

## Winter Newsletter

## January 2021

**Lyme Regis u3a**

**Issue 58**

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### Chair's Annual Report 2020

#### What a year!

At the last AGM in 2019 we were looking forward to another positive year. In January 2020 we enjoyed a fencing demonstration with Nigel Carter and his enthusiastic young students. It was great fun being kitted up with the equipment so that we could have a go at fencing. I was also very much looking forward to starting the knitting project at the St Michael's Primary School teaching children to knit. We did in fact manage three of the six sessions with four boys and seven girls when it was sadly cancelled due to Covid. None of us at the beginning of the year could have imagined what was about to happen.

Not only were we hit by the pandemic, but as an organisation were the victim of a scam. This happened on 4 March 2020, just before lockdown. Thankfully, the money (£1084.09) was recovered and returned to our bank account on 16 July 2020. It has been a very difficult 10 months. The national u3a Finance Manager Kevin Traynor has been very supportive to us through this extremely challenging time.

Everyone must be watchful for scams. The committee has recently had a similar approach from scammers to last time. Thankfully, as a group, we realised what was happening. It shows that we must all be constantly vigilant in this online world. There are some very mean people out there!

#### Talks

Despite Covid and all the difficulties, we have managed to run the main monthly and the Science & Technology talks online using Zoom and Webex. For the monthly talk this meant finding a new

list of speakers as most already booked did not want to give online talks, or were retiring from speaking.

This has given us the opportunity to use more local talent and several of our members volunteered to help out. A big thank you to them all.

We have also teamed up with the Town Mill and hosted a talk online about waterwheels.

## **Groups**

Some of our groups have been functioning in different ways either online or meeting in gardens or emailing/having conversations and setting tasks/projects. It is not the same, but it is still connection, which is so important to many of us at this difficult time. Thank you to all the Group Leaders for their efforts to keep things going.

## **LR u3a Website**

We went live with our new website on 2 April 2020. John Marriage spearheaded this project and set up the website and is our ongoing webmaster. Others contributed in different ways to the website and we thank them all for their efforts, particularly the member who gave the website a thoroughly forensic proof reading! Wonderful.

Recently the National u3a have changed their logo. We have altered our new website <https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/> to reflect that, as well as using 'u3a' with lower case rather than the old 'U3A' in all communications.

## **Thanks**

There have been many changes on the committee. Pat Chambers, Graham Cumming and Kate Pitts left earlier this year. More recently Sue Wilson, Susie Butter, Ann Fleet and Penny Rose left their roles. We thank them all very much for their positive contributions.

Alex Ruck joined us as our Treasurer in May 2020.

## **We still need your help!**

We need a Speaker Finder (one or two people) to find people who are willing to give a presentation online. We also need a Secretary, Groups' Coordinator and a volunteer to produce the printed Newsletter i.e. Spring and Autumn News. When we get back to more normality we will need someone to be responsible for Publicity.

Please contact Rachael on [chair@lru3a.org](mailto:chair@lru3a.org) or 01297 445575 if you are willing to consider any of these roles.

## **Looking forward**

Online talks will continue. We have started a project of knitting chickens to fit over chocolate eggs as a gift for the children at St Michael's Primary School, Lyme Regis. We are exploring getting access to a webinar on improving our driving skills.

## **Best wishes**

As we now go into another year with the vaccines being rolled out, we look forward to a more positive situation after this latest lockdown. We anticipate being able to communicate as human beings and enjoying each other's company as we pursue our different interests. I wish you all the best, and stay safe as we wait for that to be possible. A happy, healthy and well-vaccinated New Year to you all.

Rachael Pope (Chair)

## **Membership Renewals**

Our activities are restricted at present due to the Covid-19 situation but we are ever hopeful that we will be returning to a more normal life by the middle of this year.

Annual subscriptions would have become due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 but because of our reduced activities, and our sound financial position, the committee have decided that u3a membership will be free for existing members for 2021. However, if you do not wish to remain a member please tell our Membership Secretary, Graham Pitts (01297 561569) or [membership@lru3a.org](mailto:membership@lru3a.org).

New or lapsed members will pay, as usual, £12 for single membership, £22 for joint and £8.50 for associates.

## **Statement of Accounts 2019 - 2020**

The financial year 2019 – 20 presented many twists and turns for Lyme Regis u3a, not least due to the scam and the effects of COVID-19. However, as can be seen from the Statement of Accounts, the year ended successfully with a surplus of £4749 and this has enabled us to provide free subscriptions for members for this year.

Unfortunately it must be noted that this surplus is mainly due to three items that will not be repeated. Firstly a repayment of Gift Aid of £3044, secondly a surplus on trips, and thirdly low administration costs. The surplus on trips would probably have been greatly reduced if we had been able to complete the year normally and arrange further trips, and the low administration costs are certainly due to the reduced activities.

In the 'Admin and Expenses' category we have a large credit. This is the result of the scam being taken out and repaid.

Overall we must be pleased with our financial situation, putting us in a strong position for the restart of all of our activities after the horrors of COVID-19.

Treasurer

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Lyme Regis u3a

### Income & Expenditure, 1 September 2019 – 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020

Category	2019-20		2018-19	
	In	Out	In	Out
Admin & Expenses	1,138.84	2,497.19		2,720.53
Advertising		55.00		55.00
Beacon		580.00		
Donations	49.00		545.50	
Gift Aid	3,044.44			
Group Grant		450.00	159.80	
Group Income	401.70			
Hire of Halls		474.50		812.25
Lectures		530.00		830.00
Membership	6,675.00	9.00	7,287.50	
Printing		326.48		215.00
Third Age Matters Subscription		1,373.58		
Trips	5,167.00	3,219.00	14,535.00	14,152.00
U3A Trust Capitation		2,212.00		4,256.50
Un presented cheques 2017-18			-	30.00
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>16,475.98</b>	<b>11,726.75</b>	<b>22,527.80</b>	<b>23,011.28</b>
Retained Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>4749.23</b>		<b>(483.48)</b>	
Brought forward	8363.39		8846.87	
<b>Total</b>	<b>13112.62</b>		<b>8,363.39</b>	
<b>Balance sheet</b>				
Current Account	13,087.62		8,712.39	
Petty Cash	25.00		25.00	
Less Unpresented Cheques	-		(374.00)	
Reserves 31 August	<b>13,112.62</b>		<b>8,363.39</b>	

#### Report of the Independent Examiner

I have examined the books and records of the Heritage Coast (Lyme Regis) U3A and confirm that the above Income and Expenditure Account for the 12 months to 31st August 2020 is in accordance therewith.

  
18 December 2020

Adrian Harris FCCA  
Rosy Jeffery Ltd  
Chartered Certified Accountants Ltd  
The Loft, Unit 11  
Hunthay Business Park  
Axminster, Devon  
EX13 5RJ

Any questions you may have regarding these financial results should be directed to Alex Ruck [treasurer@lru3a.org](mailto:treasurer@lru3a.org) or 01297 446046.

## u3a Groups

Groups printed in red are continuing to operate in some form during the Covid-19 pandemic subject to the national Covid guidelines (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/covid-19-advice-on-u3a-activities>).

You can get more information about any of the groups, including the contact details of the group leaders, by going to the website ([www.lymeregisu3a.org/groups](http://www.lymeregisu3a.org/groups)) and clicking on the group name.

Group Name	Group leader or contact	Telephone	Notes
Archaeology	Maggie Davidson	-	(1)
Art and Craft	Jayne Avery	01297 33544	(2)
Badminton 1	Susan Gale	01297 444260	
Badminton 2	Susan Gale	01297 444260	
Board Games	Wendy Alexander	01297 445152	
Book Group 1	Jo Marsh	-	(1)
Book Group 2	-	-	(3),(4)
Book Group 3	-	-	(2),(3)
Breakfast	Rachael Pope	01297 445575	
Canasta	Valerie Penn	01297 560717	
Chi Gung (Qigong)	Dave Edwards	01297 443696	
Creative Writing	John McCallum	01297 561696	
Current Affairs 1	Iain Paterson	01297 631193	
Current Affairs 2	Iain Paterson	01297 631193	
Current Affairs 3	-	-	(3)
Digital Photography	Mark Gillams	-	(1)
Digital Photography (for beginners)	John Marriage	01297 443469	
Family History	Pam Melhuish	01297 446007	
Fencing	Rachael Pope	01297 445575	(4),(2)
French Conversation	Keith Robson or Maggie Allison	01297 442183 01297 443983	
French Experience (intermediate)	Wendy Howard	01297 445195	
French for Fun	Kay Luckraft	01297 599416	
Garden Lovers	Mary Bohane	01297 444566	
German Conversation	Audrey Standhaft	01297 442427	
History	Audrey Standhaft	01297 442427	(2)
Italian Beginners	Alan Swannell	01297 443003	(5)
Italian Conversation	Alan Swannell	01297 443003	(5)
Italian Intermediate	Alan Swannell	01297 443003	(5)
Jazz Appreciation	Heather Britton	07802 797 427	
Knitting Project	Rachael Pope	01297 445575	

Literature	Frances Barter	07986 794 722
Making Music	Rob Walker	01297 444811
Meditation	Jo Smith Oliver	- (1)
Memoir Writing 1	Jackie Lloyd	01297 443516
Memoir Writing 2	Jackie Lloyd	01297 443516 (2)
Mini Bridge	Eileen Nightingale	01297 443915 (2)
Plant Sharing	Laura Noel	07702 131 710
Play Reading	Frances Barter	07986 794 722
Rare Books	Bob Speer	01297 445815 or 01297 443653
Religion & Ethics	Ed Standhaft	01297 442427
Science & Technology	John Marriage	01297 443469
Scottish Dancing	David Acland	01460 65981
Seafront Gardens	Merry Bolton	01297 443334
Short Tennis	Jill Menzies	01297 444863
Social Mornings	Rachael Pope	01297 445575
Spanish Learners & & Conversation	Wendy Howard	01297 445195
Sunday Lunch 1	Linda Green	01460 220356
Sunday Lunch 2	Linda Green	01460 220356 (2)
Table Tennis	Brian Watson	01297 32060
Tennis	Joyce Beadle	01297 442279
Theatre Goers	John Bartholomew	01460 279739 (6)
Turkish for Beginners	Dennis Hebden	01297 443615
Walking 1	Maurice Liddiard	01297 33783
Walking 2	Marion Richardson	01297 33824
Walking – Strollers	Rachael Pope	01297 445575 (4)

- (1) Contact by going to our website, ( [www.lymeregisu3a.org](http://www.lymeregisu3a.org) ) click on Groups, and use the form provided to contact the group leader/person responsible for the group that interests you.
- (2) A possible new group.
- (3) Contact Mary Bohane (01297 444566) or [vice-chair@lru3a.org](mailto:vice-chair@lru3a.org)
- (4) Group in need of a group leader.
- (5) The Italian language groups, of which there are three, are in abeyance at the moment due to Covid-19, but Alan Swannell expects activities to resume as soon as the situation permits and safety is assured. The three groups were meeting fortnightly until March 2020 in members' homes.  
Alan will continue to offer advice and guidance and any decisions concerning frequency of meeting etc. will be taken in discussions with the groups. For more details contact Alan Swannell (01297 443003).
- (6) All members automatically become members of Theatre Goers when they join u3a Lyme Regis.