



U3A NEWSLETTER NO.

108. AUGUST – SEPTEMBER

2022

Dear U3A Members

The cold, dark days of winter are thankfully drawing to a close, and the spring newsletter contains much to interest and entertain us.

The annual **AGM** will be held on **Thursday, 11 August, at 09h30** at St Andrew's. Attached please find the record of the 2021 AGM which was held by email on 14 October, 2021.

In addition to annual reports, a new Committee of 6 -10 new members will be elected for 2022 – 2023. Nomination forms, for those wishing to nominate members for election, are attached. Of the existing Committee, only Sheila Godfrey is ineligible for re-election. Please contact the secretary, Sandy Johnston [082 838 3676], before 4 August if there is anything you would like placed on the agenda.

We would like to place on record our grateful thanks to **Sheila Godfrey**, who has tirelessly and meticulously taken care of U3A finances for the past four years. In terms of the constitution, she is obliged to step down. We shall miss the due diligence with which she undertook her role as treasurer, and wish her a very happy 'retirement'.

**August's General Meeting** will be held at St Andrew's on Thursday, 11th August, at **09h30** – following the AGM. Kerry Hiles, the well-known entertainer, will be performing a selection of Judy Garland songs.

**September's General Meeting**, 08 September. Dr Dean Allan will speak on 'The History of the Frontier'.

**October's General Meeting**, 13 October. Mike Burton will speak on 'All Saints College'.

**November's General Meeting**, 10 November. Mike Luppnow will speak on 'The Nahoon Estuary'.

U3A offers a number of **courses** to interest, entertain, and inform its members. The dates, times, and venue for the courses are on the '**Course Schedule**'. Courses cost R5 per member, and R10 per visitor, per General Meeting or course.

### **Courses and Course Leaders**

#### **Armchair Travel** [John Stoddard 082 466 7095]

Presenters whisk Armchair Travellers away to interesting, faraway places such as, in previous talks, the East Coast of England, the Camino de Santiago, Thailand and Japan. On **1 August** Coral Gates will speak on 'My travels in India', and on **5 September** there will be a further YouTube talk by Prof Brian Robertson, entitled 'St Helena, the Land of

Saints'. Offers of further fascinating talks are coming in, and those willing to present talks are always most welcome.

**Book Club** [Ellen Ettinger 083 656 4816]

Book Club members bring a book to the meeting, and discuss it before putting it into circulation, and further discussions generally take place over tea. When everyone who wants to read a book has done so, it is returned to the owner, or given to charity. The club has a wide variety of books, from really old classics, to books that are now out of print, to best sellers. Forthcoming meetings will be held on **24 August** and **28 September**. The Book Club is currently **Closed**.

**Computers** [Pam Hobson 082 542 6296]

Numbers are limited to small groups and all devices are welcome – laptops, tablets and cell phones. The course begins with self-help problem-solving. Present courses will cover Bookmarking in Google Chrome, the Basics in Excel, and Tidying Up email Inboxes. Meetings at 4 Hoylake Rd start at 9:30 and will be held on **8 August** and **12 September**. The computer group is currently **Closed**.

**Film Club** [Carol Keep 072 508 0936]

Films watched by members comprise all genres from 'classics to musicals, dramas and biographies. John Stoddard will be hosting the Film Club on **17 August**. The film will be 'The Notebook', a romance to rival that of 'Titanic'. The film on **14 September** will be 'The Pianist', a very moving story from the Holocaust. Previous films shown are 'The Other Boleyn Girl' and Bizet's 'Carmen' and were much enjoyed. Suggestions from members are always most welcome.

**Garden Club** [Ann King 083 774 7663]

The Garden Club has been **discontinued**.

**Gilbert & Sullivan** [Dave Donkin 063 655 4360]

Gilbert & Sullivan operas and operettas match the delightful music of Arthur Sullivan to the witty librettos of WS Gilbert. Each work is presented as a sound recording, with a summary of the libretto between each musical item to enable members to enjoy the humour and maintain the thread of the story. The Group will be meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Iolanthe will be presented on **4 August**, while you will be notified of the presentation of 1 September via the preceding Friday's Newsflash. Will members interested in Gilbert & Sullivan please contact Dave.

**isiXhosa**

8 -10 members meet **weekly** for an hour in the Douglas Murray section of Stirling Lodge, which is easily accessible. They sit around a table to practise their 'clicks', and to learn words and phrases which can be used in various areas of communication. Members use the vocabulary and grammar they've learnt to form their own sentences. They have a textbook filled with exercises to help enforce the often difficult words and phrases of the IsiXhosa language. The members of this group have made great progress, and Nita

hopes that they will use their knowledge to communicate with the Xhosa people they meet or with whom they associate. **The course ends in September**, when the text book has been completed.

**JSE / Financial Affairs** [John Pearson 082 721 6072]

John is in England, at present. Courses will resume on his return.

**Mahjongh** [Gill Ansell 083 651 7892]

The Mahjongh Group meets regularly. There are 26 members on the books but there have been, for various reasons, a number of absentees of late and we look forward to their return! We plan to resurrect the bi-annual competition between the Gonubie Musketeers and the East London Sharks soon. Watch this space for the result!

**Music Appreciation** [Carol Keep 072 508 4360]

This course covers mainly classical music in its various forms. A theme, such as the Baroque Era, or the work of a particular composer, is chosen. The meeting begins with a brief introduction to the piece, handouts are given out, and the piece is shown on TV, so that it can both be watched and listened to. This course provides a relaxing and informative way for music lovers to enjoy great music. On **10 August** the topic will be 'Beethoven – Colossus', an overview of some of his compositions, and on **21 September** it will be 'An Evening at the Opera', with extracts from some famous operas.

**Poetry Appreciation** [Ann King 083 774 7663]

Meetings are held in Flat 101 Stirling Lodge. Poems on various topics such as 'Cities' are discussed. The topic for the next meeting, on **8 August** will be 'Praise', in a broad sense – of a nightingale, a lover, etc., not religion. The following meeting will be on **12 September**. New members are most welcome.

**Samba** [Gill Ansell 083 651 7892]

There are four vacancies for card lovers to learn to play Samba, which is similar to Canasta, but far more interesting and enjoyable. It is not necessary to be able to play Canasta in order to play Samba. Two free lessons are usually sufficient in order to master the basics, whereafter one can join the U3A group, which will meet on **10 August** and **14 September**. It's great fun!

**Writing Group** [Sobhna Poona 084 250 7281]

The writing group is one where members share their writing, hone their skills, and develop their craft. Nascent and established writers are equally welcome. The Writers' Group participated in the recent Umtiza Festival where their readers and writers wowed an appreciative audience. Their published stories can be found in 'Tales of All Kinds', Volumes 1-3. Volume 4 will be available shortly. Poets and storytellers are most welcome at meetings, either as observers or participants, to join a fun group of creative writers where they will encounter mystery, romance, whodunnits, spies and intrigue, history, culture, true life stories, memoirs and so much more.

## **Writing Group Wows at the Umtiza Festival**

Linda Smith and Neela Dhaya

On the morning of Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2022, the U3A Writing Group participated in the annual Umtiza Festival hosted by the East London Museum. The Umtiza Arts Festival, named after the Umtiza Listeriana – a tree found in the Eastern Cape in the area between East London and King William's Town, first took place in May 2016. It was an outstanding success, appealing to all age groups and every segment of the community.

This year, members of the U3A Writing Group read a selection of pieces that captivated a small but appreciative audience. Readers entertained with original works by Noreen Burton, Sobhna Poona, Linda Smith, Nookie Middleton, Neela Dhaya, Denise Fielding, Gordon Johnson and Michael Abdinor. The experience was rewarding and encouraging.

Besides wowing our audience with Tales from our collection, our Writing Group chose to use this opportunity not just to showcase our talents, but also to create greater awareness of the group, and encourage more of East London's amateur writers to join. The items, while all short – between 300 and 700 words – covered a variety of styles and genres; humour, poetry, descriptive writing and murder mysteries. The fact that people stayed afterwards to speak to the writers about their work bore testimony to their genuine appreciation and interest.

Our animated readers were Noreen Burton, Neela Dhaya, Denise Fielding and Linda Smith. Our impressive performances/readings undoubtedly left lasting impressions. Thank you to U3A members who attended. We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing more U3A members attend next year.

### **Here are some first lines:**

- 1. "Mirror ball" – what a magical idea!**
- 2. Madeleine was almost late for dinner.**

### **What do you think happened next?**

Sorry you missed it? We hope to see you next year. And think about joining our group. You may even attend as a guest to observe or participate, and find out more.

Contact Sobhna Poona on 084 250 7281

## New Members

A very warm welcome to our new members

Robert Brian, Jenny Farr, Bernard Lindstrom, Val Pallister, Phoebe Pratt, Sandy Rheeder, Mike Snell, Jill Veitch, Margie Wainwright, Anneliese Williams. We are delighted to have you and we wish you fun, friendship and fulfilment in U3A.

**Annual subscriptions** for the financial year July 2022 to June 2023 are due. The R50 subs can be paid either at any course, meeting, or on-line, as follows:

Name: U3A East London  
Bank: Standard Bank, Frere Square  
Branch Code: 051 001  
Type of Account: Current  
Account Number: 036 392 626

Please use your name and surname as our reference so we can identify your payment.  
Many thanks to all those who have already paid.

**Members' details** need to be verified or updated. Please email the secretary, Sandy Johnston, your:

Name,  
Address  
Landline No.  
Cell No.  
Birthday,



[day and month]



Best wishes to all those who have **birthdays** in August and September. May you be blessed with good health, happiness and fun times with your family and friends.

## August

03 Malcolm Heritage; Marlene v Wyk; 12 Carol Keep, Norah Wingreen; 14 Maree Connell, Marion Kocznur; 21 Vivian Mostert; 26 Coralie Isherwood; 27 Julie Dangerfield, 28 Mervyn Zwicky; 30 Jean Naylor, Sam Hobson.

## September

02 Peter Dangerfield; 04 Brian Kilpert; 05 Lorna Thompson; 06 Terry Scholes; 07 Ann Dabner; 08 Chris Horsfall; 16 Jennifer Philip; 19 Jean Scott; 20 Marie Dewar, Phoebe Pratt; 23 Sheila Godfrey; 27 Doreen Pearson; 29 Jean Butterworth; 30 Lynne Sadler.

We trust that **Diana van Cittert**, who does such a fine job of writing the U3A newsletters, has had a wonderful time overseas and we look forward, very much, to her return.

Angie Carlson