Dear Member

June 2020

Chairman's Newsletter

Hope you are all keeping well and that it will not be too long before we can restart our group activities, although I know most of the members of our groups have been in regular contact with each other which is great.

Our AGM was held at Eccles Town Hall on Friday 17th January 2020 when 101 members attended. Thanks to all who attended. The new Committee for 2020 was unanimously elected for a further year and contact details are shown below:

Chairman Marlene Evans 0161 790 9380
Email: marlene.evans@virginmedia.com
Treasurer Brian Pearson 07717 494767
Email: brianpearson346@gmail.com
Secretary Mary McBride 07769 603293
Email: marytmcbride51@gmail.com
Group Co-ordinator John Newton 0161 281 0758
Email: john.newton313@ntlworld.com
Membership Secretary Ken Ball 0161 288 5860
Email: kandjmball74@hotmail.com
Gift Aid Secretary Mark Child 0161 478 7643
Email: mark.child@chem.ox.ac.uk
Social Secretaries Ken & Janet Ball 0161 288 5860
Email: kandjmball74@hotmail.com
Minutes Secretary Beverley Robinson 0161 691 0963
Email: beverley.mrobinson@gmail.com
Speakers Secretary Fred Brookes 0161 789 6615
Email: brookes.jdf@ntlworld.com
Shadow Treasurer Mark Child 0161 478 7643
Email: mark.child@chem.ox.ac.uk
Shadow Membership Secretary Janet Ball 0161 288 5860
Email: kandjmball74@hotmail.com
Committee Member Judith Gibson 0161 788 9173
Email: judithoap@yahoo.co.uk
Committee Member Bill Newham 0161 794 8848
Email: billnew17@gmail.com
Web Site Guy Besley 0161 728 3598
( not on Committee) Email: guy.besley@btinternet.com
Sad to report that two of our members have passed away recently - David Burns and Jim Mellor.

**NEW MEMBERS – COFFEE MORNINGS**

We started these at the beginning of last year to invite new members to come along and get to know more about Salford U3A in a very informal atmosphere with no more than 6/7 members attending. Judith Gibson (one of our Committee members) and myself attended these and we had a very good response from these new members so we will continue with these once the current restrictions are over.

**RESERVE FUND**

After the success of the Wellbeing Fund and the very positive comments we have received on how the money for speakers etc. has enhanced what our members get out of our groups, the Committee have agreed that this should continue for 2020 and will be covered by our funds. I am sure that the Convenors of the groups that you attend will be discussing this with you when the groups restart, if not already done so before lockdown.

**FRIDAY MORNING SOCIAL MEETINGS - details on our website (www.salfordu3a.com)**

The meetings in January and February did go ahead very successfully but because of Covid 19 we had to cancel the one in March and of course there will not be any further meetings until the restrictions for holding gatherings of this number are lifted. Over the past 2 years we have seen an increase in the numbers attending which is very encouraging so hope this continues in the future.

Our Speaker’s Secretary has arranged the following very interesting and diverse programme for the rest of the year. This will of course depend on Government advice when we are able to have meetings of this size. However if some of these are unable to go ahead we may be able to book these speakers at a later date.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17th July</td>
<td>Sandringham Secrets</td>
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<tr>
<td>21st August</td>
<td>From Barrow to Baghdad</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th September</td>
<td>A Lancashire Garland</td>
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<td>16th October</td>
<td>An Eccles Minstrel</td>
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<tr>
<td>20th November</td>
<td>Christmas wreathes and table decorations</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th December</td>
<td>Christmas Social</td>
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**ANNUAL LUNCH** – this was held again at Monton Sports/Cricket Club on the 12th March which we did not know at the time but this would be our last social event before lockdown. This again proved a very enjoyable lunch with excellent food and we were entertained by a Ukulele group.
**SOCIAL EVENTS 2020** – in view of the current restrictions Ken and Janet Ball are keeping members informed on these direct.

**GROUP NEWS**

The Group Activities List is enclosed showing details of all 25 different Groups we have available in our U3A and if anyone is interested in any of the Groups we run please contact the Convenor in the first instance. However if you are unable to contact any Convenor, please do not hesitate to contact John Newton our new Group Co-ordinator (his details are on the first page). At the moment of course none of our activities are running but our Convenors are still available should you wish to contact them or indeed our Committee and myself if you have any general enquiries.

**Convenors Meeting** – this was held at Eccles Town Hall on the 6th February and again proved very successful and enjoyable. This is our way of thanking all our Convenors for their hard work in running our Group Activities and also gives them the chance to meet informally with other Convenors and the Committee.

**Convenors attending Monthly Meetings** – this was arranged so that Convenors could give details on their groups. This has proved successful and resulted in an increase in members attending some of these groups and will continue with this next year as and when required.

**Discussion Group** – we are looking at restarting this group with a new name, if enough members were interested. This was going to start last month but of course could not happen but we will keep you informed on this.

**New Groups** – The Committee welcomes any member who is interested in starting up a new activity and there is always help available to get one up and running. So if you would like to start a new group please give John Newton, our Group Co-ordinator a ring so you can discuss.

**GIFT AID**

We have 219 members now signed up to Gift Aid and the amount we received back from Inland Revenue for 2019 was £1,014.77 so is well worth the work involved. If you are a UK tax payer we can reclaim 25% of your subscription in Gift Aid and you can sign-up for more than one charity. This helps offset our various expenses. If you pay tax and have not signed up, or not sure if you have, please contact Mark Child (contact details on page 1). Also if your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay tax can you please advise Mark as it is important, that when we claim what is due from the Inland Revenue, our records are correct.
GREATER MANCHESTER NETWORK

Salford U3A is part of this Network, which meets in Manchester, with a view to exploring possible reciprocal arrangements with other local U3As and their Groups. This means that if there is an Activity Group that we do not run, but one is available in another participating U3A in this Network, then you are able to join them, subject to availability, (priority is given to their members as indeed we do the same). Details on this can be found on our website but if any member requires any details on this and are not on the internet please give me a ring.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

I send out a monthly email to members advising them of the next Monthly Meeting and what is happening in the U3A and local area. However if you are on email and are not receiving this, and would like to be included, please send me your details. For any of our members not on email I am sending them by post a copy of the monthly email to keep them in touch with what is going on while our meetings are unable to be held.

Thank you for your continuing support of Salford U3A and hope it will not be too long before we are able to restart our Group Activities and Monthly Meetings.

Marlene Evans
Salford U3A Chairman

Enclosures:
Group Activities List