

August Newsletter - to all U3A Members by Email or Post: Roger (-), Chair**This month – 20 Groups starting: 2020 AGM: finding new volunteers: and new ways of keeping in touch**

Welcome to our August Newsletter: this accompanies the Calling Notice for our 2020 AGM which is sent to all our members. This month we have more Groups preparing to run: More details of our Virtual AGM: Looking for nominations for committee and volunteers to ensure continuity of the society: and finally possible new ways of staying in touch.

► 20 Groups are active or preparing to resume

Interest Groups are at the heart of our U3A – and so it is really good that up to 20 activities are now resuming in one way or another. Many of our indoor meetings are using ZOOM or other networking apps, whilst over 10 outdoor groups are restarting having shown how they achieve current guidance. But the safety of all our members is our top priority, and we recognise that some members and leaders need to take extra care and may not want to take part: and we respect all these decisions: so a group's ability to restart depends on the leader and the members together.

Our grateful thanks to Christine (-) and Alan (-) for assisting these groups in restarting, and for working with leaders and venues on future opportunities.

For more information, please visit our web site – www.Alsageru3a.org.uk: group news section. Over the near future we hope to update the groups section of this web site.

► 2020 AGM – a “Virtual Meeting” after everyone has all the reports and voted

We are planning the 2020 AGM as a “Virtual Meeting” this year on ZOOM – as large meetings are very unlikely to be possible. However only a limited number of members will be able to or wish to “attend” this meeting. So about a month before the AGM we will send out copies of all the information that would have been presented at the AGM – including the agenda and motions to be voted on. We will then hold a “postal” vote of all the motions, in advance of the Virtual Meeting. This way we hope more members will take part than attend our traditional AGM and their votes will count towards the Quorum of 10% of our members needed for the meeting to be valid. So there will be no new information at the Virtual Meeting, and all votes will already have been cast, and the limited business will mainly consist of announcing the results of the ballots: which will then be circulated to all our members.

The AGM calling paper and committee nomination form are enclosed with this Newsletter. This is earlier than usual, to give time for the second posting of the AGM information and voting slips for the AGM motions, and for these votes to be returned and counted prior to the “Virtual AGM”.

If anyone has any queries on these arrangements – please contact me.

► Finding new Volunteers

At our AGM we will elect a new committee for next year. The good news is that our Treasurer, Chair and Secretary are all prepared to stand for one more time: but the Chair and Treasurer cannot then stand again: – so we really need new volunteers. But we currently only have 4 other members of our committee, where we would prefer to have the full complement of 8 to enable us to share the work load.

Our experience is that several of these roles depend on understanding how the society operates, and that this knowledge is best learnt by serving on the committee for the preceding year. This could potentially be by being a member of the committee, or in a deputy role: either ensuring a greater degree of continuity for our society. To assist this process of succession planning, the committee are re-examining all their roles, and where possible subdividing the work so that new volunteers would have a smaller more focussed activity to perform. In particular we note that our current treasurer has absorbed some tasks previously carried out by others in the handling of group and membership monies, and could be seen to be doing 3 separate roles.

So if you are able to offer help, please talk with myself or any member of the U3A Committee.

► **Keeping in touch if you don't have EMAIL / other ways of communicating**

For this AGM we will be sending the information out by post to just under 150 members for whom we do not have an email address. This year with current restrictions in place we will be using a contractor to do this mailing for us.

Being able to communicate with all our Members is important to us. However now that we cannot meet on Monday mornings, it means there are a significant proportion of our members who we do not regularly communicate with. If you are in this group, then our question is - would it be possible for us to communicate with you via a family member or friend who does have EMAIL and could receive and pass on information to you?

Alternatively – are you able to look at our Website and use that to receive our news?

Or possibly you could suggest other ways of keeping in touch.

We would be very grateful if you could let us know if any of these ideas would be useful to you

With Best Wishes to all our members Roger

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