

## NEWSLETTER – May 2021

### GETTING BACK TO NORMAL?

While none of us want to tempt fate, most of the news regarding the fight against Covid remains encouraging. I am therefore pleased to report that the committee is making plans for the summer and our 2021/22 year.

The latest outline of our plans is shown below. Not all of the entries should be regarded as final at this stage, but more information about many of them are included in this newsletter.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| June           | Walking football to begin, at Everest Community Academy   |
| June/July      | Rounders and walking netball to begin at Popley Fields  |
| <b>14 July</b> | <b>Our 2021 AGM</b> , via Zoom. This will be preceded by a guest speaker talking about the vital work done by the Samaritans. |
| August         | Two “picnic meetings”, in Stratton Park and Popley Fields   |
| 8 September    | “Enrolment day” at Queen Mary’s College: we want to use this day to let potential members learn more about our u3a too        |
| 13 October     | Monthly meeting via Zoom  |
| 10 November    | Monthly meeting at Queen Mary’s College, featuring Tony Harris again – but not as Henry VIII this time!                       |
| 8 December     | Monthly meeting at Queen Mary’s College: probably more a social occasion than a formal meeting                                |

It is also good to see that leaders of groups that have been unable to meet during the pandemic, even using Zoom, are now starting to make plans to resume. A return to normal operations for u3as around the country is long overdue!

**Rod Marshall**

#### Your committee

|                 |                              |  |
|-----------------|------------------------------|--|
| Rod Marshall    | Chairman                     | <a href="mailto:drmarshall1956@gmail.com">drmarshall1956@gmail.com</a>                               |
| Janet Field     | Business Secretary           | <a href="mailto:jfield1975@gmail.com">jfield1975@gmail.com</a>                                       |
| Margaret Hayes  | Groups Facilitator           | <a href="mailto:basingstokeoldbasingu3agroups@gmail.com">basingstokeoldbasingu3agroups@gmail.com</a> |
| Sue Seamour     | Treasurer                    | <a href="mailto:sue.seamour@ntlworld.com">sue.seamour@ntlworld.com</a>                               |
| Linda Wain      | Membership Secretary         | <a href="mailto:wain.linda@yahoo.co.uk">wain.linda@yahoo.co.uk</a>                                   |
| Richard Field   | Webmaster and Assets Manager | <a href="mailto:rfield1952@gmail.com">rfield1952@gmail.com</a>                                       |
| Liz Horner      | Systems Manager              | <a href="mailto:liz.horner@btinternet.com">liz.horner@btinternet.com</a>                             |
| Madeline Hussey | Marketing                    | <a href="mailto:madeline.hussey@btinternet.com">madeline.hussey@btinternet.com</a>                   |
| Marie White     | Co-opted member              |  |

Supported by:

Brenda Austin Minutes secretary

Please send any general enquiries to:

[basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)

### Our 2021 AGM

Our 2021 Annual General Meeting will take place on Wednesday, 14 July. It will start at 2.45 p.m. but will be preceded by a talk about the Samaritans starting at 2 p.m. (see below).

The meeting will take place using Zoom. **Please make every effort to attend.** One of the items on the AGM agenda will be the adoption of the new Model Constitution distributed by the Third Age Trust, but we can only do this if our meeting is quorate.

Full details about the AGM will be sent to all members around the middle of June.

### Monthly meetings

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 9 June starting at the usual time of 2 p.m. Mr Barry Linton, a retired IT specialist, will present a very topical talk on Cyber Security. He comes highly recommended and there will be a Q&A session at the end of his talk.

As noted above, the July meeting will be in two parts. It will start with an informative and enlightening talk about the very good work of The Samaritans. The talk will give us more awareness of the help they give to those less fortunate than ourselves and you may be amazed at some of the services they offer. You can also find out how to volunteer, if you would like to help and join their team.

### Third Age Trust AGM on 26th August 2021

The 38th Annual General Meeting of the Third Age Trust will be held as a hybrid meeting, allowing delegates to attend in person (subject to government restrictions in place at the time) or online, on Thursday 26th August, commencing at 11.15 a.m.

### New outdoor sports groups

We are delighted to say that all three of the outdoor sports groups proposed earlier this year should be starting soon. The first few sessions of walking football have been booked (see below) at the Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way and this has already attracted interest from non-members of our u3a who are now thinking about joining us – great news!

The start dates for rounders and walking netball are not yet known, as we are awaiting final clearance from the council. There is no reason to think this is anything more than a formality however, and members who have expressed an interest in either or both groups will be sent further news as soon as we have it.

If any of these new groups appeal to you but you have not yet told us, please contact Richard Field (walking football) or Linda Wain (rounders and walking netball). They are all open to both men and women).

Let's hope the weather is kind to us when these groups kick off!



Six walking football sessions have now been booked, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the Muga 3G pitch at Everest, on the following days:

- Thursday 3rd June
- Monday 14th June
- Thursday 1st July
- Monday 12th July
- Thursday 5th August
- Monday 16th August

**Richard Field**

## Picnic meetings

We hope to hold two "picnic meetings" during August. These will be completely informal, the idea being to allow us all to celebrate the freedom to meet up again. More details will be announced in due course, but we are aiming to have the first one at Popley Fields on Tuesday, 3 August (with a reserve date of the 12th in case of bad weather on the 3rd) and the second one in Stratton Park on Tuesday, 10 August (with a reserve date of the 19th).



## Volunteers still needed

I am pleased to say that two members have recently expressed an interest in joining the committee, but we are looking for more. Around 10% of our members already help run our u3a, many in the invaluable role of being a group convenor, but there must be a few more members who would have time to share the committee's responsibilities. If you are considering whether to help us but are not sure quite what would be involved, please contact me or any other member of the committee for further information on a no obligation basis.

The start of our 2021/22 year promises to be particularly interesting – and probably full of challenges – as we learn what members want to happen as the country makes further progress towards a full lifting of lockdown restrictions.. Why not grasp this opportunity to help shape our u3a's future?

**Rod Marshall**

## Shopping online

We are pleased to report that Amazon donated £15.27 to our u3a as a result of AmazonSmile programme activity during the final quarter of last year.

If you shop online using Amazon, please consider doing so via AmazonSmile at

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1086263-0>

and **Amazon will donate to us at no cost to you.**

AmazonSmile is also available in the Amazon Shopping app to all AmazonSmile customers using an iPhone or Android phone. Once you have activated AmazonSmile in the app, every eligible purchase will automatically generate a donation for us. Go to "Programmes and Features" in your app's menu to activate AmazonSmile.

Thank you for your support.

## For group convenors

Please remember you can use our Facebook page to promote your group to potential members. If you are not on Facebook yourself, draft what you want to say, attach a picture or two if you so wish, and email it to:

[basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)

We will take care of the rest.

## DON'T FORGET!

You can stay in touch by emailing [basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)

checking on our website at [www.basingstokeu3a.org](http://www.basingstokeu3a.org)

joining in with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a](https://www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a)

or, if you're not online, ring 07787 520281