

November 2021

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

A New Event: Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a

Following on from the success of the October social gathering (see report below), you can now drop in to chat with a u3a member about our current interest groups, our proposed new interest groups (see lists below), our general meetings and being a member or just join us for coffee. Open to members, new members and prospective members.

Location: Health and Well Being Centre,
Easthope Road

Time: from 10am to 11am on Mondays

Dates: November 15, 22, 29,
December 6, 13 & 20

November 2021 General Meeting

Wednesday, 24 November 2021, 2pm at United Reformed Church Hall, on the High Street.

'A Day in the Life of a Prison Chaplain' by Andrew Mercer.

We are preparing a General Meetings programme to run through the winter. Due to increase in costs everywhere, the committee has made the decision to make a charge of £2 to all attendees towards the cost of hiring the hall.

PREVIOUS MEETING:

October General Meeting

Church Stretton u3a celebrated 10 years of existence in great style on Wednesday 27th October 2021. Current members were joined by 17 guests at an event labelled Past, Present and Future.



Representing the Past was Barbara Thurston, our founder, who was so invigorated by the gathering that she thought she could start another book group, even though she has taken a back seat for a few years.



Representatives of our Present interest groups contributed in various ways. Both Writers' groups and the Art group had work on display, our Singing for Pleasure group lead the gathering in a medley of songs, and other interest group leaders spoke about their activity.



It was very pleasing to sort through all the comments and requests regarding the Future to find 14 new activities have been suggested. There is enough interest in at least 5 of these subjects to make a start. See lists below.

We all enjoyed our first social gathering since February 2020 and the committee is delighted by the enthusiasm of the membership.

Very many thanks to all who helped put the afternoon together and to all those who attended.

Sylvia Davidson

GROUP NEWS:

All current interest groups are up and running, which is great news.

Art, Book Group 1 and Popular Music are FULL.

We are working on restarting Book Group 2 and hope to have another Art group running soon.

Current Groups

What	Coordinator
Art	Daphne & Stuart Rankin
Art History	Vivienne Thorpe
Book Group	Susan Lees
Bridge	Eric Brown
Classical Music	Ian Templeton
Family and Social History	Peter Thorpe
Hill Walking	Roger Spittles
Philosophy	Bryan Pryce
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

Proposed New Groups

As a result of the Past, Present and Future social meeting the following 14 groups were suggested.

- Appreciating Folk Music & Stories – individuals bring their favourite tracks & the group discuss the stories behind them.
- Board Games
- Card Games
- Climate Conversation – *see below*.
- Cryptic Crosswords – already some interest.
- French – Basic/Rusty conversation – already some interest.
- History Of Plants & Gardens
- Literature
- Mahjong – already some interest.
- New Experiences – suggestions from within the group, possibly gliding, pottery, factory visits – it is up to the group to decide.
- Petanque – possibly for summer months. Terrain already in place.
- Poetry Appreciation – not writing!!
- 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 723842

CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

Would U3A members and friends be interested in learning more about the world's No 1 conversation at the moment on 'Climate Change'?

In times of great change, we are all learners for a part of everyday. The quicker we learn, the faster we are able to change and also help others to change. In particular, to focus upon how to win the hearts and minds of all generations in playing their part and how we can connect with younger generations to listen to their beliefs and ideas on how they might change the world to achieve 'Net Zero' in the next decade or two. A lot is happening already but so much more is needed.

If you are interested in participating in a U3A version of 'Climate Conversations' with the above themes as a priority, please let us know. It is hoped to collaborate with several other Stretton voluntary organisations on the subject. The methods chosen to share learning will be influenced by those interested.

Contacts:

Barrie Oxtoby - [barrie.oxtoby at btinternet.com](mailto:barrie.oxtoby@btinternet.com), 01694 723199 or 07962 307353

Sylvia Davidson - [strettonu3a at yahoo.com](mailto:strettonu3a@yahoo.com) 01694 723842

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 - Jennifer 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

Sylvia Davidson, [strettonu3a at yahoo.com](mailto:strettonu3a@yahoo.com), 723842. 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