

October 2022

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dear Members

Welcome to this Autumn Jottings. The summer has been a blessing to some of us and rather hot for others but it has given us the opportunity to make the most of the outdoors and many of our groups have taken the advantage of the good weather. But it is also a time when some groups prefer to take a break for families, friends and holidays and just getting to grips with their gardens.

However, September heralds the start of the autumn term and is traditionally when groups refocus after the summer break and, despite the prospect of increases in the Covid numbers, groups seem to have got going with a gusto. Unfortunately, because of increased charges and falling numbers of people wishing to attend the General Meetings, the Committee have decided to put them on hold for the time being; but we are hoping to have a pre Christmas Social Event, so watch this space.

We are still looking for Committee Members and Group Coordinators so if you would like to join us don't hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, I would like to thank members who have continued to support Church Stretton u3a through difficult times and wish you all a very interesting and active year.

Lesley Dench

MEMBERSHIP:

We currently have 227 members. 58 of these have joined since the beginning of the year. It is very pleasing that most members renewed their membership in April with the result that we are almost back up to pre-Covid levels.

Please email the Membership Secretary with any change in your details - address, phone number etc so that we can keep in touch - lesleymb.brown@btinternet.com

AGM May 2022:

32 members attended the AGM, thank you. The items on the agenda passed without exception. After some discussion it was voted by members raised hands to increase annual subscription from £10 to £12, not before April 2023.

YOUR COMMITTEE:

Re-elected at the AGM

Chair – Lesley Dench

Business Secretary - Jennifer O'Shea

Membership Secretary - Lesley Brown

Web Manager – Sylvia Davidson

We welcomed Sally Serpell, a new member who stepped up to join the committee. Since then, Malcolm Szortowski has agreed to be our new Treasurer. Thank you Malcolm.

We would still love to see some new faces at our monthly committee meetings. Please contact Lesley Dench, lmdench at gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

General Meetings

Face-to-face General Meetings have been temporarily suspended as of July 2022. The organisers of our general meetings are short of people who can commit to running the meetings. Plus our attendance numbers have been low, due to Covid factors mostly, and costs are increasing, so we feel the expense is not justified at the moment.

Coffee Hour with Church Stretton u3a

These events continue to be successful and provide Church Stretton u3a with a public face. As a result, the committee proposes to continue the drop-ins held on the 2nd Monday of the month from 10am to 11am at the Health and Wellbeing Centre, Easthope Road.

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 others just stop for a chat!

Social Events

A social event is being planned for Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 2pm in the United Reformed Church Hall, High Street, Church Stretton, SY6 6BY. This will be a chance to meet new members, view the progress of current interest groups and chat to friends. Refreshments will be provided.

GROUP NEWS:

The best place to find the latest group news or to contact a group coordinator is

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

We still welcome suggestions for new groups. Some new topics are listed on the website. Please keep showing your interest as it only takes 3 or 4 to get a group going.

The New Experiences Group has been very busy with iCombat at Shrewsbury Prison, Canoeing on the River Severn plus Steam Train back to Bridgnorth, a visit to Acton Scott Hall and Archery & Rifle shooting at Manor Adventure, Culmington.

Their latest adventure – Grape Picking at Halfpenny Green Winery - was so popular a second visit was arranged. Payment for helping with the grape harvest was a bottle of wine for a half day shift!

If you want to find out more about the Group, contact Dave Lyons (see above).

Climate Conversations has continued with questions for local and national businesses and have made contact with a number of Climate Change groups within the National u3a.

The Walking Group has been exploring the local countryside. Contact Roger Spittles for details of their walks (see above).

Singing for Pleasure has restarted after the summer break. Two sessions a month will be run jointly by Margaret and Ru and, finally, include a tea break!!

Scottish Dancing is well under way at the URC Hall on Wednesday afternoons. Contact Alison Bradley (see above) to join in. Beginners welcome.

Current Groups

Group	Coordinator
Art 1	Daphne Rankin
Art 2	Still in the planning
Art History	Vivienne Thorpe
Book Group 1	Susan Lees
Book Group 2	Still in the planning
Bridge	Eric Brown
Classical Music	Ian Templeton
Climate Conversations	Barry Oxtoby
Cryptic Crosswords	Coordinator needed
Family and Social History	Peter Thorpe
French – Rusty	Jean Cuthbert
Hill Walking	Roger Spittles
History Of Plants & Gardens	Heather Williams
Mahjong	Peter Toghill
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.

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 - Malcom Szortowski

Business Secretary - Jenny O'Shea

Membership Secretary - Lesley Brown

Web Manager – Sylvia Davidson

Committee Member - Sally Serpell

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 Davdison, [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