
 June / July 2021 Newsletter to U3A Members by Email; Roger Poole, Chair Alsager U3A

This Month – our plans for this Summer and plans to restart at the Civic in September

Welcome to our June /July Newsletter: as we are winding down for summer, the next newsletter is planned for August with news of the AGM. With half our Groups now meeting, we are planning to reopen the Civic and all our groups in September, and there are ideas for restarting outings- but this needs new helpers.

❖ Winding down for Summer

Summer has traditionally been a quieter time for our U3A, being out of term time, with many groups and committee taking a summer break. This last year has been exceptional, and the committee and other helpers have been meeting and working almost continuously since the first lock down and really need a break. . So I am pleased to report that committee will be taking an August break: with many away for some or all of this time. This should not affect those groups that continue meeting, and we will attempt to respond to emails.

However if you have delayed renewing membership now is a good time to renew, while committee and our helpers are available. You do need to be a member to take part in U3A activities – including all our meetings at the CIVIC or to go on outings when they resume. Maybe you could pass this message on to any friends in the U3A who may have let their membership lapse.

❖ Reopening at the Civic in September

It is great news that **our HUB at the Civic will be reopening in September**. One of Alsager U3A's key features has been our Monday Morning “HUB” where members could meet and enjoy presentations, and visitors could find out more about our U3A, with a Help Desk for any query, Outings Desk to book on one of Glenis's magic trips, and several groups meeting followed by coffee and Talk Time.

We have booked the Civic for Monday mornings from September 6th to November 29th – with our AGM on October 26th and our Open Day on November 29th: We will retain social distancing at the Civic, to encourage everyone to come and feel safe.

There are some changes, to enable us to reopen safely, and to cover the cost of the Civic. In particular, as some of our craft groups have now ceased meeting, the use of Main Hall and the Bar Room will switch between Music and Card Making, reflecting the sizes of these groups.

Arrangements for Autumn Term:
- In the Main Hall: meetings to which ALL members are invited

9:15 – 10:40 **Music** – an open meeting of recorded music hosted by the Music Appreciation group

10:45 – 11:15 **Tea and Coffee,**

11:15 – 12:15 **Talk Time** on the 1st and 3rd Mondays: **Celebrating Our U3A** on alternate Mondays -

a new **showcase event** of presentations from key U3A groups, coordinated by Eleanor our Editor.

- in the Foyer: Our traditional Boards full of U3A information and a welcoming team
- in the Lawton Suite: Our help Desks - Membership Desk & Groups Desk – for all queries

All meetings in the Civic will charge £2 per member for the Autumn Term.

These are special arrangements for the Autumn term – as we find out how many members are able to attend these events, we will review arrangements for the Spring term in due course. We do hope all our members will take advantage of our Hub to meet one another and the committee, and to support these events.

❖ **Groups News 30 groups currently meeting, all groups reopening in September**

➤ **Full information on our interest groups is on our New Groups pages on our Website**

Last month we launched our new Web pages where each group has its own page giving information on that group and the ability to message that group leader. Our thanks to our Groups co-ordinators for producing these pages and keeping them up to date.

➤ **Over half of our groups are meeting – but not necessarily how they used to meet!**

Currently we have 30 groups meeting – the walking groups, bowls groups and cycling are outdoors, table tennis and other athletic groups inside: and up to 10 groups use computer networking to hold meetings. Even though full restrictions were not lifted in June, this did not stop any group meetings continuing, although further relaxation was not yet possible. Over summer many of these groups continue to meet, and will welcome new members, and you can contact the leaders via the groups pages on the web site.

➤ **Planning for a full re opening of groups in September**

We are hoping that nearly all our groups will be able to restart in September at the start of our Autumn Term, but will keep all group leaders informed of our progress – and information is always available on the website. However full arrangements cannot be confirmed until we hear from all our Venues.

❖ **What about Outings**

We are hoping that it may be possible for our U3A to start running outings again in the Autumn – having not been able to run any trips since the lockdown. However, as we have reported, Glennis has retired after creating and running outings for nearly the whole life of our U3A – a marvellous contribution.

In order to restart, we need a team to organise and run our Outings : several members of the previous team are available, but we are still looking for someone to lead this team. So if you think you may be able to help please get in touch – we are very keen to restart outings.

❖ **Helpers**

U3A totally depends on volunteers, everyone giving their time freely, and a successful society like ours totally depends on volunteers at all stages. Recently several long standing helpers have indicated they are standing down having made great contributions, and our constitution limits the tenure of Officers and committee.

So we will always depend on new volunteers coming forward: and would welcome help in the technology group and on Monday mornings.

❖ **The Next Newsletter will be the August Newsletter-**

This will be published towards the end of August and will be delivered to all our members along with the calling papers for the AGM – by post for those without email

With Best Wishes for a good Summer to all our Members , Roger

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