

ACTIVE NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2021



Dear Members

Welcome to our first and possibly only ACTIVE NEWSLETTER. You may be aware that the Editor of Active News, Ron Watson, has had some health issues. As a result, he is taking a break from the Editorship of Active News, but we hope he will be back in place in due course.

Because we are now working on the programme for next year, we have decided not to print a magazine style Active News this summer, but are issuing this newsletter to most members by email. Members not on email will receive one in the post.

The year has been very difficult for all of us, but through a lot of work by Committee we have managed to run around half the usual groups – in particular those running Outdoors and the sporting groups have been able to continue. Some ten groups have operated at least partially in a virtual manner. Some of our classroom groups have also been able to run through hard work by the Group Leaders and our venues in ensuring that they can operate in a COVID-safe manner.

Around half the usual number of members has rejoined to enjoy those groups we have been able to run and we have even managed to gain a few new members!

Helen Heatley

Programme Co-ordinator and one-off Newsletter editor!

PROGRAMME LAUNCH FOR 2021-22

Membership for 2021-22 is now open (see page 8).

The programme for next year will be formally launched on Friday 13th August, all things being equal! Not all our venues are open yet and we are still to find out what, if any, restrictions will be in place by the summer.

The Epicentre will open between 10.30 and 14.00 for collection of programmes.

Group Leaders will not be taking bookings until 13th August once we have our venues confirmed.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND MONTHLY TALKS

Christchurch Baptist Church is opening in September and we are planning to restart our monthly talks then. All start at 14.00. We are also delighted to say that we expect to be holding our AGM in person this November.

11 October 2021

Roy Norton

"50 Years in Television Production, Part 2"

Roy returns to give us the second instalment of his highly entertaining look back at some of the great milestones in television history, going behind the scenes with hilarious "off camera" anecdotes, gossip, scandal and memorable "cock-ups".

8 November 2021 – AGM

Michael Heatley

"Dolly, Daltrey, Geldof ... and me!"

The man who met the biggest names in music tells their untold stories.

13 December 2021

Howard Nichols

"The Mysterious Life of Walter Henry"

From a childhood in a Victorian workhouse to a life at sea. A surviving crew member of the TITANIC, who served on Trans-Atlantic troopships and had a secret involvement in getting members of the Tsar's family out of Russia. Parts of his life are still cloaked in official secrecy. There is a twist in the tail to this story!!

10 January 2022

Kay Townsend

"Life Behind the Sideshows"

Kay takes us back in time to the fairs of the 50s and 60s, to the freak shows, the Wall of Death and the Flea Circus.

14 February 2022

Richard Hutley

"Bigfoot – Fact or Fiction"

Bigfoot (otherwise known as Sasquatch) is a Cryptic large half-man, half-ape creature reportedly roaming the forests, mountains and uninhabited wilderness of North America. Denied by science, but witnessed by countless people, video footage, DNA and other supporting evidence, make your own mind up.

14 March 2022

Colin Van Geffen

"Lucy Houston: The Lady Who Saved the Nation"

Lucy Houston's death on 29th December 1936 ended the life of one of Britain's wealthiest, most powerful, steadfastly passionate, charismatic, eccentric, militant, forward-thinking political activist, campaigner, publicist, philanthropist, socialite, suffragist and romantic of her time. Yet today she has all but disappeared into obscurity, largely forgotten or unknown by the world she helped to save.

11 April 2022

Kevin Patience

"The Man Who Never Was"

Although published in 1953 and later made into a film, the full story, and the identity of The Man Who Never Was, and his importance in the invasion of Sicily, was only discovered and revealed much later. Kevin tells the fascinating story of the part played by The Man Who Never Was in changing the course of WWII.

9 May 2022

Steve Roberts

"150 Years of the London Underground"

Steve Roberts will take us on an informative and entertaining journey around the London Underground, the world's first underground railway, which has been operating for over 150 years. We'll learn about the people who had the idea, then helped to build it, the different lines, the historic moments, crazy stories (when fact really is stranger than fiction) and the weirdest items of lost property ever left on a tube train. You won't want to miss it!

13 June 2022

Rosemary LeGrand

"Spring in Japan"

Rosemary shares with us her experiences in travelling around Japan, to be enthralled by the exquisite gardens, and fascinating culture.

INFORMATION FROM THE LOCAL COUNCIL

Did you know that you can sign up to an e newsletter from BCP Council? It provides COVID updates but also information on local issues such as parks, libraries and transport routes. If you are interested in what's going on it is worth signing up for:

<https://www.bournemouth.gov.uk/news/features/email-me.aspx>

The Principles of the u3a Movement

It seems timely, as we come out of a pandemic and start to re-examine our lives, to remind ourselves of the principles of the u3a. In particular we would love members to consider how they can help with running groups moving forward especially if your Group Leader has retired.

“The u3a movement is entirely run by volunteers on a self-help and mutual aid basis. Everyone joining the u3a should be prepared to contribute in some way as well as simply attending a group which someone else has spent time planning.”

National u3a has the following to say:

The u3a movement is non-religious and non-political and has three main principles:

The Third Age Principle

Membership of a u3a is open to all in their third age, which is defined not by a particular age but by a period in life in which full time employment has ceased.

Members promote the values of lifelong learning and the positive attributes of belonging to a u3a.

Members should do all they can to ensure that people wanting to join a u3a can do so.

The Self-help Learning Principle

Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.

No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.

There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all u3a members.

The Mutual Aid Principle

Each u3a is a mutual aid organisation, operationally independent but a member of The Third Age Trust, which requires adherence to the guiding principles of the u3a movement.

No payments are made to members for services rendered to any u3a.

Each u3a is self-funded with membership subscriptions and costs kept as low as possible.

Outside financial assistance should only be sought if it does not imperil the integrity of the u3a movement.

u3a NATIONAL NEWS

u3a Rebranding

You may have noticed a different style to u3a communications. This is as a result of a branding exercise carried out by National. It has been said that this is a waste of money and also that the new logo does not stand out as well as the old one... while this may be so the money has been spent and we can't bring it back so we will make use of the new pictures and style as best we can!

Third Age Trust Newsletter

The u3a issues a monthly electronic newsletter in addition to its paper Third Age Trust. It contains interesting information about what other u3as are doing as well as advice and information from National.

You can subscribe to the National newsletter here:

<https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=089e343e74>

The u3a also offers online events to members – here is where to find a sample of their online events:

<https://u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>



Publicity Officer Paula Watton organized a small celebration of National u3a day on Wednesday 2nd June, at Saxon Square with the Quartet, part of the Vintage Brass orchestra, playing. We had contributions from the photography, painting and poetry groups.

For the National u3a Day, thanks to all those who took part and gave their time, we need to remember that everyone was a volunteer.



EPICENTRE REFURBISHMENT



We took the opportunity of the long closure to refurbish the Epicentre both externally and internally. If you have visited you will see that we have COVID safety screens in place and a one-way system using both doors.

This does mean that at the moment we can't run any groups in the Epicentre so such groups will be relocated.

Get to know your committee

Your committee are all volunteers and each works tirelessly for the u3a to make sure there is a programme for you to enjoy. It's been so long since we all met that we thought it would be useful to re-introduce the committee to you all.

Your committee are:



CHAIRMAN – JOHN WINGFIELD

I am a retired physiotherapist and I have been a member of Christchurch u3a for 7 years. I am a percussionist in Vintage Brass.

I have been chairman of Christchurch u3a for three years. My role is to try and keep everyone happy. I have to make sure our committee is fully functional and to make sure all positions are occupied which is difficult at times.

I am grateful for all our volunteers who help to keep our great organisation fully operational.

TREASURER – KEITH WESTON

In 2017 I joined Vintage Brass and became a member of Christchurch u3a.

I became Treasurer at the AGM in November 2019.

In my role, in consultation with the committee, I am responsible for all the financial affairs of our group. This includes all payments on behalf of the group.

I produce regular accounts statements for the committee, and after an annual audit, provide an annual statement of affairs for publication at the AGM.



PUBLICITY – PAULA WATTON

I am Paula Watton and have been a member of u3a for almost two years. I am responsible for Publicity – a role which I took on as Lockdown began. It is important because it highlights the range of regular activities and events we already carry out and shows the opportunities we have for developing others. It is a place of contact for the general public and members who follow in the local magazines, libraries and on-line.

I see the position is to give information so I write an article for the magazines trying to give an update on what is happening, sometimes a month or two ahead, which can be tricky in these changing times.

Furthermore, I believe we should be encouraging people to take part and attend events which advertise Christchurch u3a and because of this, we organized a small celebration of National u3a day at Saxon Square with the Vintage Brass Quartet playing. We had contributions from the photography, painting and poetry groups, even though it was all a bit last minute! I was really impressed with the standard of work.

For Publicity, the main thing Group Leaders can help with is by regularly updating photographs of their current group members, activities and samples of their work. Not all groups are functioning so were unable to join in this time but hopefully will for future events.

From seeing us there, several people came up, enquired about joining and went off with our leaflets of information. Which is what it's all about, welcoming new members and keeping relevant so we continue to flourish as a successful group in the future.

GROUP CO-ORDINATOR – JILL DALE

I joined Christchurch u3a in 2004 and have been Group Co-ordinator for the last six years.

It is an important role as it involves looking after the Group Leaders (GLs) who are essential if Christchurch u3a is to continue and survive.

The main responsibilities of this role are to find and interview new Group Leaders, provide details of GL Procedures and update these as required, ensure the data online about groups is correct, liaise with other committee members on changes to groups and to GLs – and advertise group vacancies.

I carry out communication with the GLs, meet prospective GLs and assist members find the right group for them.

Generally I am assisting members who come to me because they don't know how u3a works so I explain who they should be contacting. Occasionally there is a problem with a group, where I have to liaise between the member and their GL.



MEMBERSHIP – A JOINT ROLE

EILEEN LANCASTER AND KATHLEEN SMITH



My name is Eileen Lancaster and I have been a member of Christchurch u3a since 2003. I live on St Catherine's Hill and was a member of a long running travel group which met in the local community hall. Our leader Sandra decided that for the financial security of the group we needed to join the u3a (which a number of us had never heard of) so we joined as a group, keeping the same format of discussing a destination over two fortnightly sessions and visiting the sixth week.

I took over the role of Membership Secretary in 2010. With over 1200 members this was a pretty labour intensive job to input and maintain all the members' details using spreadsheets and databases. Working with Chris Powell the Webmaster, we developed an online membership enrolment system which makes life considerably easier. I enjoyed doing this as I have been programming computers in many different languages since leaving school in the sixties and I could now have some web design skills to add to my CV.

JOINT MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY – KATHLEEN SMITH

I help to keep details of current and past members which is necessary so that groups and leaders can plan activities.

I've been a member for 2 years.

The role involves registering new members, updating changes, resolving queries, banking subscriptions and reporting to Committee on current member numbers.

I enjoy meeting people and hopefully encouraging them to join u3a – the social interaction with this role is good for me and I do like to chat with people.



VENUES SECRETARY – JUDY HALL



Hello I'm Judy Hall, the Venues Secretary. I book Venues for the u3a groups, note cancellations, tell treasurer of bookings and cancellations.

I liaise with the Venue and Group Leaders, also with the Programme Co-ordinators and the Group Co-ordinator.

I send the Venues' Risk Assessment to Group Leaders to return to the Venue. I suggest GL checks out the Venue if they haven't been before.

I ask GLs to inform me, the Venues Secretary, if there is a cancellation so as to minimise loss to u3a.

How can members help? When communicating let me know your name, your group name and the venue you are using. This saves me time having to use my detective skills. Pretend I know nothing about you!

PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR – HELEN HEATLEY

I've been a member of this u3a since we moved to Bournemouth in 2016. We wanted to join a daytime badminton groups and Christchurch u3a has much the best offer in the area.

Programme Co-ordinator basically pulls everything together from the Group Leaders and the Venues



and produces the printed and online programmes. I'm also involved with the Groups Co-ordinator in keeping Our Groups updated throughout the year.

I took over the role in 2017 and since then I have automated a lot of the process so the Course Descriptions can be filled in online. This means there is less chance of transcription error. I work together with the Venues Secretary and the Assistant Programme Co-ordinator to check and produce the programme

I enjoy the role because it requires interaction with most of the other committee members, so I get to meet and talk to new people. It requires an organised mind which suits me! I also get to interact with Group Leaders on changes and details. It also means I have found out quite a lot about the local area in a relatively short time.

WEBMASTER – CHRIS POWELL

My name is Chris Powell and I have been a member since 2005 when I was lucky enough to be able to retire early. I have been responsible for the website since about 2010. Being a bit of a nerd at heart I enjoy the challenge of keeping up with constantly evolving web development technologies and using these to develop and enhance the website. In my former life I was an IT Project Manager which, while not directly related, is a useful background for website development.

NEW MEMBERS CONTACT ROLE – JOHN FAIRBAIRN

I've been a u3a member for 10 years. This role is important because people who might like to join u3a need to be able to contact someone who can help answer their questions, to enable them to decide whether to join. Those who have recently joined u3a may also have queries about the way u3a runs, and may be glad of help to make the most of their membership.

I've held the role for 6 years and I enjoy being New Members Contact, especially when I can help people to discover for the first time what an excellent organisation our u3a is. Most people are very grateful to receive appropriate help and information, either by email or on the phone.

I also enjoy welcoming people to our Monthly Meetings, and organising a Coffee Morning for new members each autumn, and being a member of the Management Committee.

(N.B. Despite enjoying the role, I would be glad to hand it on to someone else who would be happy to do it!)



OFFICE MANAGER – DEE COLLINS

I am Dee Collins and I have been a member of u3a for just over 20 years. My position at present is Office Manager which I took on over a year ago, which entails the smooth running of the Epicentre. I also organise the volunteers, keep the notice board current to show the latest groups that are running and new groups that will be commencing shortly. I enjoy the social interaction with members of the public and members of our u3a.

BUSINESS SECRETARY – SUE FILLERY

I'm Sue Fillery the new Business Secretary for Christchurch U3A.

I've lived in Christchurch since 2016. Previously my late husband and I were based in France for 10 years whilst we sailed our boat round the Mediterranean. Before that we lived in Derbyshire.

I recently joined U3A to play tennis with the Mudeford Woods Community Centre group.

I am looking forward to being an active member of u3a and, hopefully, with COVID restrictions coming to an end, joining more groups next term.



MEMBERSHIP 2021-22

Membership for 2021-22 is now open. Membership fees have been maintained at the 2019 level. We are planning on the assumption that we will be able to operate normally from September but of course we are all still guessing about the near future. Some groups may have to change venues or run with smaller numbers, but we are currently hoping to run in excess of 80 groups. This is a slightly lower number than previously as a number of Group Leaders have taken the COVID break to reassess their position, and some have decided that they are no longer in a position to run their groups – some after many years. It is disappointing that, in a lot of cases, no member of the groups has come forward to take over the Group Leader role.

Please see the membership form at the end of this Newsletter, or even better apply online using this link: http://www.christchurchu3a.org.uk/pageloader_N.php?page=membership/membmenu.php

ACTIVE GROUPS

Christchurch u3a has a significant number of sporting, exercise and outdoor groups. Gardening Group 2 continued to meet in a group of six through most of the year, when allowed, gathering in rainy gardens (see right) on occasion!



Shorter Walks also started up again after April 12th this year.



GL Pat Parker writes "You may wish to include a photo in the magazine of the shorter walks group on their recent walk at Iford Meadows. Nina Blake is currently leading the group while I recover from a hip operation.

Socially distanced, very enjoyable walk after lockdown. 14 members really appreciated getting together for a stroll in the spring sunshine.

Keep safe and well."

TENNIS FOR FUN

We would still welcome more people interested in joining 'Tennis for Fun' which meets at the Mundeford Wood Community Centre every Wednesday 10.30 till 12.30 under the auspices of the u3a.

You do not have to be good to join us. We just enjoy playing tennis at our own level. Balls and bookings organised. First week free to try it to see if it suits you. Contact June Cooke junecooke@gmail.com or phone June or Adrian on 01202 431686.

CREATIVE GROUPS

We have quite a lot of creative groups in our programme. One of the activities that has been able to continue virtually has been creative writing of both prose and poetry.

Some of our virtual groups explain the ups and downs of their lockdown year...

The Christchurch u3a Ukulele Group

It doesn't seem true but it is now over a year since the last meeting of the Ukulele Group. Now twelve months on and with infection rates falling and immunisation rates rising it feels right to feel optimistic about the future. September we may be able to enjoy a quality of life close to that which we enjoyed before. We hope to be able to meet together again, to go to restaurants, cinemas and theatres and holidays again being possible, both home and abroad.



And the Ukulele Group can come back together. Both Colin Leonard (Musical Director and “generally good egg”) and I hope that we can return to weekly meetings. Over the past year we have struggled to maintain a regular practice routine – an experience of most of our members we expect. So we are looking forward to coming back together and catching up with chums, dusting down our Ukuleles and making music.

For those who haven’t heard of us we are a group of between 15 and 25 Ukulele players who come together weekly and play a varied repertoire of songs from The Beatles to The Kinks, Bob Dylan (our version of “Mr Tambourine Man” is unique and jaw dropping) to Van Morrison, Paul Simon to Kenny Rogers.

Back in 2019 we played our second public performance at the New Milton Ukulele Festival. We played six songs in front of an audience of well over a hundred seasoned Ukulele players and fans. We have also played Christmas concerts at a local Church.

But of course it is not all about the music. It is about having a joyful time and our meetings have always been known for the sound of laughter. It would be right to say we have a good time together. We all have different levels of skills and abilities. Colin and I, indeed all of us, are very supportive to everyone. We have all been beginners and some of us still are.

To say that we welcome new members is a bit of an understatement. So if you have half a wish to pick up the Ukulele and enjoy the act of playing a musical instrument – perhaps for first time – we would love to hear from you. Come along and we will make you very welcome.

We do need to organise a new venue and make all the necessary arrangement to enable the sessions to restart and details will be available closer to the autumn (subject to the Government relaxing COVID-19 rules).

Meanwhile do keep yourselves up dated by accessing the Christchurch u3a website and if anyone would like to know more please phone myself Tim Drage (Group Leader) on 01202 516188.

Stay safe, stay well. And, chins up everyone.

PLAY READING GROUP IN COVID TIME

Our group was active in the Autumn term of 2020 and also re-opened on 17 May 2021. We were limited in size due to government restrictions but in fact all members have now re-enrolled..

It was a joyful experience in both terms to be able to meet up again and catch up with each other’s news. We meet at Priory House where we have to clean the tables and chairs that we use, It actually takes only a minute as I hand out paper wipes and spray on the sanitizer and each member does their own table and chair.

We come into Priory House wearing masks but once we are sat down in our room we can remove them. This is just as well as the masks would muffle our reading and make it hard to hear. We are seated at a social distance but that does not deter communication. In fact I have extended our coffee break as members are enjoying talking to each other; I think more so than before lockdown. We do have the advantage that the Priory House café is now open so we can order refreshments!

When lockdown started in November we were mid-way through reading “An Inspector Calls” by J B Priestley. We returned to it six months later and had to go back to page 1 as we’d forgotten a lot of the plot. It is a play with a moral message and is extremely well written. You are drawn into the lives of the Birling Family and discover all their sins and weaknesses. We agreed it was a most satisfying play to read.

Now we have at last started to read a play that I took out of the library in November. It has been renewed four times since then (play sets can be kept for 8 weeks) as we couldn’t meet during lockdown. Finally we have started it – Guess what it is? It’s “Season’s Greetings” by Alan Ayckbourn, and it’s set at Christmas time, with guests gathering at the family home. It’s fun – quite farcical at times. It’s just what we need after lockdown!!

Jill Dale

Group Leader



How one group managed during the lockdowns

"We can hear you, but we can't see you... Now we can see your ceiling, but not your face... Ah! Now we can see and hear you. Welcome!"

Such are the joys of Zoom, which most of the Shakespeare Group (including me) struggled to master, but which enabled twenty-two of us to keep going during the two lockdowns.

In between we briefly resumed face-to-face meetings in September, but the two-metre social distancing rule precluded our current venue as too small. Even though we switched to a large hall, I still had to split the group in two, each half meeting fortnightly, which meant every session being run twice.

The past year has involved some real frustrations, including IT problems (a few sessions abandoned); having to leave a very convenient venue and, above all, the (temporary) loss of a third of our members unable to use Zoom or to travel to the alternative venue. There were, however, silver linings too: we did maintain continuity; some members were more comfortable contributing via Zoom; and we bonded more as a group.

Now that we are reunited as a whole group, we can look forward to a less disrupted year ahead.

Damian Heywood, Group Leader

Photography Group – presently run on Zoom

Most members of the Group (31 – all levels of experience) have been meeting on Zoom since May. A few, initially resistant, have now joined in and the workload is shared between the two of us with some members helping. We meet monthly to share and review photographs and discuss all aspects of photography. Occasionally we are lucky enough to arrange a speaker and sometimes view the work of various leading photographers. We cover all genres of photography, set a monthly photo challenge, attend weekly shoots and share photographs for group comment and critique. We also use Zoom for planning and preparing for meetings.

We found Chris Powell very helpful while setting up and for answering numerous technical and associated questions; however Trevor Goodman is happy to share our experiences by telephone/e-mail with any Group Leader now thinking of having a go if he/she feels it would be helpful to do so.

Before COVID-19 we met weekly for a range of interesting local and more distant photo shoots, shared photographs on Facebook and met up once a month to review progress; communicating by e-mail, telephone, Facebook and face to face. All members are encouraged to develop their own skills, interests and style and our programme is arranged to meet the differing needs of all. High points are undoubtedly meeting up, an external speaker, sharing photographs and the after-shoot coffee sessions.

It is somewhat surprising that Zoom meetings (originally suggested by members and funded through Christchurch u3a during term time) have been as successful as they have given that the pandemic has at best forced virtual meetings, repetitive local outdoor only shoots in small groups, social distancing, no car share, no face to face meetings and no coffee sessions. The group has a good number of longstanding members, some previously using Zoom to keep in touch with family and friends, a steady stream of new members and a desire to share knowledge and different ways of doing things; all of this has stood us in good stead.



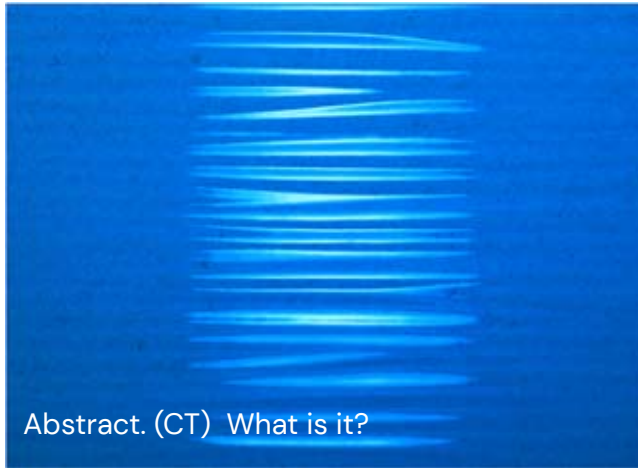
Flowers (KT) Hellebore

Photos by Kim and Colin Traylor



Birds (KT) Nuthatch

The third lockdown limited opportunities even further, again forcing us to take our photographs "at home" in isolation, but a group effort to participate in developing an interesting agenda, and the use of Facebook and



Abstract. (CT) What is it?

Birds (KT) Robin



Zoom allows us to continue to share and comment on our photographs, keep in touch and enjoy some development until we are in a position to organise a better programme once again.

Trevor Goodman and Kim Traylor.

Input from some other u3a photographers...

Dear Ron

Just got a copy of the Active News, we are so sorry that you haven't been well over the last few months... Maggie and I just wanted to say that we hope you get fully fit again soon and that we are thinking of you.

Not sure if you are looking for any photos but I took this one in the garden the other day.

I can confirm that the bee was alive and crawled out a couple of hours later.

Ron we hope you are fully fit again soon, take care, stay safe.

Our very best wishes

Maggie & Barrie

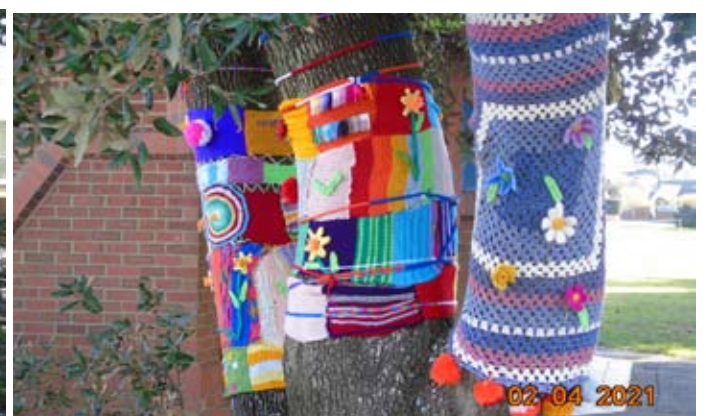


Dear Ron

Hope you are recovering reasonably quickly. If you are short of material for the next edition you may wish to publish these pictures taken at the corner of Mudeford cricket ground. They have nothing to do with u3a but the first one has an explanatory note. Interesting just what people get up to in lock down.

Kind regards

Laurie



URGENTLY REQUIRED ON COMMITTEE – GROUP CO-ORDINATOR

Jill Dale has been fulfilling this role for several years but now feels as she is in her 80s it is time to pass on the responsibility. Without this role we don't have a functioning u3a!

The Group Co-ordinator is responsible for providing regular support to group leaders and stimulating the creation of new groups. The aim is to provide the number, range and quality of courses required by the membership in an economically viable way.

This role could be a joint role (like membership) so that the workload is shared between two people. If you think you could help, maybe with a friend, or would be prepared to work with someone else on the role, please contact John Wingfield whose details are on the last page of this newsletter.

Poems from Jill Barr's u3a poetry group which has been meeting largely on-line

Mother was a Rummager

Big black bags must be avoided
or you will start to rummage too.

Lizard fingers, gekko thumb
red-tipped hunters scooping, sieving
in the depths of darkness
scrabbling.

In that cave of hallowed leather
In that never-ending blackness
darkest secrets, leather bag
deep as thunder, wide as winter
lay the reason,
just a small thing
lay the cause of all this probing.

'I know it's here,' we'd hear her cry
'I know it's here,' was her refrain.

In amongst life's detritus
just to spite her hungry fingers
lay the thing she really wanted,
recalcitrant and silent,
glad of all the bits around it
enjoying being lost, not found yet.

Rolling in amongst the lipsticks,
cloying facial powder clinging,
hankies, tiny useful things
hung in a state of stasis
for the rummage to begin.

What a rummager was mother
in that huge handbag of hers
smelling of all things grown-up-ish
money was the worst.

She kept flotillas of paper money
in that awful bag of hers.
No amount of telling
could reduce this lifetime habit.

'Come a burglar, I shall hit'em'
The bag seen swinging in demonstration
was indeed a ferocious thing
or was that Mother holding it?
'Mother, did you ever find what, in life, eluded you?'
Big black bags must be avoided
or you will start to rummage too.

Step Silently

Leaf buds are forming
country birds calling.
Who is that listening?

Step silently

Raindrops fast falling
fat pigeons a-pecking, coo-cooing
clouds scudding by, now re-forming.

Tree branches whispering to whom?

White tinged with pink velvet.
Blossom gently shaking, so new,
'this is May, this is May, this is May!'

Who is listening when you fall?

Dissonance dissolved
all is resolved
beneath the apple tree.

Step silently and listen.

Poems by June Cooke

CONTACT DETAILS - MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Chair John Wingfield 01202 768812 chair(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Secretary Sue Fillery Secretary(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Treasurer Keith Weston 01425 620435 treasurer(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Jt Membership Secretary: Eileen Lancaster 01202 566387/Kathleen Smith 07804 255494 membership(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Group Co-ordinator Jill Dale 01202 432357 groups(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

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Venues Secretary Judy Hall 01202 252671 venues(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Vintage Brass Janice Miller 01202 426855 vintagebrass(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Programme Co-ord. Helen Heatley 01202 427360 programme(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

New Members John Fairbairn 01202 424466 newmembers(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

NON-COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Minutes Secretary

Epicentre Manager Dee Collins 01425 272378 office_manager(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Speakers' Secretary Jennet Lambert 01202 476631 speaker(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Technical Co-ordinator Archie Hoggan 07905 864455 technical(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Social Events Co-ord. social(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

Treasurer (Travel Gr.) Ginette Porter 01202 619617

Webmaster Chris Powell 01425 489592 or webmaster(a)christchurchu3a.org.uk

OFFICE

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Tel: 01202 480027

Email:office_manager@christchurchu3a.org.uk

CURRENTLY OPEN 10.15–12.00 Mondays only. (Answerphone operates when office closed)

Do you like meeting people?

Help required in the Epicentre from September!

Hello to all U3A members – are any of you lovely, kind people able to give me just two hours now and again to volunteer in our office?

The role includes interaction with members of the general public plus new and old members, telling people what we have to offer, answering the 'phone and issuing programmes etc.

Available days will be Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 10.15–12 noon. Depending on how many people volunteer, I may only need you one of these days every couple of months.

Please contact me on 01425 272378 or collins287@btinternet.com

Dee Collins