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FROM THE CHAIRS

Welcome to Autumn!

U3A activities have sadly been very limited over the spring and summer, though quite a number of our Activity Groups have been active using Zoom or other means to keep in touch and keep learning. We will be asking Co-ordinators of groups who are keeping active in some way to update their details on our website. So, by the end of the month, if you go to our website and click on a particular Activity Group, you can see whether they are currently active.

The Committee have been meeting regularly by Zoom, and carrying out all the background work that any organisation needs to do. We are now at the point of carefully planning for the restarting of those outdoor Activity Groups that are keen to get going again. Some of our walking and other outdoor groups are ready to restart, having done risk assessments to keep everyone as safe as possible. Please see News from the Groups on page 4.

At the moment Activity Groups that meet indoors aren't able to restart physically, but as venues complete their own risk assessments and guidance, we will be in a position to know if groups would be able to re-convene. There will need to be adjustments to keep us all safe. Those that meet in members' homes won't be able to do so while the government limit of 2 households meeting indoors continues.

It will be some time before we can hold our monthly Members' Meetings in the Methodist Church, but we are holding one by Zoom on September 10th - see page 3.

We have decided to hold our AGM by email/Zoom this year, on Thursday November 10th at 2.15. We will send more information nearer the time.

As you'll know from the last Kanuta, we are extending everyone's membership until April next year. We hope that we can gradually build up the range of U3A activities over the coming months, but obviously we have to operate within the guidance and keep us all safe.

Best wishes to everyone from the Committee

Mark Barley and Christine Jones, Joint Chairs

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 editor for Kanuta!

If you have a computer/laptop and use Word you could be the new editor of Kanuta!! It's not an onerous role and can be done to fit around your other commitments. Sue Allan will be giving up this role in the next month or so and it would be a shame if this method of communication to the whole group was discontinued.

If you want to discuss the idea without commitment please contact Sue Allan on 01565 632904

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Obviously it is still not possible to hold our monthly Members' Meetings at the moment and the October and November meetings have been cancelled. In order to try to keep some semblance of normality going we're going to experiment with holding a Zoom Members' Meeting. David Cogger has agreed to try this out for us and will be speaking via Zoom on Thursday 10th September. You will already have had an email about this and will be getting a Zoom invitation early this week to enable you to sign on if you wish to take part. Only the first 98 people to log on will be able to access the meeting, please bear with us as this is the first time we've done anything like this!

OUTINGS

Chatsworth, 30th November

We have decided to cancel our booking with Chatsworth on 30th November 2020. With all the restrictions that will be in place we do not consider it to be a viable proposition.

Lynda Harris

High Street Project

This project is being organised by the national U3A research committee to record the changes in local shopping streets in various parts of the country from this September. These changes are likely to have been accelerated by Covid 19.

The actual task is for a few pairs of members to walk along Knutsford streets, taking a photo of each shop and recording very brief information of the street number, name and type of shop. The organisers estimate that a pair of U3A members can survey about 100 shops in a couple of hours. Entering the information would be done at home, not necessarily by the same volunteers. The plan is to follow up this work in 2021. So far there are 4 of us keen to be involved so we are looking for another 2-4 members to join us. We can choose our own date in September to suit.

If you've ever thought "I wish I could remember what this shop used to be" then spending half a day helping to make a record of our town as it is now could be really interesting!

If you'd like to know more, please give me a ring on 01565 633435.

Christine Jones

News from the Groups

Social Cycling

This group will be re-starting their activities. For information contact Stuart Jones
stuart.p.jones@gmail.com mobile: 07795 981730.

Walking Groups 2 & 3

Both these groups will be re-starting their walks. For further information please contact the Co-ordinators:

Walking Group 2 Tony Roberts 01565 632735

Walking Group 3 Sue Allan 015675 632904

Walking Football

This group will be resuming its activities. For information contact Stuart Allan 01565 632904

Table Tennis Groups 1 & 2

Both these groups are hoping to re-start next week. For details please contact
Gerard McCreesh
01565 654598