

MONMOUTH U3A MONTHLY BULLETIN SEPTEMBER 2020

There will be no members' meeting in September

HOWEVER

there will be a musical presentation by the group Fool's Gold via Zoom at 2.30pm on 15th September

Fool's Gold are two musicians who present a mix of storytelling, music and images. They have successfully transferred their live show to an on-line show and will be presenting via Zoom. A full programme and more details are here

https://www.monmouthu3a.com/uploads/1/0/6/1/106188561/fools_gold_programme.pdf

If you would like to join us for the presentation please email Mike Saunders mikesaunders.mjs@gmail.com and he will send you an invitation by email. Many of you will have used Zoom during lockdown but if you haven't, it is very easy to use. If you would like to join but have any concerns or questions about using Zoom then please contact Mike and he can explain in more detail. We hope to 'see' you there!

Activity Group Re-start

We have had confirmation from the Third Age Trust (TAT) that we are covered by their insurance when activity groups re-start in accordance with both legislative requirements and the guidance provided by the TAT. In effect, this means that a risk assessment must be completed before any group can re-start. To assist convenors in re-starting their group, the committee are producing draft documents which will be finalised in consultation with the convenor. The committee will support every convenor through the process of re-starting their group.

The committee have categorised groups into 3 types:

1. Outdoor exercise/sport ie walking groups and pétanque.
2. Groups which would normally meet in member's homes but could take place in member's gardens (meeting of groups inside the home in Wales is NOT allowed)
3. Groups which use third party venues eg Bridges, Library etc

The committee are already working with the convenors of category 1 groups to enable them to re-start.

Convenors of groups which fit in category 2 will soon be contacted with information which can be used to help re-start their group, should both they and their member's wish to do so.

For groups which fit in category 3, we are awaiting risk assessments from the venues before we are able to consider re-starting these groups. The restart of groups using third party venues is outside the control of Monmouth U3A and is dependant upon when the venue is able to re-open in accordance with government guidelines and appropriate health and safety procedures.

Annual magazine 2020

This year's magazine is currently being printed and should be posted to all members in early to mid-September.

Next year's committee

We will soon be seeking nominations for next year's committee. Please think about whether you could give up some time to be involved, either as a committee member or to help out in some other way, such as coordinating pastoral care. If any of you would like to consider becoming an officer on the committee in 2021, it would be useful if you joined the committee this year to shadow the current post holder. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Tricia Dodd on monmouthu3a@gmail.com

News from the groups

French Group

The Intermediate French group continued to meet throughout lockdown via Zoom until their usual summer break. They will be starting up again mid-September - date to be confirmed but will have 2 vacancies. As a guideline, those who once reached 'O' level standard are likely to feel the most comfortable even if rusty. We continue with our French native speaker who is very patient with us. Anyone interested please contact the Convenor Marie Everett via e-mail : marie.e.everett@icloud.com or phone: 01600 - 750476. The meetings are via Zoom on Mondays at 10 am.

Third Age Trust Learning Hub

Third Age Trust (The national U3A body) is looking for ideas to develop a new Online Learning Hub. This is to be an online collection of all the resources and tools you may need to support learning across your interest groups and U3A. There is a short questionnaire to give valuable information about what is important to you and what they need to consider in the design and implementation of the Hub. None of the questions are compulsory and your response is anonymous. This should take you less than 10 minutes. Click here to participate: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RFZYSMK>

Adult Learners' week

As many of you know each year Monmouthshire Community Education (MCE) participates in Adult Learners week. During this week a fantastic team of tutors run taster sessions on a range of art, languages and basic skill courses such as Watercolours, creative writing, Spanish, upcycling, graphics, working with gadgets, willow weaving, Italian and employability skills and many more!

Due to COVID19 it was not possible to run these taster sessions. Instead MCE will be participating in a virtual Adult Learners week from 21st – 27th September 2020. The team are currently working incredibly hard producing video tutorials and online tasks on a range of courses for you all to enjoy! Keep an eye on MCE's social media pages for further information.