

NEWSLETTER – July/August 2021

July was an encouraging month. We had a quorate AGM and so were able to take the decision to adopt the new model Constitution. Thank you to everyone who was involved.

The AGM was preceded by an excellent if sobering talk about the work of the Samaritans. I for one was taken aback to learn that the Samaritans receive more than 5 million calls each year. Unsurprisingly, new volunteers are always welcome.

Then from 19 July the restrictions that had governed our lives for more than a year were largely lifted. Caution may still be the watchword, but I am optimistic that we will be returning to something approaching normal when our new u3a year starts in September.

On that subject, I am pleased to say we are now nearly ready to accept membership renewals for the coming year, plus applications from new members. The fee for the coming year has been held at the 2019/20 level of £40, and our membership secretary Linda Wain should be sending an email to all our members inviting everyone to renew in the next few days.

Rod Marshall

MEET & GREET DAY!

Our annual Enrolment Day has been renamed. We hope to encourage non-members to take the opportunity to find out what our u3a is all about, as well as giving our existing members the chance to enrol for groups of interest. So come along and bring a friend!

Wednesday, 8 September

2 – 4 pm

Queen Mary's Hall

Queen Mary's Sixth Form College

Cliddesden Road, RG21 3HF

Your committee

Rod Marshall	Chairman	drmarshall1956@gmail.com
Janet Field	Business Secretary	jrfield1975@gmail.com
Margaret Hayes	Groups Facilitator	basingstokeoldbasingu3agroups@gmail.com
Sue Seamour	Treasurer	sue.seamour@ntlworld.com
Linda Wain	Membership Secretary	wain.linda@yahoo.co.uk
Richard Field	Webmaster and Assets Manager	rfield1952@gmail.com
Liz Horner	Systems Manager	liz.horner@btinternet.com
Madeline Hussey	Marketing	madeline.hussey@btinternet.com
Janice Vaughan	Member	jeavaughan@icloud.com
Marie White	Co-opted member	

Supported by:

Brenda Austin Minutes secretary

Please send any general enquiries to:
basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

Membership renewal

We are nearly ready to accept applications from both members and non-members for 2021/22. The fee is £40 per member, and for anyone who is not currently a member, their membership will take effect from the date their application is processed.

Look out for an email from our Membership Secretary arriving in your inbox. If you have received a printed copy of this newsletter, details on how to re-enrol for 2021/22 should be enclosed.

Promotional video

We are indebted to Guy Caplin for putting together a wonderful video promoting our u3a. It can be viewed on our website at www.basingstokeu3a.org/promotionalvideo

The video includes film clips and photographs featuring some of our members. We believe everyone who appears has confirmed they are happy for this to happen. Nevertheless, please take a minute to watch the video and, if you appear but would rather not be included, please let Guy know – the video can be re-edited.

The version of the video that will be used for publicity purposes will differ in one small but significant way from what is on our website. The closing shot (members waving on a coach) and final screen will include our website address. This version will run at our Meet and Greet day on 8 September, and it is the one we will encourage members to share via social media. **So please watch the video as soon as you can: Guy will need to be notified of any changes quickly if they are to be made before our Meet and Greet Day.**

Guy can be reached by email at guy.caplin@talktalk.net

Monthly meetings

Please note that, unless otherwise stated, future monthly meetings will take place at Queen Mary's Hall, Queen Mary's College (QMC), from 2pm to 4pm.

8 September – *Meet and Greet Day*

You may see posters promoting this around Basingstoke. It's the new name we've given to our Enrolment Day. If you have friends who may be interested in learning more about what we offer, this is the perfect opportunity.

13 October (using Zoom) – *The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan*

Author and speaker Bernard Lockett presents an assessment and overview of Gilbert & Sullivan, including reasons for the vast amount of social and political satire within the shows. He will then consider the worldwide popularity of G&S in the 21st century and modern production values.

Bernard has been a life-long enthusiast of G&S and since 2010 he has been a Trustee of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival. For more information about this, visit www.gsfestivals.org.

10 November – *Sir Winston Churchill*

Our speaker will be Tony Harris, giving us a realistic performance playing the role of Sir Winston Churchill! You may remember meeting Tony earlier in the year over Zoom, when he gave us a memorable portrayal of Henry VIII, so you can be assured of an entertaining afternoon with, no doubt, a lot of humour!

8 December (Central Studio, QMC) – *Social*

A social occasion to meet up again and share a happy afternoon to get into the spirit of Christmas. No doubt we will be enjoying the music of our very own *Strings and Things*, and also have the opportunity to join in carol singing.

Linda Wain

Strings and things

Strings and Things is a group of amateur musicians meeting to play and sing together, a variety of tunes and songs.

We aim for an inclusive, but professional approach, and perform at various charitable clubs and groups in the Basingstoke area – with venues agreed between us. Rehearsals are held at Elizabeth Hall in Hook once or twice monthly.

Would anyone like to play with us? Any instrument can be accommodated. We would be pleased to hear from any like-minded competent musicians who wish to join. If you are interested, please call Liz Horner on 01256 327050 or Liz Smith on 01256 770289.

Liz Horner
Liz Smith



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 face to face, Government guidelines permitting.

For further details on either of these courses and to reserve a place, please email basu3abridgegroup@gmail.com

Heather Frazer

Short mat bowls

Sadly, no-one has offered to take over from Ian Stimpson as leader of this group. It is therefore being discontinued.

Interested in backgammon or chess?



One of our members, Jane Cleaver, would like to know if any other members would be interested in starting a backgammon group. If this appeals to you, please contact Jane at janeccleaver33@hotmail.com.

– O –

Secondly, at least two members of our u3a are interested in playing over the board chess. If this would interest you, please contact the chairman and we can explore the possibility of starting a chess group.



There is also an initiative to start a national u3a Chess Network. The Network aims to promote the study and playing of chess in the u3a – both in local u3as and nationally on websites, Zoom, etc. Further, a nationwide u3a Chess League will be starting in September, which will be available to members of all abilities from learners to experts.

To join the u3a Chess Network, go to u3aChessNetWork.org.uk – where it is also possible to register for the u3a Chess League starting in September.

DON'T FORGET!

You can stay in touch by emailing basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com checking on our website at www.basingstokeu3a.org

joining in with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a or, if you're not online, ring 07787 520281

Year Book

As explained in our last newsletter, a Year Book for the coming year is being prepared but will NOT be printed.

If you do not have internet access, we will be happy to send you a printed copy of the Year Book if you request one. Any other member who would like a printed copy can download the Year Book from our website, or request a copy by email, for printing at home.

We're off!

Here is a summary of our programme of excursions for the rest of this year.

19 August **Stratford on Avon**

10 September **Wells & Glastonbury**

28 September – 5 October **Croatia holiday**

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

10 November **Royal Albert Hall, Ballet and Russian Composers**

Joyce Cook

First Aid

Some of the venues we will be using during the coming year have requested that a qualified first aider be present.

If you are a trained first aider, or would be interested in doing the necessary training, please let us know. We are not asking for any formal commitment at this stage, just gauging potential interest.

Thank you.

Rod Marshall



WALKING FOOTBALL

More sessions of walking football have now been booked:

- Monday 16th August
- Thursday 2nd September
- Monday 13th September
- Thursday 7th October
- Monday 18th October
- Thursday 4th November
- Monday 15th November
- Thursday 2nd December
- Monday 13th December

If you are interested in playing Walking Football, please send an email to u3abasingstokewalkingfootball@gmail.com

Richard Field

Succession planning

Under the terms of our new Constitution, office bearers (Chair, Vice chair, Business Secretary and Treasurer) can only hold their position for three years. One of these (Vice chair) is vacant, and two others – secretary and treasurer – will need successors in a year's time. If you are interested in one of these roles, please let any committee member know. We are close to finalising job descriptions for the roles and will be happy to share these as soon as they are ready.

Rod Marshall

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.