



Llandrindod Wells and District U3A

Dear Llandrindod U3A Member

I appreciate how strong you have all been, maintaining social distancing and hopefully remote learning, especially as the lock down time increases. Members are supporting, and protecting each other, so please carry on doing this especially with members who live alone and may not have all the modern methods of communication. The telephone is still a life line for many.

Resuming U3A activities

It goes without saying that from a U3A activity perspective, it is really important that Welsh Government and NHS advice is followed for the safety and well-being of all our members. We have also been advised by our insurers that this is crucial from a public liability insurance perspective.

The Committee are still meeting monthly via Zoom and as slow moves are made towards lifting the lock down the way we proceed as a U3A will be an increasingly important topic. **Your views** as members on how and when we move forward would be most welcome and can be sent to any committee member.

Your U3A membership

Thank you to all those who have paid their subs for the year. Our annual payment to National U3A based on our membership numbers has been paid, as has our subscription to the National Magazine "Third Age Matters". If you or friends have paid their subscription and not received the magazine please let us know.

We are likely to lose some members, so please keep our membership secretary Janice Horne or Treasurer, Jan Willsher up to date if you know of any changes in membership or those who have been adversely affected during the Covid 19 lock down. It is easy to get in touch via the website or by email. A list of email contacts is included at the end of this newsletter.

Keeping busy

Margaret Mason continues to provide some great ideas on free activities, theatre and the arts. The list is [on our website](#).

We've also enjoyed [Berwyn's quizzes](#) which have allowed me to knock some rust of the old brain cells and also reuse some of the questions in family and friends quizzes.

Jan Swindale, Meg Lewis and David Horne all sent in pictures of their "distancing" [VE Day celebrations](#) which you can see on our website.

[Paul Vaughan's very first sponge cake](#) looked mouthwateringly delicious.

Thank you to all the individuals and group leaders contributing. Please continue to tell us about what you have been doing during the lock down. We apologise that one of the haikus included in

the last Newsletter was incorrectly formatted: this has been corrected in the version of the Newsletter [available on our website](#).

The Theatre Trip to Stratford in June has now been formally cancelled. Ann and Ewart are in touch directly with members affected.

Online meetings

We have approached some of the speakers we had booked for the coming year to see if they might be able to give their lecture as a webcast, but so far none have been keen to take on the technical challenge. However there are a number of special online lectures for U3A members that are available via the national U3A website and I would encourage those with access to the internet to visit the excellent [National U3A website](#) and sign up for the [National Newsletter](#) ... well worth a read!

National U3A Rebranding

Ian McCannah is the National Chair of U3A and a considerable amount of work has gone on in regard to a future Development Plan for the U3A as a National organisation. He writes ...

"After two years of consultation with members, the Trust announced the results of its medium term Development Plan last August. Implementation commenced in the autumn. To varying degrees, COVID-19 has obviously affected delivery since March of the Plan's four key proposals.

"Work on Raising the Profile of the U3A movement continues, via virtual meetings, and its plans will be announced over the coming months. The Developing the Movement proposals are evolving and should not be too delayed. Thanks to many very imaginative ideas from members, COVID-19 has resulted in some of the Learning proposals being launched earlier than planned; others will be closer to the original timeline. Plans to upgrade the Trust's technology resources have been deferred a number of months until the Trust assesses the financial impact of the current crisis. Members will be updated on the implementation of the Development Plan at regular intervals.

"The U3A movement will not be immune to the impact of the current crisis. Therefore, the Trust is starting to think about its consequences and impact on our current operations and practices. The crisis has brought with it both challenges and opportunities, particularly those relating to connecting members remotely. As well as the lessons learnt by the Trust it is important, in order to reach the right conclusions, to receive the thoughts and experiences of members as well. Please send them to ian.mccannah@u3a.org.uk"

There are two workshops being held via Zoom on the Development Plan and Karyn Evans and Cheryl Davies had volunteered to attend remotely the North and South workshops respectively. Unfortunately all the places had already been taken. So we will just have to await the next update and monitor progress and ultimately as each branch is a separate organisation we will have to decide if we want to accept the final recommendations. The National U3A AGM due to be held on the 25th-27th August is now provisionally being planned for October.

Newsletter circulation

A number of members have contacted us to say they have not received our newsletter and it appears that there is some problem which only affects members with a btinternet email address.

We have been trying to get to the bottom of this, and will be contacting those members by another means. In the meantime, if you know of members who have not received this or any previous emails please ask them to contact us.

The committee send their best wishes to you all.

Karen Latham

Chair, Llandrindod Wells and District U3A

U3A Contacts

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The contact information for all Interest group leaders is available on the [Llandrindod U3A website](#).