



November Newsletter 2024

Membership

Our membership numbers are now completely up to date on our admin system. Although our membership renewal is in September we allow returning members a couple of months grace to pay their subscription. If this has not happened by mid to end of November we have to assume that they do not wish to return so their details are removed from our system. This also means that they are not entitled to attend any groups which they may have been in the habit of doing in the past.

They can of course rejoin at any future time and will be made most welcome.

Group Leaders should now note that all their group member names will appear on Beacon in 'black' type and anyone who was in 'red' type should now have been removed.

Monthly Meetings

Our November speaker was Liz Allan who has spoken with us before in a very entertaining manner. This time her topic was 'The Devil's Porridge' and as usual it proved to be very enjoyable. Many members spoke afterwards to say how much they had enjoyed listening to her and appreciated how she had brought to life what was, in fact, a historical topic.

December Meeting

This is due to take place as usual on the third Thursday of the month, 19th December. As it is our 'Christmas' meeting it has a different format. We are having entertainment from the group *Same Difference*. We had them a couple of years ago and they provided an excellent afternoon's entertainment so we can look forward to similar from them once again.

Tables and chairs will be set out throughout the hall for seating and we shall have a break half way through for tea/coffee/juice and some festive 'goodies'. We shall also have a prize draw. There will be no charge for any of the above.

The usual contribution of £2 on registration will still apply - this goes to help offset the cost of the hall, donation to speakers and the cost of setting out/putting away of tables and chairs.

Foodbank

At our committee meeting in October it was decided that we, as an organisation, would like to support a local charity and it was agreed that this would be the Foodbank. Your response to this appeal was tremendous and May, Lucy and I delivered 16 full bags of goodies to them last Tuesday morning. The staff were delighted with these and were overwhelmed with your generosity. Some members decided instead to make a monetary donation and the last time I checked this had reached a total of £110.

We have decided to hold this until the end of the first week in December in case anyone else wishes to make a donation and then this will be bank transferred to the Foodbank.

Can I just take this opportunity to thank all who donated in any way. Your response was so generous and will go towards helping many families in our local area who find themselves struggling for whatever reason.

Committee

We had our most recent committee meeting last Tuesday, 26th November and the minutes of this meeting can be found on our new website.

The committee members were delighted to hear of our delivery to the Foodbank and indeed have decided that they would like to make this an annual event.

Coffee and Chat Sessions

You will have received word from May about proposed 'Coffee and Chat' sessions. This was suggested at committee and it was thought to be a good informal way of meeting up - both for longer established members but also for newer members. It also supports the young people who are running it under the supervision of their school. Reminders of this will come out nearer the time but I do hope you will give it a try.

Regional Area Network

I have reported in the past of what happens with this group of which our u3a is a current member. When it was set up first of all it proved very useful in bringing national information/initiatives to our notice. It was intended initially to bring together u3as in the central belt of Scotland. Over time this has increased substantially to cover practically any area within Scotland and we now find that it is no longer suiting our needs. We are not the only u3a finding this - in fact several have already withdrawn and have set up a local network for themselves.

We already have a local network of which we are a member along with three other u3as. We shall continue to be a member of this.

May and myself also receive any national information necessary by email so we are up to date with what is happening.

We have discussed this a couple of times at committee and a decision was taken that we shall discontinue our membership of the Regional Network at the end of this year.

Website

There is a need to keep our website fresh and interesting for anyone who views it. May intends to contact group leaders for up to date information and some photographs from the monthly activities. These do not have to include individual people if they do not wish but could be photos of the venue, things seen and done etc.

I have further bits and pieces of information to pass on but I will do so over the next few newsletters.

Regards

Alice