

MONMOUTH U3A MONTHLY BULLETIN NOVEMBER 2020

Changes to the monthly bulletin distribution

You may be aware that currently the monthly bulletin is distributed only by email in order to keep postage costs down. We have relied on the information getting to those members without email by making copies of the bulletin available in various places e.g. members' meetings, Bridges, the Library. Because of the current situation, we have decided to post a copy of the bulletin to members without email until it can be made available again in other places. We realise that much of the information contained in the bulletin concerns activities that are only available on-line, but we think it is a good way of keeping in touch with the whole membership in these challenging times

Monmouth U3A Virtual AGM 2020

Thank you to all of you who replied by email and post to be part of this year's virtual AGM. We received more than 70 responses which achieved the quorum needed.

The minutes of the 2019 AGM and the 2019/20 financial report were approved and the following people elected to form the 2020/21 committee:

Mike Saunders
Michael Bone
Tricia Dodd
Cherry Lewis
Diana Wilkinson
Mary Ross
Averil MacDonald
Simon Durrant

The committee responsibilities will be agreed shortly. Until then, the current committee members will retain their posts if you need to contact any of them.

The Loch Ness Monster – a talk by Professor Gareth Williams on 17th November 2.30pm (to be held via Zoom)

The Loch Ness Monster is one of the most celebrated mysteries of the last 100 years. Is the Monster an evolutionary wild card, a hoax, a series of misidentified natural phenomena or just wishful thinking? Professor Gareth Williams has been intrigued by the story since childhood but only dared to dig into and write about the topic after retiring from a reasonably respectable career as a medical researcher. Using five exhibits from the saga of the Monster, he lays out the evidence that persuaded him to reach his own conclusion - but will it be the same as yours?

If you are interested in joining us then please email mikesaunders.mjs@gmail.com by 15th November and he will send out an invitation

Stan Armstrong – a note for those who have not previously received the bulletin

As many of you will know Stan Armstrong died in May this year. Stan was a very active and long standing member of Monmouth U3A and will be greatly missed. Given the current circumstances the funeral was private, but Sue King has been in touch to say she is planning a celebration of Stan's life on the anniversary of his death next year (22nd May). There will be more information about the arrangements nearer the time. Stan made a bequest to Monmouth U3A and asked that this be used towards a party/social event at the committee's discretion. Clearly, in the current circumstances, it may be some time before we are able to fulfil his wish.

Theatre-goers group

At the moment, visits to the theatres are not possible but, when it becomes safe to do so, we want to restart this very popular group. Sue will be stepping down as convenor, and therefore we are looking for someone (or maybe two people) to be a convener for this group, which would involve booking tickets and coaches for the performances. If you would be interested, or would like to find out more, please contact Tricia Dodd at monmouthu3a@gmail.com or 01600 740136

Help with shopping

We have been made aware of the following information. The committee haven't used this service so can't comment on it, but we are passing it on in case it is of use to any of our members
Morrisons has announced a new dedicated telesales shopping service aimed specifically at helping to ensure vulnerable and elderly people can get the groceries they need.
Customers who wish to place an order should phone 0345 611 6111 and select option five.

Bletchley Park Talk

Thank you to those of you who responded to say that you would be interested in attending a Zoom talk about the codebreakers of Bletchley Park. There was a lot of interest in this and the meeting has been scheduled for 2.30pm on December 15th. Please look out for further information in next month's bulletin

Membership renewals

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership so far, and a polite reminder to everyone else!

When paying by online bank transfer PLEASE remember to include your membership number and your surname in the reference field. You will find your membership number on your renewal form.

Please be aware that if you make a payment on line, you also need to send back a completed membership form

If you have not received your form (sent in the post with the magazine), or have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Membership Secretary: Preferably by email

MonmouthU3Amembership@gmail.com (Phone number if that is not possible 01594 862622)

Virtual U3A

Members may be interested in knowing that there is a 'virtual' U3A which operates solely on the internet. It was set up initially to help those who are isolated through location, illness or immobility but has, of course, become more relevant now that we are all restricted in what we do.

Here is a link to the website <https://vu3a.org/>

There are a large number of interest groups including art, reading, history, geography, music and science. A full list can be found here <https://vu3a.org/index.php/groups-list>

The annual subscription is £12 and payment details are here <https://vu3a.org/index.php/pay-or-renew-or-sub>

Looking for something to do this winter?

U3A's national winter learning programme has been launched. This includes a variety of activities including craft, photography, poetry and art as well as a number of online learning events. Details are on the Third Age Trust website here <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes>

If you want to keep up to date with these and with other events organised by Third Age Trust you can sign up to their newsletter here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

Volunteering opportunities

Volunteering Monmouthshire are looking for volunteers to help in a number of ways across our area including:

- Telephone befriending
- Pen pals
- Car schemes and deliveries
- Gardening (at Bridges)

If you are interested the details are here <http://volunteeringmonmouthshire.org.uk/> or you can call Marianne Piper on 07980 941946

Similarly, if you, or someone you know, need help or support, you can also contact Marianne on the above number or at marianne.piper@bridgescentre.org.uk