch out for details.”

Please contact Dave to express your interest: davidlyons750 at btinternet.com or 07759 666900



NATIONAL and WEST MIDLANDS:

There is a wealth of news and information about u3as across the UK – with 1,057 u3as and over 450,000 members. These two websites will give you access:

u3a.org.uk/

u3asites.org.uk/west-midlands/home

YOUR COMMITTEE:

Chair – Lesley Dench

Treasurer - Grahame Hurst

Business Secretary - Jenny O'Shea

Membership Secretary - Lesley Brown

Web Manager – Sylvia Davidson

CONTACT:

Contact any committee member via the website

u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/contact

Updates and news from groups and comments on recent events from members are always welcome, and should be returned to Lesley Brown, [strettonu3a at yahoo.com](mailto:strettonu3a@yahoo.com), 01694 724330. Your input will be appreciated.

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

u3asites.org.uk/churchstretton/home