

**NEWSLETTER – Summer 2022**

This is the first newsletter since our 2022 AGM. As many of you already know, there were significant changes to the make-up of the committee at the AGM, primarily due to the requirements of our Constitution. I would like to say another, final thank you to those who stepped down, and welcome our newcomers.

On this note, I am delighted to say that another member has joined our committee since the AGM. Liz Ilett, who only joined our u3a in April, has accepted the committee’s invitation to be co-opted until the 2023 AGM.

I would also like to thank our many Group Leaders for all they have done and continue to do to help our u3a thrive. We would be lost without them.

**Rod Marshall**

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**Membership renewal for 2022/23**

You should already have received from our Membership Secretary, Janice Vaughan, an invitation to renew your membership for the coming year. If it has not arrived, please let Janice, or any other committee member, know as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you back.

**Please note some committee members have new email addresses for u3a business. These are shown below and should be used from now on – thank you.**

Your committee		
Rod Marshall	Chairman	<a href="mailto:basingstokeu3achair@gmail.com">basingstokeu3achair@gmail.com</a>
Elaine Budd	Business Secretary	<a href="mailto:Elainesecu3abasingstoke@outlook.com">Elainesecu3abasingstoke@outlook.com</a>
Tony Summers	Treasurer	<a href="mailto:tonyjsummers@me.com">tonyjsummers@me.com</a>
Janice Vaughan	Membership Secretary	<a href="mailto:membersbasingu3a@gmail.com">membersbasingu3a@gmail.com</a>
Janet Field	Group Facilitator	<a href="mailto:groupsbasingstokeu3a@gmail.com">groupsbasingstokeu3a@gmail.com</a>
Richard Field	Systems Manager and Webmaster	<a href="mailto:rfield1952@gmail.com">rfield1952@gmail.com</a>
Madeline Hussey	Marketing	<a href="mailto:madeline.hussey@btinternet.com">madeline.hussey@btinternet.com</a>
Sue Seamour	Assets Manager	<a href="mailto:sue.seamour@ntlworld.com">sue.seamour@ntlworld.com</a>
Liz Ilett	Co-opted member	<a href="mailto:lizilettu3a@btinternet.com">lizilettu3a@btinternet.com</a>
Supported by:		
Brenda Austin	Minutes secretary	

Please send any general enquiries to:  
[basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com)

# MEET & GREET DAY

This is the new name introduced last year for what used to be known as our annual Enrolment Day. We want 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 that interest them. So come along - and bring a friend!

Wednesday, 14 September, 2 - 4 pm

Queen Mary's Hall, Queen Mary's Sixth Form College  
Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3HF

## Membership fees for 2022/23

Setting a budget for a u3a always involves some "guestimation", and this year it has been even trickier than normal, for two reasons.

1. Venues are under the same pressure as everyone else in respect of energy and other costs. Some have already told us what their charges will be for the coming year, but others have yet to do so.
2. HMRC is tightening up on the conditions attached to Gift Aid. We (and other u3as) will still be able to claim Gift Aid, but only on part of the membership fees rather than the whole amount.

As announced at the AGM, your committee has taken the decision to increase the fees for 2022/23 to £45, which continues to represent great value for money. Our budgetary estimate of costs for the coming year came to £57 per member, but our reserves allow us to charge less than this amount. Moreover, increasing the fees now reduces the likelihood of a much larger increase being needed in 2023.

## Monthly meetings

Thank you to the many members who responded to the email asking for views about the future of our monthly meetings. It is clear that these meetings are valued, and a few more members have agreed to help with them. We are therefore pleased to say these meetings will continue.

The committee is not resting on its laurels however. We have taken on board suggestions made by members and changes will be introduced, starting with the October meeting. (See page above for details about our September meeting.)

## Marketing

It is widely acknowledged that word of mouth is the most successful marketing method for u3as, and members would hardly be encouraging friends to join if they themselves did not value their membership. Please continue to bring our u3a to the attention of any friends who you think might be interested in what we offer.

We are getting frequent (and free!) mentions in various local papers and magazines. This has proved successful in bringing in new members and we intend to maintain this.

## Annual picnic

Following the success of the picnics last year and this, the committee has agreed that a summer picnic should become an annual event. We hope members will welcome this.

### New groups for 2022/23

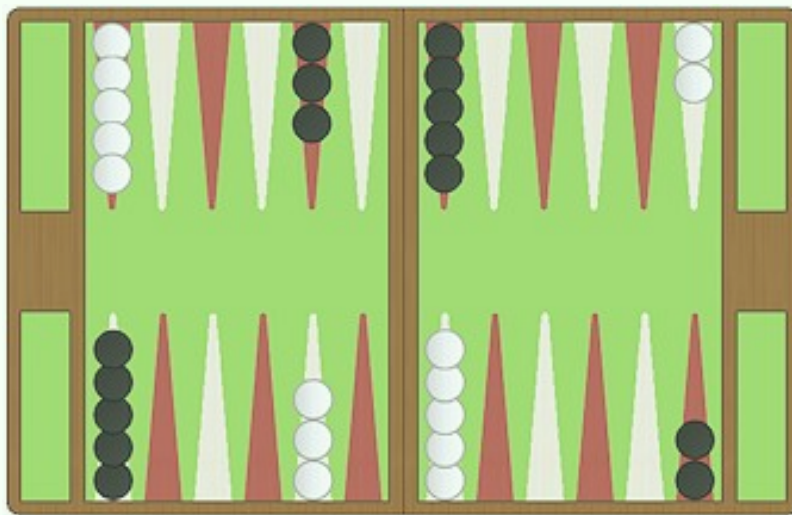
We have a few new groups starting in the coming months. The book club will start in October after a fantastic response from 87 members. A current affairs group has also had more than 50 positive responses, and a local history group is in its infancy. Details for these groups are being finalised and further information will be sent out to members as soon as possible.

We also have a proposal for a new backgammon group – see below.

We are very keen to increase the variety and number of our groups and members have made various suggestions for potential groups, including card games, chess and strollers/ramblers. We will look at the feasibility of these over the coming months. Of course, we also need members to lead these groups and want to offer as much support as we can.

If you have an idea that you would like us to consider, or would like to discuss becoming a group leader, please contact me.

**Janet Field, Group Facilitator**



### New backgammon group

We are delighted to say Jane Cleaver has offered to set up a new backgammon group.

Date	2nd Tuesday of the month
Time	10:00 am – 11:30/12:00; coffee halfway?
Place	Jane's home (near Viabes)
Expected level	Some knowledge of the game would be helpful
Delivery	Depending on numbers, we could play best of 3, then swap opponents. If there is an odd number, we would take turns sitting out.
Contact	Jane can be reached at <a href="mailto:janeclavier33@hotmail.com">janeclavier33@hotmail.com</a> , or ring our membership secretary or the chairman for Jane's telephone number.

### Keep in touch by:

emailing [basingstokey3aenquiries@gmail.com](mailto:basingstokey3aenquiries@gmail.com)

checking our website at [www.basingstokey3a.org](http://www.basingstokey3a.org)

joining in with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/Basingstokey3a](https://www.facebook.com/Basingstokey3a)

or, if you're not online, ring 07720 562842