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### FROM THE CHAIRS

After 14 weeks of lockdown the restrictions on our personal activities are slowly being lifted which, for many people, can't come soon enough. For the present U3A activities remain suspended but your Committee is meeting monthly by Zoom and making tentative plans for the resumption of activities in line with the social distancing, hand sanitizer and masks that will constitute the new normal. We will obtain advice from the U3A National office on how to resume our activities and we are in monthly (Zoom) meetings with other local U3As (through the SE & Mid Cheshire U3A Group) so that we can find out what they are planning. While we will remain cautious and ask that everybody continues to abide by the government restrictions (there is still a lot of virus out there) we will be in contact with the coordinators of those groups whose activities are potentially compatible with social distancing (mainly walking groups) about how activities may be restarted. Hopefully the amount of virus in the population will continue to decline and the restrictions will continue to be eased over the coming weeks and months.

As mentioned in a previous Kanuta, we will not be able to hold our AGM in July as planned; it has been postponed to November. We have also taken the decision to move the membership year from September to April (to coincide more closely with the financial year) so your 2019/2020 membership will continue through to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2021 and no subscriptions will be collected this September.

We would encourage activity groups to keep their activities going as much as possible by video conferencing, What's App groups, emails etc. Clearly some activities (such as Table tennis or Bowls) can't be done by video conferencing but if one of the members of such a group is familiar with Zoom (or similar video conferencing software) why not host an afternoon tea (or morning coffee) just to keep the social side of the group going?

We hope that you and your families remain well and you remain active in both mind and body. We are all missing our U3A activities but there are signs of improvement and hopefully we will soon be able to resume some activities - though probably with some adaptation and modification for the "new normal".

Mark and Christine

## PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE COMMITTEE

As a member of our U3A you will know that members help in all kinds of different ways to keep our organisation strong. We currently have a good Committee team but we do need another 2 or 3 people to join us. Any committee needs a good mix of people, some with experience and others bringing a new perspective. It's an important role which is interesting, varied and satisfying, and being on the Committee gives you a feel for the whole organisation.

We are in strange times, with our U3A activities on pause since late March. However, the Committee are still actively working to keep our organisation in good shape, doing all the 'background' things that are important in any organisation. We are meeting by Zoom until we can go back to having physical meetings again.

The time involved isn't large - we meet 10 times a year and meetings usually last one and a half hours so that's just 15 hours a year! Some Committee members have specific roles that may take some additional time but others play their part by engaging in discussions leading to decisions that keep our U3A moving in the right direction. We usually meet on the fourth Thursday afternoon of most months at 2pm in the Methodist Church but, until we can do that again, its Zoom meetings from the comfort of our own homes.

If you would like to find out more please give one of us a ring. We can give you more information about what is involved and you would be very welcome to be an observer to a Zoom Committee meeting before making a decision. As our AGM will be delayed new Committee members would be co-opted until the AGM and then formally nominated. Please could you also think about other members that you know and put them in touch if they might be interested? We need people to actively come forward as we cannot have chats over the teacups this year! By showing interest you are not committed!

For information about the Committee please have a look at our website. Go to 'How we work' and you will see a list of Committee members.

Thank you, on behalf of all the Committee.

Christine Jones 01565 633435 and Mark Barley 0161 9299438. Joint Chairs

### **And we will be needing a new Treasurer!**

As well as needing to welcome some new members on to the Committee we are looking for a new Treasurer soon as Colin Bowman is planning to move to Devon in a few months. Colin carries out two roles - the Treasurer for the 'core' organisation and the Activities Treasurer, which concerns the finances of the Activity Groups, Theatre trips and Outings.

These Committee roles can be carried out by one person or split between two people. Naturally, no organisation that handles money can function without a Treasurer! You don't need to be a retired accountant but you would need to be comfortable with money and spreadsheets. Colin is very happy to have a chat with anyone interested to find out more so do give him a ring on 01565 653242 or ring Mark or Christine.

## A SUMMARY OF OUR TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT

As it won't be possible to hold our AGM in July this year this is a summary of the Trustees Annual Report. The full Report and Accounts will go to the Charity Commission and on to our own website in due course.

This year from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 had been a good year until the middle of March, when the impact of the Corona virus was felt.

Our membership at the end of March 2020 was 697 with an additional 35 Associate Members (those who are also members of other U3As) - so that's 732 members in total.

We currently have 54 Activity Groups and welcomed 2 new ones this year. We held another successful 'Showcase' event in September 2109 with displays to encourage the wider community to learn about our activities, to help Co-ordinators to share ideas and recruit new members to their groups. The Committee helps our Activity Groups to flourish by organising networking events to support and thank our Co-ordinators and key supporters who contribute so much time and expertise to our organisation for the benefit of all our members. The November event was enjoyable and useful but, sadly, the March event had to be cancelled at the last minute.

Our excellent Outings Committee organised 6 trips to places of interest in the year together with 7 theatre trips, four concerts and one ballet performance. Our Speakers Committee researched and brought us a varied and interesting range of speakers on all kinds of topics.

These all took place up to mid March when the impact of the Coronavirus meant that planned activities for the following months all had to be cancelled or postponed. The Committee had to take the hard decision to put our U3A on pause until things improve and it would be safe to resume activities again. In the meantime the Committee (who are also Trustees) have been holding virtual meetings to ensure we carry out all our obligations. We have kept in touch with other local U3As and the national office for advice on dealing with the situation. Some Activity Groups have continued to be active remotely and to keep in touch with members.

We are a self-help organisation and I would like to thank every member who has given extra time and thought to helping in all kinds of ways to make our U3A flourish. Special thanks go to the members of our Outings and Speakers Committees, the technical team, the concert organisers and the Welcome Team members amongst others. There are many individual members who contribute so much to our U3A. I especially want to thank David English who has been our Web Master for many years, doing such a great job, and for continuing to be part of the technical team. Thanks to Tony Roberts for taking over from David. I want to thank my colleagues on the Committee for their work and friendship over my last four years as Chair and thanks to Mark Barley for sharing the role as Joint Chair during the current situation.

There will be brighter times ahead!

Christine Jones, Joint Chair.

A copy of the accounts for 2019/20 would normally be available at the AGM but as this won't be possible they are reproduced here:

### Knutsford & District University of the Third Age Income and Expenditure for Financial Year 2019/20

	2019/20 Unrestricted funds	2019/20 Restricted funds	2019/20 Total	2018/19 Total
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	9,649.00	-	9,649.00	10,930.00
Activity Receipts	-	49,231.00	49,231.00	62,763.00
Sundry Income	76.00	-	76.00	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9725.00</b>	<b>49,231.00</b>	<b>58,956.00</b>	<b>73,693.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Activity Payment	-	30,812.00	30,812.00	39,106.00
Room Hire	1,070.00	10,215.00	11,285.00	11,295.00
Subscriptions	2,468.00	-	2,468.00	2,440.00
Publications	1,576.00	-	1,576.00	1,292.00
Speakers Fees	756.00	-	756.00	1,060.00
Postage and Stationery	821.00	-	821.00	1,030.00
Equipment	318.00	554.00	872.00	312.00
Training / Networking	1,368.00	-	1,368.00	1,661.00
Travel	215.00	7,870.00	8,085.00	6,894.00
Accountancy	630.00	-	630.00	-
Miscellaneous	110.00	3,238.00	3,348.00	3,424.00
Tea	336.00	-	336.00	-
	<b>9,668.00</b>	<b>52,689.00</b>	<b>62,357.00</b>	<b>68,514.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
<b>Surplus / Deficit</b>	<b>57.00</b>	<b>(3,458.00)</b>	<b>(3,401.00)</b>	<b>5,179.00</b>

### Statement of Assets and Liabilities at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020

	2019/20 Unrestricted Funds	2019/20 Restricted Funds	2019/20 Total	2018/19 Total
<b>Monetary Assets</b>				
Bank Current	15,792.00	4,485.00	20,277.00	23,612.00
Cash in hand	-	1,171.00	1,171.00	1,237.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,792.00</b>	<b>5,656.00</b>	<b>21,448.00</b>	<b>24,849.00</b>
<b>Accumulated Funds</b>				
Balance at 01/04/19	15,735.00	9,114.00	24,849.00	19,670.00
Surplus / Deficit	57.00	(3,458.00)	(3,401.00)	5,179.00
<b>Balance at 31/03/20</b>	<b>15,792.00</b>	<b>5,656.00</b>	<b>21,448.00</b>	<b>24,849.00</b>

## Using Zoom for Group Meetings

Several groups are currently using Zoom very successfully to keep their Groups going through lockdown and beyond. As it may be some time before people are happy to meet in one another's houses or any indoor venue we would like to encourage more groups to make use of Zoom technology to keep their groups going and include as many members as possible.

It may sound daunting but Zoom is quite easy to use, both as an organiser of a meeting and as a participant. When you set up a meeting you can email invitations to individual members of the group which contain a link that they can click on at the appropriate time to join the meeting. You don't have to create a log in to attend a Zoom meeting, only if you want to set one up.

If anyone would like a little help to boost their confidence in this new area of technology both Mark Barley, [mhbarley@waitrose.com](mailto:mhbarley@waitrose.com) and Robert Watson [rw.knutsfordu3a@googlemail.com](mailto:rw.knutsfordu3a@googlemail.com) would be happy to give individual help and support.

For those already using Zoom Robert has written this easy to follow guide for always showing the meeting controls when you are taking part in a meeting which makes things easier for both organisers and participants. There will also, in the near future, be a Zoom area on the KNUTSFORD U3A WEBSITE.

### ZOOM - How to "Always show the Meeting Controls"

**This article assumes** that you have already downloaded Zoom to your device.

Finding the Meeting Controls every time you use Zoom is a nuisance.

Setting the option to "Always show the Meeting Controls" means that you do not need to move the mouse (PC or Apple Mac) or touch the screen (iPad) to reveal the Zoom controls.

**N.B.**

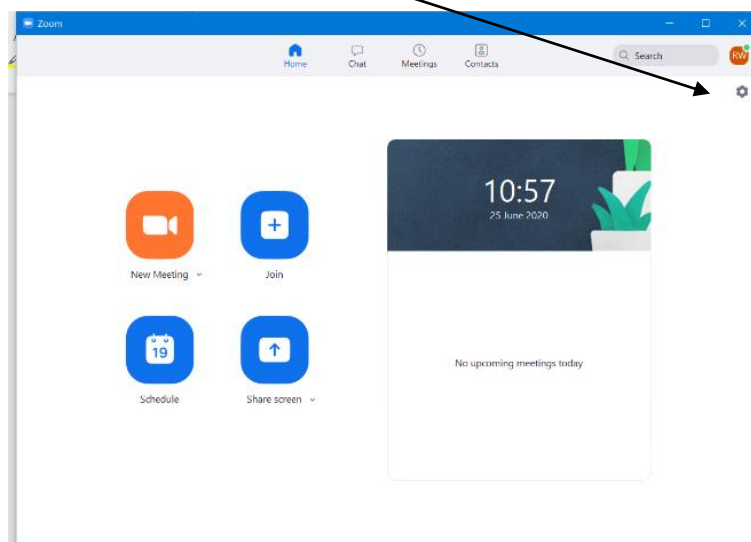
Unfortunately, the **Android** apps do not offer the facility to "Always show the Meeting Controls"

### How to do it

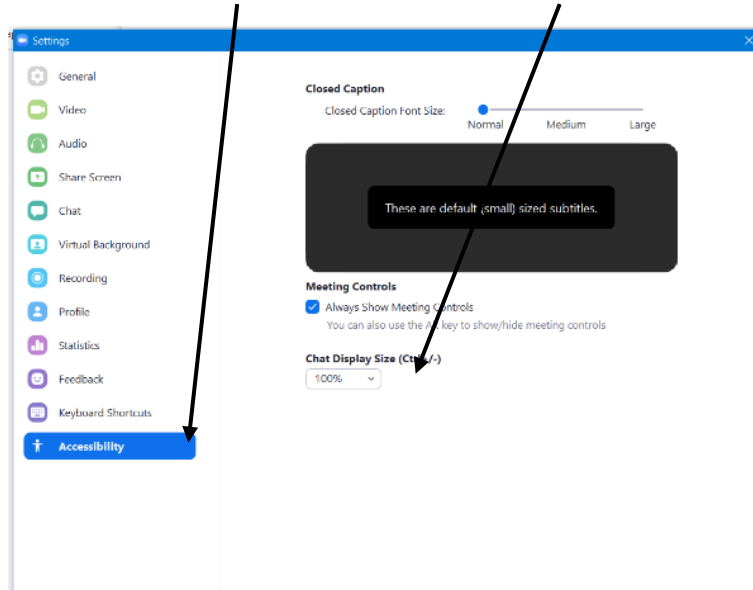
#### PC / Mac

Click the ZOOM icon on the Desktop / Task Bar. When you are signed in to Zoom, you get the screen below.

Look for and click the "gearwheel" icon  
It is usually on the top RHS.




You get the menu as below, click **Accessibility** and then tick **Always Show Meeting Controls**

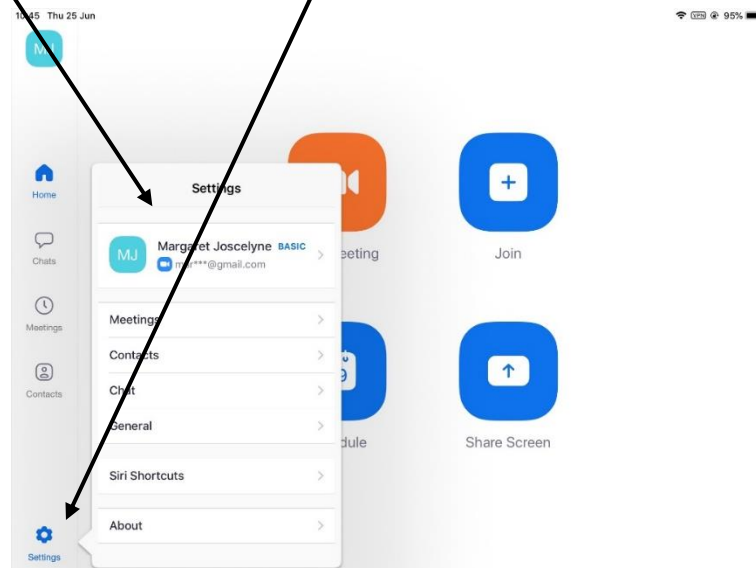


### iPad / iPhone

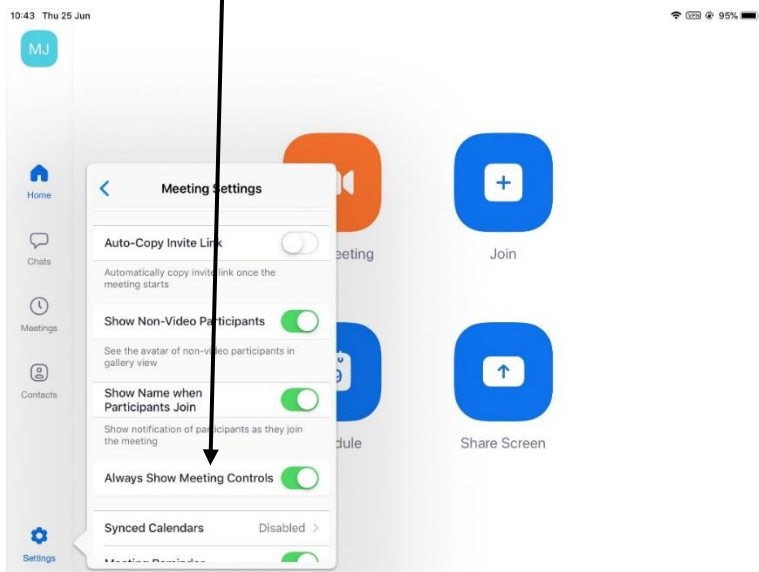
Touch the ZOOM icon on the Desktop / Task Bar. When you are signed into Zoom you get the screen below.

(less the Settings menu). Look for and touch the  Settings “gearwheel” icon. On the iPad it is usually as shown.

On an **iPhone** it can be found at the bottom of the screen on the Right.



You will get the **Settings** menu as above. Touch **Meetings** and you will get the menu below. Swipe up or down until you get **Always Show Meeting Controls**. If not already **green**, swipe the button to the **Right – the on / off box turns to green**. Touch the arrow at the top LHS of the Meetings Settings menu. Then touch the desktop to close the Settings menu.



## MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Obviously it is not possible to hold our monthly Members' Meetings at the moment and the July and September meetings have been cancelled. We have a speaker, Sir Richard Fitzherbert who is hoping to talk about historical Derbyshire houses, booked for the October meeting which is currently booked for 8<sup>th</sup> October. At the moment we don't know whether it will be possible to hold this meeting and a decision will be taken early in September as to whether it can go ahead. We'll keep you informed.

## OUTINGS

### Shibden Hall, 12 August 2020

We have decided to cancel our booking with Shibden Hall and the Piece Hall in Halifax on 12 August 2020. With all the restrictions that will be in place we do not consider it to be a viable proposition, even if they do re-open. We hope to re-book it when the situation is more settled.

Lynda Harris



## News from the Groups

### Art Group 1

Members of the Group have been using Zoom for our meetings, a new experience for us all, and not difficult to master. Using the Screen Share facility, we are able to look at pictures, and see each other on the screen at the same time. At our first couple of meetings we took “Definitely Not Social Distancing” as our theme. Two of the pictures we chose were *The Luncheon of the Boating Party* by Auguste Renoir and *Sewing the Sail* by Joaquin Sorolla.





## **Social Cycling**

I have stepped down from the Coordinators role of the Cycling Group with immediate effect and Stuart Jones [stuart.p.jones@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.p.jones@gmail.com) mobile ; 07795 981730, will be taking over the role.

My thanks to the Committee for their support and grateful thanks and good wishes to Stuart in taking the Group forward.

Pat Lee

## **Bridge**

As a group that will not be able to go back for the foreseeable future, maybe not until a vaccine is found, at least half the group are playing bridge online. There is a facility called the BBO - Bridgebase online that has free sites and many have registered with the BBO and are meeting members online and playing bridge. It is not quite the same set up as we have at Toft Cricket Club but the ones who have joined are enjoying it. We had a few hiccups to begin with, with quite a few playing on iPads which are not quite so friendly as laptops or computers and we have now set up a round robin competition so the ones who have joined BBO are playing at least once a week which we can score so that it has a bit of incentive. Some are even venturing onto the site and joining tables with total strangers on. Most now realise that if they want to carry on playing bridge, this is a way of keeping their hand in!

Who would have thought that life would change so drastically at the beginning of the year? If you had asked me if I would play bridge on line I would have said a very definite NO! However, having said that, I am thoroughly enjoying it and play most days and it has been interesting getting our bridge group up and running and learning new technology.

If you would like any further information on 'Virtual Bridge' I would be happy to chat with you and explain the process in more detail.

Jenny Mathews 07703 741603

## **Book Group 4**

Since our lockdown began each member of Bookgroup 4 has kept a reading diary. Then, around the date of our normal monthly meetings we circulate individual emails to all members telling each other what we have been reading, some details of the author etc. I then draw up a summary document and send this to everyone so we can see what we have been reading each month.

In addition we have a monthly Zoom meeting. This is timed to coincide with what would have been our in-person meetings. We not only talk about book related matters but catch up with our U3A friends.

As we are unable to meet in each other's houses we have been denied the usual opportunity this presents to see our spring and summer gardens so we are currently considering taking a picture of a garden related image to send around to each other.

Pauline Hales