

Bournemouth
learn, laugh, live **u3a**

Spring 2022



Despite all the uncertainties in life there is plenty going on.

A visit to the Arundel Tulip Festival
An outing to Manston old Rectory - Sturminster Newton
Uni-Sing Concert
The Jubilee Concert
Coffee Mornings
Crazy Golf
Ten-Pin Bowling
Lunches
Walks

Notes From The Chair

Hello everyone, I do hope you've all kept well during the long winter months and are now looking forward to Spring, bringing longer evenings and warmer weather. I'm sure we're all in need of some sunshine, especially after the horrendous storms we had in February!.

Hopefully (dare I say it....!) there appears to be light at the end of the long Covid tunnel. Businesses and organisations are returning to a new normality, but an awful lot of them have been hit hard by the impact of the pandemic, and unfortunately we are not exempt from that.

Membership numbers have reduced considerably over the last two years, posing a real threat to our existence (see Treasurer's article; page 3). Without getting back to our pre Covid membership numbers it would be impossible for us to carry on, particularly with the high cost of our venues, who of course have also suffered financially. To enable us to continue, the committee have had some tough decisions to make. It hasn't been easy, and we've had many meetings and discussions on how best we can ensure the survival of our organisation. One of those decisions has been to increase the membership fee to £60.00. If you consider this is less than a cup of coffee a week for the 29 weeks we run, then this is still exceptional value for money. An over 60's Pilates class locally is charging £60 for a 6 week course, payable up front. For the same cost our members have access to a whole host of activities for 29 weeks, as well as the opportunity to attend all the social events we run.

However, this increase alone will not get us out of danger, we need more members. This is where all of you can help. If everyone went on a mission to recruit one member, that would have a huge impact on our future success. Without an increase in membership numbers, we would have to consider significantly curtailing the number and variety of groups.

Bournemouth u3a is run completely by volunteers, without them, we could not operate. Remember, the u3a is run "by the members for the members" and relies completely on volunteers. We currently have several vacancies, not being able to fill these positions is another threat to our organisation. We urgently need a Vice Chair, also a person with IT skills to assist and support the committee, as well as volunteers to work in the office. If you think you can help, please do get in touch by email to chair@bournemouthu3a.org.uk, or officemanager@bournemouthu3a.org.uk, or call the office and leave your contact details. We would love to hear from you and have an informal chat about how you can get involved.

On a more positive note, we have a few social events already organised for Spring and Summer and hope to see some of you there. It's been a long and difficult two years since the pandemic started, let's make the most of the future!

Pat Ley

Treasurer's Report

Bournemouth U3A Financial Position

For the 2020/21 Financial Year to 30th June 2021, thanks to the 725 U3A members who contributed a £10 subscription, we ended the year with a small surplus of £231.

Our Reserves, including £14,118 deferred income, totalled around £46,000 at the beginning of the current 2021/22 financial year. However, we are forecasting a deficit of £17,500 in the year which is due to the drop in membership of 350 from 1150 pre-covid to 800 this year. This will reduce Reserves to £28,500 by 30th June 2022.

Due to increases in Accommodation costs, already indicated to us, the deficit is likely to increase to be at least £20,000 in the 2022/23 Financial Year if no action is taken. This would reduce Reserves to only £8,500.

The following options are being considered:

Increase Membership Fees – The Committee will be recommending an increase to £60 p.a. for next year (just over £2 per activity week). This would contribute **£7,500** increased income if there was no reduction in Membership numbers but could be much less if we lose members. Don't forget that if you pay tax and complete a "Gift Aid Declaration" we will be able to claim a further £15 from HMRC.

Increase Membership Numbers - Conduct a marketing campaign to attract new members who have retired in the last two years and to recover some of the 350 former U3A members who have not renewed. Your support in promoting the U3A will be greatly appreciated. We will be putting procedures in place to ensure that groups can accommodate and welcome more new members. A 10% increase in the membership could contribute **£4,000** after marketing costs.

Apply for Grants – A grant application for **£5,000** has been made to Dorset Community Foundation - Neighbourhood Fund. We will continue to look for opportunities to apply for further grants which may be available.

Donations and Legacies – Thanks to Sandra Marks for the donation in memory of her husband **Alan Marks** and to the **late Margaret Jordan** who remembered us in her will with a legacy. Also to other members who have made donations from £5 to £1,000. All donations however small are greatly appreciated.

Reduce Costs

Accommodation Costs – Many Groups are running at a deficit. We will be discussing with Group Leaders what changes we may have to make to current procedures in order to reduce these losses.

Newsletter Costs – Save costs by reducing the number of issues or publishing online

Treasurer' Assessment

If we are successful with the grant application the Treasurer's assessment is that the above measures should buy us sufficient time to begin to build membership numbers and restore the U3A to a sound financial position. However, we will not know until this September, when the majority of membership income has been received for 2022/23, whether this has been achieved. In the event that we fail to increase membership it will be necessary to have a contingency plan available for immediate implementation.

It should be stressed that:

- 1) changes to courses will not be implemented until September 2022**
- 2) Bournemouth U3A has sufficient funds to continue operating until at least June 2023**

2022/23 Brochure and Newsletter Distribution

For various reasons, it has been decided that we will not be holding a Gala at Friends Meeting House this June.

However, you will be able to collect your 2022/2023 Brochure and Summer Newsletter from

**Friends Meeting House, 16 Wharnccliffe Rd,
Boscombe, Bournemouth BH5 1AH on Wednesday
June 22nd between 9.45 – 10.45** in the Margaret
Fell Room.



They will also be available for collection from
**Moordown Community Centre, 21 Coronation Ave,
Bournemouth BH9 1TW, on Thursday June 23rd between 10.00 – 12.00**

As these dates are during term time, please be aware car parking space may be limited.

If at all possible please come along and collect your Brochure and Newsletter, it will help to keep the cost of postage to a minimum. Any not collected will be sent to you by second class post. Remember, every little helps!

News from the Groups

NEW GROUP

Evolution of Religion

Wednesday 2.30 – 4.00 FMH(MFR) Leader: Neil Meldrum

Humankind has evolved as a species with unique spiritual insights. I want to try and follow this fascinating human story from the very beginnings of human consciousness, perhaps hundreds of thousands of years ago, down to the organised and sophisticated world religions of more recent times. I am hoping to run a series of sessions in the spring and summer terms looking at the evolution and development of spiritual and religious awareness, custom and tradition in all of humankind. Not a small subject, but if you feel that this might be of interest to you and that you would relish some lively discussion come and join me. We will be meeting at Friends Meeting House from 2.30 to 4 pm on Wednesday afternoon starting on Wednesday 19 January until Wednesday 16 March with a one week's break during this spring term; and then throughout into the summer term, probably with a couple of breaks.

Should anyone be interested please email me at neil@pacalproperties.co.uk

Chess

It was with delight that I learnt that our Absolute Beginner Class was oversubscribed,

We decided to accommodate all the September applicants. At times I wondered if I had allowed enough for individual help to be provided, but we cope happily. However, I shall definitely cap the group numbers at 12 for the new course next September.

The Improver Chess Group is for anyone who already knows the moves but could do with some pointers for strategy and tactics. Course notes can be had on disc or can be sent by internet – useful for revision or catch-up. The Improver course is presented at two levels, each on alternate weeks. There are so many interesting themes that generate intrigue.

The intention is for each subset to play Chess every other week. To some Chess seems very dusty and academic, but we look for enjoyment and vigour.

Since 2010, when I began to run Chess for Bournemouth u3a, a few members have gone on to Club Chess level and now play in league games. That is fine, and we have been very pleased to know these folk. However, our aim at u3a is Social Chess. Learn, laugh, live! We certainly do that.

Why not put us on your Check List for next year? *Christopher Thomas*

Two Summer term 2022 courses

Tuesdays, 10.15 – 11.45, MCC

21 Ultimate Questions

As human beings we have a fundamental need to understand who we are and the world we live in. Reason takes us a long way, but mystery remains. The philosopher Bryan Magee asks the *Ultimate Questions* in his last book, and invites us to think about topics that take us to the boundaries of our understanding. Though they show up our human predicament they challenge us to examine our lives and the views we have formed over a lifetime. Participants will need the highly recommended reader we are going to use for discussions: *Ultimate Questions* by Brian McGee.

No prior knowledge needed.

Everybody is invited, even if you have not attended previous courses at this time and place.

Esther

Wednesdays, 10.30 – 12.00, MCC

51 Philosophy of the Mind

I experience the working of the mind but not its being. I can see the being of the brain, but its working does not tell me what it is about. Is there more to us than neurons, because there is such a thing as the mind? We don't merely secrete brain chemicals; we also think thoughts. We use our brain to think the thoughts of our mind. These are all questions about our self, the "I" or the "me", our identity, our mind.

What is the relationship of the mind to the brain? In her book, 'Absence of Mind', Marilyn Robinson points out "Whoever controls the definition of the mind controls the humankind itself." These and similar questions we want to explore in this one-off- course. If you are interested in these questions, just join us on Wednesday mornings.

Esther

Whilst our U3A doesn't do a formal computer tech. course, there must be *someone* out there amongst our many hundreds of members who is *au fait* with using an Android smartphone and patient enough to explain it!

Anyone willing to help? Please contact the editor 07759 967046



Meet the Mailchimp lady



Have you ever wondered who sends out the Mailchimps which give us up to date information on events such as Lunching Round the World, vacancies in groups and other upcoming events? If so, we are delighted for you to meet June. She is the new, friendly face behind this important job.

A recent member of Bournemouth u3a, June nevertheless volunteered to do the Mailchimps when the previous lady moved to Somerset. Her background is in office administration, and she is using these talents to support us. This is one less job for our committee who all have

their assigned roles. June is also an office volunteer.

You all know the saying, “if you want something done, ask a busy person,” well that’s June, as she is involved with several other charities and organisations around the Bournemouth area.

We need more people like June to help out “behind the scenes.” If you think you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact the office Manager, June Arthur, via email: officemanager@bournemouthu3a.org.uk Or phone the office 01202 420700 and someone will get back to you.

In particular, it would help if someone with a knowledge of IT could shadow June for a while. Then, when she goes on holiday, she knows that members will still receive Mailchimps.

Lunching Around the World with Bob Hucklesby

FRIDAY 18 MARCH, “Kala Thai”, 12.30 onwards Horseshoe Common, 127 Old Christchurch Road. BH1 1EP

Monday 25 April, “Bellagio’s Pizza Restaurant, 12.30 at 295-299 Wimborne Road. Winton, BH9 2AA

International Folk Dance Group - A Day of Dance



40 members attended 'A Day of Dances from around the World' from 11.00 to 15.00 at the Beaufort Centre on Tuesday, 2 November 2021.

The guest teachers were Phil and Brenda Steventon from Surrey (inset). Both have over 25 years experience of teaching International Folk Dance and are members of the Society of International Folk Dancing (SIFD). During the covid lock down they ran twice weekly zoom dance classes which proved very popular, attracting participants from a wide area.

The large airy room at the Beaufort Centre was well ventilated and social distancing was encouraged. The resurfaced wooden floor proved to be excellent for folk dancing!

The day comprised two workshops with an optional bring and share lunch. There was the opportunity to participate in one workshop or both. The dances were from several countries including Portugal, China and Israel. Some were performed in a circle, with others in sets and line formations.

All the dances were 'walked through' one or more times and there was a great deal of laughter, particularly when the steps didn't go quite right!

A brilliant day with lots of smiles, the opportunity to meet other members, learn something new and, perhaps most importantly, **ENJOY!**

Folk dancing is a sociable exercise assisting in increased fitness and co-ordination. If you are interested in trying out International Folk Dancing then you are welcome to come along to the Friends' Meeting House, Boscombe on a Tuesday morning.

Janet Mason

New members are always welcome – please bring flat, soft shoes.
For more information please contact: Janet Mason on 01202 433121.

janetmason22@gmail.com

BOOKING FORM - JUBILEE CONCERT

Saturday 18 June - 2.00 - 4.00

At NEW CHURCH, Tuckton Road, Southbourne BH3 6HT

Please reserve meplace(s) at the concert, I enclose my cheque for

£..... (£6 per head)

NAME.....

Phone No or Email.....

.....

Please make your cheque payable to **Bournemouth U3A** and send with your booking form and a small SAE for your ticket to

Ian Peters, Bournemouth U3A, 33a Stourfield Road, Bournemouth, BH5 2AR

COVID REMINDER

The Government has announced that compulsory isolation for people with COVID will be lifted as from Thursday 24 February.

However, it has been made clear by scientists that the threat of COVID among the most vulnerable people in our society is still something we should all take seriously.

We would ask everyone to please ensure you do not attend any group or social event if you have any cold or flu-like symptoms. Such symptoms may well be COVID and could be passed on to someone with potentially serious consequences.

Please also continue to following Covid safety regulations still imposed by our venues.

We must do all we can to protect each other. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.



Cycling, Walking and Rambling



The Occasional Walkers Group

Leader Alastair Moir, aided and abetted by John Langmead

Medium paced walk 4.5 - 6 miles

For more info contact Alastair Moir aim@coastside.co.uk

Hiking/Rambling Group, Leader David Cox

Medium paced. Not suitable for those who prefer a slow walk.

Monthly sociable walks exploring our beautiful area are normally on 1st or 2nd Thursday of month. During the past year we attempted a few walks successfully in groups of 6. **Note: Walks are limited to those within the group which is presently full with a waiting list.** This is partly to allow those group members a chance at walking which they missed over the last year. We usually meet at the walk starting point at 10:15AM and expect to finish with a picnic lunch or possibly lunch/snack in a country pub or similar. Walks are around **4.75 - 6.75 miles**. Info on forthcoming walks is emailed to group members monthly. David Cox tex3004@gmail.com for group details.

CYCLING GROUP - Leader Archie Hoggan

Meet at 10.00 every Thursday at Gloucester Road,

Park end by Wessex Indoor Bowls.

Cycle for about an hour with a break at a café or similar before returning.

**A Visit to the Gardens of the Old Rectory, Manston
near Sturminster Newton on
Wednesday 20 July 2022**



This year we're going to the heart of Dorset to visit a 5 acre garden which includes a walled garden, an herbaceous border, a wild area and more. The garden is on the level with paths all the way around. We hope to arrive between 2.00 and 2.30 pm and, depending on the weather, we would like to return around 4.30pm. The cost will be £20 per person, which includes coach travel, gratuity to the driver, admission to the garden and tea and cake. Should the weather be adverse, refreshments will be under cover. Plants will be available to purchase.

Pick up points are:

- No 1 - 12.30 Bell Inn) (opposite Pokesdown Station)
- No 2 - 12.35 Boscombe (Bus Station)
- No 3 - 12.45 Lansdowne (near bus stop by college)
- No 4 - 12.50 Outside Homeoaks, Wimborne Road
- No 5 - 12.55 Westbourne (opposite the Bingo Hall)

If you're interested in joining Audrey and I, please fill in the booking form below:
PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS ONLY

Name.....

Email Address

Telephone

Number of seats.....@ £20 equals £..... Pick up point No(1 – 5)

Ticket includes, gratuity to the driver, admission to garden, tea/coffee and cake.

Cheque payable to: **Bournemouth U3A** and sent to
Alan Kneller, 180 Harewood Avenue, Bournemouth, BH7 7BG.

Any queries phone 01202 394386

A receipt will only be sent if you enclose a stamped addressed envelope.
Otherwise you'll receive a phone call or an email confirming your booking.

Social Report

After a challenging two years we have good reason to hope for better times ahead. Most groups are getting back to normal and we can think about socialising more. At last!

We have several events arranged for the Easter break and into the summer term and we hope that many of you will feel like venturing out again and joining us.

Looking further ahead to the summer break, and maybe some really settled and sunny weather (!), the best tonic will be lots to look forward to. We already have some thoughts of course, but if you have any good ideas we would love to hear from you; we could do with the variety. If you want to talk over your ideas first, just get in touch.

John Oram



TEN PIN BOWLING

When a strike is something to be celebrated

Monday 28 March At Hollywood Bowl, (Bowplex), Branksome.

Another long-awaited return! As usual, please arrive promptly at 11.00 so that we can organise a group for each lane and all start together at 11.15. As our session will be in school term time we get a concessionary rate.

Bowling shoes are available for hire but ordinary footwear is perfectly acceptable. No need to book, just turn up and by all means bring a friend if you wish. If you don't feel like playing just come along and watch and have a chat. Enjoy the fun and there is a coffee bar.

There is plenty of parking on site and of course many buses pass the door.

John Oram

CRAZY GOLF (Mini Golf)

&

**COFFEE MORNING at The Garden Deli opposite
Given some decent weather this could be a lot of fun.**



**Wednesday 30 March - Lower Gardens,
Bournemouth**

(12 holes are accessible for those with reduced mobility.)

The cost is £5.50 for a round of 18 holes.

**Arrive anytime between 10.30 and 11.30
and we will go round in small groups.**

Refreshments are available at an adjacent open air stall (with seating) so a good chance to meet other members and make a morning of it.

If in any doubt about the weather, phone 01202 309229 to check whether the course is open.

John Oram



NEXT 'COFFEE CLUB' DATE

**Our next Coffee Club morning will be held at the Cliff House Hotel,
13 Belle Vue Rd, Southbourne BH6 3DA
on Thursday 24th March from 10.30 – 12.00
Yellow Bus number 1 and MoreBus M2 stop very near
(alight at Tuckton Road)
there is also free parking on the road locally**



We hope that you can join us, and we look forward to a friendly get-together over the beverage of your choice

If you are new to Bournemouth u3a, please make yourself known to Pat on the day.

(There's no need to phone the office)

Important Dates for your diary

18 March, Lunch at Kala Thai, 12.30

22 March, Uni-sing at MCC 14.00

24 March, CoffeeClub at Cliff House Hotel 10.30

28 March, Bowling at Bowlplex 11.00

30 March, Crazy Golf and Coffee in Lower Gardens 10.30

7 April, Coach Trip to Arundel Tulip Festival

21 April, Occasional Walkers

25 April, Lunch at Bellagio's, 12.30

19 May, Occasional Walkers

16 June, Occasional Walkers

18 June, Jubilee Concert, New Church, at 14.00

22 June 09.45-10.45 2022/2023 Brochure available at
Friends Meeting House

23 June 10.00 - 12.00. 2022/2023 Brochure available at
Moordown Community Centre

20 July, (from 12.30) Coach Trip to Manston Old Rectory, Sturminster Newton

21 July, Occasional Walkers

The U3A holiday to Tuscany in Italy will take place between 3rd and 17th July.
Unfortunately, this trip is fully booked due to the cancelled 2021 dates.
However, if you are interested for 2023 then contact
margaretronchetti@hotmail.com.

JUBILEE CONCERT

Saturday 18 June 2022 2 - 4 pm

at New Church



Tuckton Road/Carbery Avenue, Southbourne BH6 3HT

As our contribution to celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, we invite members and their friends to join us at this special concert.

We will sing a range of popular songs such as; Country Road, Bridge Over Troubled Water, Something Inside So Strong, California Blue

Join in when you want (it will be difficult to resist!) or just sit back and enjoy.



There will be a refreshment break and a raffle

We had a lot of support at one of our concerts with an audience of well over a 100 but we are limited to just 80 at this venue so it would be a good idea to get your booking in as soon as you can.

Admittance £6 - All proceeds will go to our U3A funds - Ian Peters

Any enquiries to me at seagreen@talktalk.net



We look forward to your company

Booking Form Page 9

Type to enter text

UNI-SING

presents
a concert of songs through the decades
and from popular musicals

Tuesday
22nd March 2022
2pm

Free Admission

Refreshments available

Retiring CASH donations to
U3A and MCC funds

Moordown Community Centre
Coronation Avenue
Moordown
Bournemouth
BH9 1TW

We look forward to a fun afternoon
and your generous support

