

Lyme Regis u3a Newsletter – February 2021

Talks

We are continuing to deliver presentations online until further notice due to the ongoing Covid situation.

February 2021:

Friday 12 February 11.00 am: **Jenny Short - A Chelsea Patchwork**

Jenny's workday week is designing gardens - all sorts, public and private. She has designed wildlife gardens for various primary schools, and adapted several gardens for clients with disabilities whose gardens need transforming to meet their specific needs. She lives in Lyme Regis and works all over the West Country.

A Chelsea Patchwork

Chelsea Flower Show is renowned primarily for its stunning gardens. Some of the ideas you could reinterpret in your garden at home. Some ideas you definitely wouldn't!

But, as well as these drama queen displays, there are smaller exhibits from growers throughout the U.K. of plants that would make an inspiring addition to any West Country garden. There are also displays of Flower Arranging which just leave you speechless, and a dazzling array of sculptures that you could imagine nestling in your shrub borders, confident they wouldn't need an annual prune!

This is a selection of pictures from various Chelsea Flower Shows between 2009 and 2018.

Friday 19 February 2021 10.00 am: Science & Technology – Barry Zussman – The igNoble Awards

Links for these talks will be sent out separately. Everyone is welcome to both of these sessions.

March 2021:

Friday 12 March 11.00 am: Sandra Lello – Whistler the artist

Friday 19 March 10.00 am: Science & Technology – Steve Coles - Vaccines

**** We would be very grateful if all those attending the online sessions would use their real names to register instead of an alias, particularly if they are not using the video setting. It would be nice to know who is attending the sessions. The reason for this request is to encourage more positive and friendly connections. Thank you to all those who have already done this.**

If you are on Zoom you can change your name if you right click on your image, or click on the 3 dots, and pick Rename. On Webex you can go into Set Up on the App and then My Profile and put in your name.

Covid update

See the latest (27 November) guidelines on the national u3a website.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/covid-19-advice-on-u3a-activities>

Membership

Due to the reduced activities linked with the Covid situation and our sound financial position, u3a membership is going to be free for existing members for 2021. However, **if you do not wish to remain a member please contact the Membership Secretary, Graham Pitts** on 01297 561569 or membership@lru3a.org New or lapsed members will pay £12 for single membership, £22 for joint and £8.50 for associates.

We still need your help!

Over many months we have been asking for someone to help with the seasonal (e.g. Winter) newsletter. In the last few monthly newsletters we have asked for volunteers to fill two committee vacancies (Secretary and Groups Coordinator). So far, from over 550 members we have not received a single expression of interest. We have also made multiple requests for one or two Speaker Finders. One person did express an interest, but has not come back to us.

Whilst the difficulty of getting help appears to be a common problem for many organisations, it really does question the viability of our U3A.

If you want us to survive and thrive you cannot expect the current committee of only four to run it. We urge each of you to give serious consideration to filling these vacancies so that we can function more effectively and efficiently in the future.

Also, please don't be put off by the mention of specific roles. If you would like to help and support this u3a in some way, please contact us. Thank you.

Please contact Rachael on chair@lru3a.org or 01297 445575 if you are willing to help

Trips

Recognising the unpredictability of the situation we are still planning for The Edinburgh Festival this year (Monday 16 August) and happy to hear from anyone else who might be interested in receiving information.

John Bartholomew: trips@lru3a.org

Group News

Good news. A new History group is starting, led by Audrey and Ed Standhaft. They are very well qualified to coordinate this group. Audrey has taught history for many years and since coming to Lyme has done a lot of work, and talks, for the Lyme Regis Society. Both Ed and Audrey have helped us since lockdown by giving talks for our u3a. Audrey on local Roman history at Hogchester and Holcombe, and Ed talking about Nazi ideology and the opposition. See details for the group below.

To all Group Leaders

If anyone wants to change anything on their section of the website, John Marriage has kindly offered to do that for you. Please contact him direct on webmaster@lru3a.org

Knitting Team

The group is busy knitting chickens to go over Cadbury crème eggs. A present for all the children at the Lyme Regis St Michael's Primary School and the staff. Rachael Pope

Making Music

The Making Music group are now meeting weekly on Zoom. If anyone would like to join us please contact Rob Walker on 01297 444811

History – NEW GROUP

Second Wednesday in the month, 4.00 pm on Zoom

Co-ordinators: Ed Standhaft, B.A. history Bristol

Audrey Standhaft, MA history Cambridge

The group will seek to expand their knowledge and understanding of history. This will cover world history, British, local, family, biography etc.

We will each present a piece to the group once a year so that there is no burden on a few. In this way we will all be learning new aspects of history and by a variety of approaches. From time to time we may use film.

Potential group members should contact us by email -- aud.standhaft@outlook.com

Contacts:

Membership: Graham Pitts - 01297 561569 membership@lru3a.org

Treasurer: Alex Ruck - treasurer@lru3a.org

Groups Coordinator: vacancy

Secretary: vacancy

Webmaster: John Marriage - webmaster@lru3a.org

Vice-Chair: Mary Bohane - 01297 444566 vice-chair@lru3a.org

Chair: Rachael Pope - 01297 445575 chair@lru3a.org

Links:

Lyme Regis u3a website - <https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/>

National u3a website - <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

National u3a Newsletter - <https://u3a.org.uk/newsletter>