

Hi Everyone

March came in not so much like a lion but with the usual unpredictable weather. At least we are surrounded by a wonderful display of daffodils, with enough breeze to have them dancing as Wordsworth described!

Last month was of course our AGM when the committee was re-elected en bloc. I am glad to report that Josie baker has also volunteered to join us and survived her first committee meeting relatively unscathed.

This month, our first speaker of this new programme will be Dr. Bob King, who will be discussing "The Magic of Glass", including its many uses in projects such as Cocorde, Big Jets and Flat screen TV! This should be a very revealing talk on a material we perhaps take for granted!

Refreshments will be provided by Country Dancing.

At this the start of a new year, can I take this opportunity to emphasise what our U3A can do for you, and what you can do for our U3A. We have had 15 very successful years, but we should not be sitting back on our laurels, and I hope that we can push forward and reinvigorate our U3A across the board.

We believe we have a great selection of speakers for our GM's this year so please come along and hear them and meet your fellow members. The more the merrier!

Our Interest Groups are mostly doing well but some are in need of more support; Country Dancing, Rambling, Petanque and Ukelele for instance. I would also like to see some new IG's, to broaden our range and to stretch our brains. We have many members who perhaps have an idea for a group; let us know, shout up. I have a few suggestions to throw in, like Art History Study, Philosophy, Creative Literary group for writers, a new language group, [French 2, Italian]. I could go on but won't; over to you!!

And what about trips, days out, holidays etc. Many other U3A's do it. Should we?

It has been pointed out to me by Lesley, that in your U3A magazine there are many opportunities for discounts from shops, on holidays and much more. A reason to read it a little more closely perhaps.

Finally [you all declare!], Xmas. Last December approx. 70 of us again had lunch at Maxstoke which was once again much appreciated by those there. However, we do need to make a decision for this year asap. I am aware that about half of our members didn't want to attend, and that those who can't make the GM need to have a say. So, I am asking now for anyone to let me know if you are in favour of this arrangement once again this year. If not, what would you prefer. I will take a poll at the meeting next week also but really need to hear from a broad consensus. PLEASE let me know.

In the interests of fairness, we have decided that if Maxstoke goes ahead, there will be no subsidy from the funds.

Don't forget that subs are now due at £20 per person and can be paid in all the usual ways, including at the meeting next week.

So, I hope to see many of you next Monday 16th at the usual time!

Peter

Committee 26-27

Chair	Peter Walker
Secretary	Lesley Knight
Treasurer	John Cameron
Membership Sec	Rita Carter
Speaker Sec	Andrew Robinson
Speaker Administrator	Joan Wilson
Webmaster	Gert Bakker
Interest Groups	Tony Vellam
New Members	Gill Day
Committee	Dot Lowe
	Josie Baker