

August 2021 Newsletter to U3A Members by EMAIL

Roger Poole

Attached are the AGM calling paper and Nominations form, and flyers for the Autumn Outings

This month: Restarting at the Civic: all groups meeting: Our AGM: & Outings

Welcome to our August Newsletter – covering the safe reopening of our U3A with all our groups able to meet again. We are reopening the Civic and planning outings in the Autumn. However all we do is subject to Government Covid guidance, and so could change.

❖ Safety at the Civic when we restart

Safety is our priority when - after 1 ½ years - we restart at the Civic : so we will retain social distancing to encourage everyone to come and feel safe; we will encourage everyone to wear a mask, and we will keep a record of everyone who comes to the Civic, where you will be met at the door by two of our friendly committee. U3A Members attending groups at the Civic will be directed to their Group where they will be registered: everyone else, including prospective members, will be signed in at the door, and directed to wherever they wish to go. However with social distancing, **there will only be limited space available until 10:45** when refreshments will open in the Main Hall with more space for tables.

❖ Reopening U3A at the Civic for Autumn Term: 6th September – 26th November

The Monday Morning Groups, Talk Time, Refreshments, and Membership Group & Travel desks reopen on September 6th, and we look forward to welcoming you back. We will retain social distancing at the Civic, to encourage everyone to come and feel safe.

These are special arrangements for Autumn term – as we find out how many members are able to attend: we will review arrangements for the Spring term.

The Civic will open at 9 am – for activities to start at 9:15.

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

▶ In the Bar Room:

- ◆ 9:15 - 10:45 Combined Card Making Group

▶ - In the Main Hall:

- ◆ 9:15 - 10:40 **Open Meetings where all U3A Members are invited to come**
Music – an open meeting of recorded music hosted by Music Appreciation
- ◆ **10:45 - 11:15 Refreshments**
- ◆ 11:15 - 12:15 **Talk Time** 1st and 3rd Mondays: **Celebrating Our U3A** alternate weeks:

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

Monday 6th September Talk Time: Jon Hill: 50 days in a Red T Shirt

Monday 13th September U3A Showcase: Photo Editing: Photo Editing for Improvers Group

Monday 20th September Talk Time: Geoff Mackey: The Batman, The Taxman and ME.

Monday 27th September U3A Showcase: Future Alsager U3A Holidays! Wendy Birch: Regent Travel

▶ in the Lawton Suite: - Membership, Groups & Travel Desk – for queries information and bookings**❖ 2021 AGM Monday 25th October 11:15: Calling Letter & Nominations form attached.**

- to hear and question the committee on the previous year, and vote for the new committee

The **AGM calling notice & Nomination Form** for next year's officers & committee are attached. We encourage all members to consider being nominated for the committee that runs the U3A, in order to understand in more detail where they could offer to help..

This year we are planning to hold the Alsager U3A AGM in person at the Civic Centre, with full social distancing. Everyone is invited, and a Quorum of at least 10% - 77 on today's figure – is required to allow the meeting to be held: so please plan to come so that your activity can continue.

❖ 2021 Alsager U3A Open Day Monday 29th November Civic Centre

A showcase of all our activities – open to all Alsager so please book it now.

❖ **Group News: all groups reopening in September – but not as they used to be!**

All our indoor groups will now be meeting again from September. Full details are on our Website Groups page. Many are resuming at their previous venue, but some venues are not available, and a few groups have found meeting via Zoom a better way of operating. I am pleased to report that group leaders have been making arrangements to restart, and have been in touch with their members to inform them of their arrangements and encourage their members to come back to meetings.

This will be the first time some groups have been able to meet for 18 months. Our shutdown was very sudden, and left some groups having already paid for that term's rental. However none of our venues charged for rooms that could not be used, so our treasurer has carried forward remaining rental money for that group. This will be used to reduce the rental costs for the Autumn Term. We are hoping this will tide groups over the restarting period when not all the group members may be able to return.

Unfortunately a few groups are not able to restart at the moment due to lack of a leader. However we are always open to help these groups restart, and for new groups to be formed, and offer every encouragement and help in setting up and initiating such groups. If you are interested in a topic we do not cover and are able to offer help in such a group, please get in touch with our groups liaison groupsliason@alsageru3a.org.uk or at the group desk on Monday mornings.

❖ **Restarting Outings, with a new team and 2 trips planned for this Autumn.**

The final holiday from last year's program was very successfully run in July to Devon and Lundy island, with social distancing observed on the coach. **This marks the culmination of several hundred trips that Glennis has organised**, for which our members are all extremely grateful, and we wish Glennis a peaceful retirement from organising Outings and Holidays.

▶ **2 Autumn Outings planned – flyers attached**

Van Gogh paintings exhibition in Manchester 28th October

Castle Howard "Christmas in Narnia" - 7th December

▶ **No rush to book. Seats will be allocated to those with registered interest in late September in a random choice. Members will be able to register single or pairs of places using their U3A membership number(s) by EMAIL or at the Travel Desk: we want to avoid queuing at the Civic.**

▶ Booking arrangements and conditions, which will include a non returnable deposit, will be available in September: on the new Website Travel pages, from the Travel desk at the Civic, or by Emailing Outings@AlsagerU3A.org.uk .

▶ All travel will be organised under Government Guidelines, and travellers will be expected to have been fully vaccinated or to be tested prior to travelling.

❖ **Helpers**

U3A totally depends on volunteers, everyone giving their time freely, and a successful society like ours totally depends on volunteers at all stages. So we would welcome help in the technology group, on Monday mornings, and in the running of the U3A. If you think you could help, in any small way, please get in touch.

Alsager Partnership alsagerpartnership.com/ is quite small and values support from other volunteers and organisations. They are looking to gather a group who we can call on for a little help from time to time. If you would like to know more please contact Arthur Harding, on email arthur.harding@alsagerpartnership.com Chair Of Alsager Partnership

Best wishes and I look forward very much to resuming our usual activities

Roger chair@alsageru3a.org.uk