

## NEWSLETTER – June 2021

Notwithstanding the Government's decision to delay the final stage of easing lockdown, it is great that more groups are starting to get together again. This includes groups such as badminton, table tennis and the new walking football, with two more new groups – rounders and walking netball – due to start early next month (see page 2 for more details). Many members will also have been delighted to read about the announcement of new excursions for later this year.

You should have received a communication (by email or post) from our Business Secretary Janet Field about our AGM next month. Please attend if you possibly can – it will create a headache for the committee if the meeting is not quorate.

We expect to send out the 2021/22 membership renewal invitations a few days after the AGM. I am pleased to say our Treasurer, Sue Seamour, has said we can hold the annual membership fee at £40, which was the figure for 2019/20. There were more unknowns for Sue to wrestle with than ever this year when setting a budget – for example, venues will be seeking to increase their hire charges after the loss of income they have suffered due to the pandemic. Coupled with the fact that a few new groups have started even before lockdown has ended, I think our u3a is in reasonable shape, all things considered.

Finally, in past years – and prior to coronavirus! – we have held an Enrolment Day early in September where existing and new members could enrol for groups. We are planning to have such a day on Wednesday, 8 September this year, in place of our monthly meeting which takes place on the second Wednesday of each month, but probably renamed as “Meet and Greet Day”. More information about this will follow in due course, but the new name is hoped to increase the appeal of the day to non-members who are interested in learning more about what we have to offer.

**Rod Marshall**

### Your committee

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Janet Field	Business Secretary	<a href="mailto:jrfield1975@gmail.com">jrfield1975@gmail.com</a>
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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 were sent to all members before this newsletter was finalised, so if you have not received this information – either by email or in the post – please let our Business Secretary know straight away.

### Monthly meeting

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, 14 July. It will start at the usual time of 2 p.m. with an informative and enlightening talk about the work of the Samaritans. This will give us more awareness of the help the Samaritans offer to those less fortunate than ourselves and you may be amazed at some of the services they provide. You can also find out how to volunteer, if you would like to help and join their team.

Linda Wain

### 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

### New outdoor sports groups

We are delighted to say that our new walking football group has now had its first two sessions at the Everest Community Academy. The creation of this group has also helped to attract a few new members to our u3a, which is very encouraging.

The good news does not end there – start dates for rounders and walking netball have now been finalised. **Both groups will be meeting at Russell Howard Park**, which is off Western Way, with the first netball game starting at noon on Tuesday, 6 July and the first rounders game beginning at 1:30 p.m. the following day. Both are for an hour and will usually meet weekly thereafter.

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). All three are open to both men and women.



The next few sessions of walking football will take place from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the Muga 3G pitch at the Everest Community Academy, Oxford Way, on the following days:

- Thursday 1st July
- Monday 12th July
- Thursday 5th August
- Monday 16th August

Richard Field

### 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.

## Year Books

Up to and including our 2019/20 year, we published a Year Book. The primary purpose of each Book was to provide members with details of our planned monthly and group meetings for the year ahead. For reasons which will be all too obvious however, no Year Book was prepared for 2020/21.

The cost of getting the Year Book printed runs to several hundred pounds, and after due consideration your committee has decided that we should stop incurring this cost. All the information that the Year Book would contain can be found on our website and, as experience over the last 18 months or so has shown, plans can and do change, sometimes at short notice. It is easy to keep updating the website as and when required.

The committee does however recognise that not all members have internet access. To help meet the needs of such members, we plan to compile a Year Book for 2021/22 but only print and deliver copies as and when asked to do so by a member for whom we hold no email address. (This will also enable us to update the Year Book from time to time during the year as circumstances dictate.) Any other member who would like a printed copy will be able to request a copy by email for printing at home.

## Short mat bowls

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, Ian Stimpson, who has led this group for a number of years, is now stepping down. According to Beacon, the group has 20 members, and it would be disappointing if the group has to close because no-one offers to take over from Ian. If you would like to know more about what the role involves before deciding whether to come forward, Ian will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

**Please think about offering to help.**

Thank you.

## We're off!

Great news – a programme of excursions for the rest of this year has been announced.

### 16 July **Seaside fish 'n' chips**

It is what it says: a coach outing to the seaside with a fish and chip lunch. The final price is likely to be £35. The destination will be a mystery but lunch will be beside the sea. Yes, it will be the South Coast.

### 19 August **Stratford on Avon**

You will have time to do your own thing in this lovely town. Maybe a trip on the river, or a visit to Shakespeare attractions. The cost is expected to be no more than £25.

### 10 September **Wells & Glastonbury**

Time to visit the lovely cathedral in Wells, plus see the city. In the afternoon, a stop at Glastonbury where I am sure you will find a tea in the quaint shops. Here again the cost is expected to be no more than £25.

### 28 September – 5 October **Croatia holiday**

Probably not too late if you feel you might like to join the group,

### 11 October – 16 October **Holiday to Whitby**

### 10 November **Royal Albert Hall, Ballet & Russian Composers**

This is the concert we booked for last year and our booking was transferred to this year. You can travel with us on the coaches or go by train: the concert ticket is £34. I am planning that the coach will get us to London for a meal before the concert. Expect the coach fare to work out at £15 plus the meal. I will need the £34 by the end of June please. The concert I can open up to your friends as well as I have been given a large allocation of seats in the arena area. Excellent value for money.

**Joyce Cook**



## New Bridge classes



A new **Beginners** class will start on Tuesday 5 October, from 10:00 to 12:30. Lessons will be face to face if possible, at a member's home in Oakley, but students must also be able to play bridge online as well as using Zoom. Full instructions will be given on how to access the Bridge online platform and Zoom. The class will be limited to eight students.

A new **Improvers** class will start on Monday 6 September, from 14:00 to 16:00. It is hoped that this will be at the Basingstoke Bridge Club and will be face to face, Government guidelines permitting.

For further details on either of these courses and to reserve a place, please email [basu3abridgegroup@gmail.com](mailto:basu3abridgegroup@gmail.com)

Heather Frazer

## Picnic meetings

We will be holding two afternoon "picnic meetings" during August. These will be completely informal, the idea being to allow us all to celebrate the freedom to meet up again. The first one will be at Popley Fields on Tuesday, 3 August (with a reserve date of the 12<sup>th</sup> in case of bad weather on the 3<sup>rd</sup>), and the second one will be in Stratton Park off Pack Lane on Tuesday, 10 August (with a reserve date of the 19<sup>th</sup>).

Full details will follow soon, but please keep the more convenient of the two dates free in your diary if you can - the more, the merrier!



## Window stickers

To improve awareness of our existence, we have had a batch of car window stickers produced, in a similar style to National Trust ones (amongst others):



If you would like one (or more) for display, look out for them at group meetings - we will try to make them readily available to members as soon as we can. They can of course also be displayed on house windows!

**Note** The stickers are easy to remove, but to help them adhere smoothly, dampen the glass beforehand.

## Volunteers still needed

One member is standing for election as a new member of our committee at the July AGM, but we would welcome two or three more volunteers. 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 emerges from lockdown. Why not grasp this opportunity to help shape our u3a's future?

Rod Marshall