

WEST WOLDS

u3a

"Learn, Laugh and Live"

Website: www.westwoldsu3a.org

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Hopefully May 17th will mean six people can meet up indoors so I can start small group rehearsals at the theatre. It may be that some of us will be able to entertain in our homes if we find it too wet or cold to sit outside. I hope this gradual relaxation of restrictions means that we can begin to enjoy some of our usual socializing with family and friends and that u3a activities can begin to restart in person rather than on Zoom or not at all. My upholstery group managed to meet up in the garden for a chat and that was so much fun after not seeing each other for many months. I hope you can find ways of restarting some of the groups you belong to and that by July many more of us will be able to meet at The Festival Hall.

Your continued support of our u3a is evidenced by the fact that 322 of you are members. Other u3a's have not been so fortunate and the Third Age Trust has encouraged everyone to recruit and retain members across the country, so you may see some extra publicity in the next few months. I hope to see many more of you soon.

Best wishes

Gail Dennis, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2021/22

West Wolds u3a's membership year runs from 1st September to 31st August, so it's that time of the year again when we start to think about Membership Renewal for the next year. At the beginning of the last 2020/21 year due to the pandemic lockdowns we decided to waive the membership fee as we weren't able to meet and take part in any group activities, other than using online meetings. In September the new 2021/2022 Membership year starts and we will begin collecting the fee which we have managed to keep at £17 for Individual Membership, £31 for Dual Membership and £11 for Associate Membership.

May2021 Newsletter

Issue 93

Thanks for all contributions, these are very well received, I will endeavour to get them in within the limited space available. *Terry Francis (Editor)*

newsletter@westwoldsu3a.org

To make things easier for us and yourselves during the lockdown and difficulties with social distancing in future Festival Hall meetings, even after the lockdown hopefully opens up in June, we have taken our Lloyds Accounts online so it is now possible to make payments using online banking, either by setting up a Standing Order or by Direct Debit (BACs) payment if you are able to do this. To this end we have modified the Membership Renewal form which can be downloaded from the West Wolds website to allow you to select how you wish to pay. Paying by Standing Order or Direct Debit (BACS) will help our u3a to keep costs down and reduce the work required by the Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

We are still able to accept cheques if you do not have online banking capabilities, and will accept cash at the General Meetings, although this is much harder to deal with now that the Lloyds branch in Market Rasen has closed for good. If you are unable to download the form and print it out to fill it in, we will have copies of the forms available at the meetings when we start again in July/August, or alternatively, if you contact me, I can send you a form in the post. All payments by cheque or Direct Debit etc. will require you to add your Membership number so that we can refer the payment back to you, we will also send you an email containing your number, please take note of this for the future.

When you pick up your new Membership card after payment has been made at a meeting, it will have this number on it. If you need to you can always contact Jane Guy, Membership Secretary who will be pleased to help.

There is a second page to the form which has a Standing Order Mandate section which we will use to set a Standing Order up with your bank, plus a section to fill in to for Gift Aid Declaration.

Terry Francis, Treasurer

treasure@westwoldsu3a.org

THANK YOU

A big thank you to Margaret Foster for all the years of hard work she put into organising the refreshments at our monthly meetings. We hope to see her attending meetings where she can just enjoy herself. Best wishes from myself and the committee and good luck to Rachel Telfer who is taking over.

Gail Dennis

CALLING ALL REFRESHMENTS VOLUNTEERS

The monthly u3a meetings will be re-starting on Thursday July 8th, and I would be grateful if you could contact me if you are able to help with the serving of hot drinks or washing/drying the pots.

Rachel. 01673 844244

Or email: racheltelfer1@hotmail.co.uk

Rachel Telfer

CALLING ALL GREETERS

With the monthly u3a meetings hopefully restarting in July, I will be looking for greeters past and present to help with escorting members to their tables.

Contact - Caroline on 01673 844142

Or email: ginger.mike29@btinternet.com

Caroline Dale

CALLING ALL GROUP CONVENORS

Could group convenors help us to publicise the u3a? We hope to have a stall at the Gardeners' Market in Market Rasen on Saturday 3rd July. It would be lovely to have examples of your activities on display. We will have display boards and a table top area suitable for displaying objects. We hope to have a new banner and bunting to help us make an impact on the day.

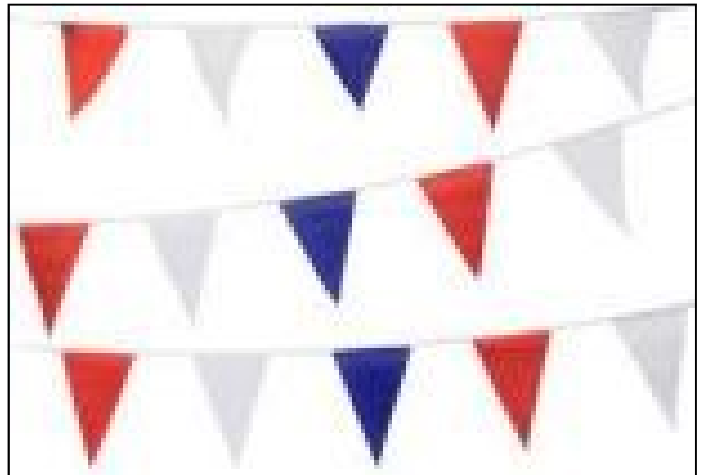
If members could help man the stall on a rota and talk about their particular interests that would be very helpful and give prospective new members a real sense of what we do. We will be emphasising our friendly approach and that we welcome new members.

We propose to hold a Convenors' Meeting on 24th June, 10am-12 noon-details to follow. If you would like a particular item to be discussed please let us know.

Gail Dennis

CALLING ALL CRAFTERS!

As mentioned above we are arranging to have a stall at the Gardeners' Market in July and need bunting to decorate it.



Do you have the skills to make some? It can be traditional fabric, pom-poms, knitted or crocheted, anything you like and we will provide the materials in the specific u3a colours.



Please let me know if you can help. Thank You.

Sharon Rupp

secretary@westwoldsu3a.org

OUR NEXT ONLINE SPEAKER - THURSDAY 10TH JUNE AT 10.30AM

BANDA ACEH, AFTER THE WAVES

Jim Holmes is a documentary photographer and works with charities mainly, travelling the world.

December 2004 saw a massive undersea earthquake send a wave of water over 20 Metres high rushing towards the Sumatran coast, in western Indonesia. Jim was assigned to document the disaster and the massive unfolding relief effort, returning many times over the next 10 years. His dramatic images were used worldwide by Oxfam, the UN and other agencies to illustrate the disaster, the need and the successes of the intervention that saved countless lives.

This month the talk will be given via Zoom and a link will be sent nearer the time - check your inbox.

Sharon Rupp – Speaker Finder

PROPOSED SPEAKER PROGRAM 2021/22

12th August - Nigel MacKnight 'Being an Author'

Nigel takes us through his interesting life as an author on everything that moves - cars, boats, planes etc. including experiences with the Red Arrows, and brings us up-to-date on his 20 year project to build and pilot the boat to beat **Donald Campbell's Water Speed Record**.

9th September - John Nowell 'A Day Above Lincolnshire'

John spent 19 years in the RAF and a further 25 flying in the Middle East. He and a friend entered the 'Dawn To Dusk' flying competition and flew 8 hours in a Cessna 150 all over Lincolnshire taking photographs between dawn and dusk to form a new book, 'A Day Above Lincolnshire'. They won an award from the patron of the competition, HRH The Prince Phillip who they were invited down to the Palace to meet.

14th October - Staying Safe Online - Lincs Police Cybercrime Unit

Cyber crime is an 'umbrella' term for lots of different types of crimes which either take place online or where technology is a means and/or target for the attack. It is one of the fastest growing criminal activities across the world, and can affect both individuals and businesses. PC Harry

Lancaster will show us how to spot it and how to keep safe.

11th November - AGM

Performances by two of our Groups: The Turkish Delight Desert Dancers combining dance with some fun appearances from Abdul the Slave with his camels, and the Sultan; and depending on Covid rules at the time, hopefully The West Wolds Warblers will sing along to a selection of songs from the 40's, 50's, 60's and 70's and invite you to join in.

9th December - Mark Walsh 'Here's a Funny Thing'

A return visit from Mark Walsh and his ukulele giving a talk on the history of Music Hall and Variety. Music Hall started in London in the late 1830's and evolved into Variety in the 1920's. Variety continued as a main form of entertainment until the early 1960's. Mark is very proud to have been one of the 'Chairman' at the World Famous City Varieties Music Hall in Leeds, home of 'The Good Old Days'.

Sharon Rupp – Speaker Finder

SECRETARY FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD REQUIRED

The East Lincs Neighbourhood (ELN) meets 3 times per year and consists of 8 u3a's from Louth to Boston (West Wolds included). The purpose of the ELN is to enable U3As to work together to help them meet their objectives by cooperative activities usually involving discussion and sharing of experiences, and also to propose and vote for their representative on the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the Third Age Trust. The Regional Trustee provides a means of communication to the NEC.

The current Secretary steps down in November and a replacement is being sought. The role of the Secretary is to book the hall, bring refreshments, take, write and distribute the minutes, and forward any communications received from the Regional Trustee or National Office to the other members within the ELN.

Full handover briefing will be given, and shadowing is available from the current Secretary. The meetings are usually held in Belchford Village Hall 3 times per year so this is not an onerous task.

Please contact me if you are interested or would like more information: secretary@westwoldsu3a.org
Sharon Rupp

TECHNOLOGY DURING THE PANDEMIC



At the beginning of April I emailed our members asking for their experiences of using technology during the pandemic and I received an excellent response. The comments I received clearly indicate that far from being technophobes, many of our members are embracing technology and reaping the benefits.

Many of you have undertaken a whole range of online functions as follows: shopping, doctor facilities, make hospital appointments, banking and paying bills.

You have undertaken learning via Zoom and used YouTube for their “How to” videos. The u3a German group continue their language learning online. Zoom has become a new word in our lexicon and you have used it to keep in contact with family and friends.

Here are a few quotes from our members:

"I could go two or three days and not see anybody face to face but never felt lonely because I could easily contact someone"

“...I’m getting slightly bored with it now and look forward to actually meeting friends in person again.”

“...not exactly a technophobe before lockdown I realised I had to overcome my fears if I was to keep in touch with family and friends.”

“Tried to do online group sessions but some struggled to join in.”

The range of applications in use is very wide and it was pleasantly surprising to see how many of us have adapted – needs must. It does make me wonder about those who have missed out and

continue to be disadvantaged because of a fear of technology. Once lockdown is over and we are allowed to meet in peoples homes maybe we should set up technology workshops so that the majority of our members feel confident in getting the most from the internet.

If you have any thoughts, questions, or comments,
please let me know: webadmin@westwoldsu3a.org.

Stephen McCarthy

SHOPPING ONLINE

With lots of small shops shutting
And pub sales that are stopping
Where am I supposed to do
All my favourite shopping.

I know I've got a PC
And I know it's not the best
But when the virus came along
I put it to the test.

I ordered loads of food
I ordered loads of drink
I didn't like that last wine
So I poured it down the sink

Something for the garden
 Something for the border
 And post and packing's free
 With every single order

Time to tidy up the house
I ordered lots of paint
I finished one room in a day
My wife thought me a saint

I've ordered far too much
With orders big and small
My only problem now
Is where to put it all

I'll have to buy a bigger house
I'm really in a fix
I wonder if I go online
Yes there's always Purple Bricks.

Alan James

A GARDENER'S LAMENT

(with a nod to Pam Ayres)

The frost has killed me fuschias
They look brown, brittle and bare
The frost has killed me fuschias
It caught me unaware.

I've given them nice hot drinks
And wrapped them up all warm,
But nothing can now save them,
The bees no longer swarm.

They cannot brighten with their colour,
Me drab small patch of ground
Nor hide me wheelie bins as well
As standing strong and sound.

Brian Ward

THE COST OF THE INTERNET

When I have finished my online grocery shopping and click on 'checkout', I am always surprised when the supermarket tells me that I have forgotten baked beans or that my favourite brand of tea is on offer this week. I find this quite scary but also very useful.

The internet has been a godsend during the pandemic. As well as food, I have bought trees, a kettle, paving stones and a new bathroom. I have downloaded books, music, films and recipes to keep me occupied. But best of all I have connected to family and friends on Zoom - doing a quiz, catching up with gossip or improving my mind with the entertaining U3A talks.

But all this does come at a cost to the planet. The energy needed to send an email or do a single internet search is quite small, but 4.1 billion people, 54% of the global population use the internet. Research estimates that the carbon footprint of our gadgets, the internet and the storage of all this data accounts for 3.7% of greenhouse gases, similar to that produced by the airline industry. And this is expected to double by 2025.

When we use the internet, data centres and vast servers are needed to support the internet and store all the data and this generates 1.6 billion tonnes of greenhouse gases. Some data centres are powered by renewable energy but many still use energy from fossil fuels.

Many people do not realise that their online activity is harming the planet, but making small changes to how we use the internet and our smart phones can make a difference.

Sending a text message is the most environmentally friendly way of staying in touch. A text generates 0.014g of CO₂, an email or social media such as Facebook around 4g and an email with a photo or an attachment 50g.

Using a phone on a mobile network uses twice as much energy as on a wireless network so wait until you get home to look at YouTube videos or jokes on WhatsApp.

Avoid unnecessary emails. If every adult in the UK sent one less 'thank you' email, that would be the equivalent of taking over 3000 diesel cars off the road. Also, unsubscribe from all those online shops you have used during the pandemic.

Hang on to your phone, tablet or laptop for a year longer. Making and transporting a new phone needs as much energy as using a smart phone for a decade.

It will be an easy task for us to make a few changes. Unfortunately, it could be an impossible task to persuade our grandchildren to do the same!

Anna Ettridge

A RHYMING QUIZ

All the answers to the clues below rhyme
For example

Round green vegetables (Brussel Sprouts) –
Founded by Baden Powell (Boy Scouts)

1. William Makepeace Thackeray book – US State
2. Prince Charles – Chaucer Stories
3. Leonardo da Vinci painting – Italian Campanile
4. Dad's Army – Sent for an anniversary
5. Home of Scottish monster - Dick Turpin's Horse
6. 1990's Snooker TV programme - Tchaikovsky Ballet
7. Tess Daly's husband – Former Prime Minister
8. Song bird - Where you will find Speaker's Corner
9. Vulpes Vulpes – Star gazing professor
10. Wimbledon champion – English County

Marion Blackstock

Changes of Circumstance

If you have any changes of circumstance, e.g. change of address, telephone or email, or a death of a member, please let the Groups Co-ordinator and Membership Secretary know by phone or email.

COMMITTEE & MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES 2021

Chairman, Safeguarding Officer And General Meeting Coordinator

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chairman@westwoldsu3a.org

Vice Chairman

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Treasurer

Terry Francis Tel: 01673 842088

treasurer@westwoldsu3a.org

Business Secretary, Speaker Finder and Secretary to

East Lincs. Neighbourhood

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eastlincs@westwoldsu3a.org

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Greeters Coordinator

Caroline Dale Tel: 01673 844142

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