

Swanland



u3a Silver Jubilee Celebrations Saturday June 2022

This year (2021) marks the 25th Anniversary of Swanland u3a but due to the Covid pandemic the executive committee decided to have the celebration on one of three Saturday afternoon date options (11th 18th 25th) in June 2022 to ensure the celebrations are a true reflection on our u3a, and we believe the most appropriate way would be an open event in which residents of Swanland and beyond can meet our members, learn what we do and, we hope, be encouraged to join. The Programme will be published when all the details have been confirmed.

However, all events need someone to organise them and this can best be done by a small special sub-committee, composed of people who have a variety of ideas and skills, willing to work together to deliver the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Whether you are a founder member or a newcomer, an interest group convenor or a member of an interest group, please get in touch with your convenor or any member of the u3a executive committee if you are interested in helping to organise the Silver Jubilee Day. The relevant contact details are, as usual, to be found in July's Newsletter. Whatever contribution you are able to offer will be greatly appreciated and valued.

One thing is certain: Swanland u3a has much to celebrate. Over the past 25 years our u3a with its activities and the twice-monthly Thursday Lectures, which are not only entertaining, but often introduce us to new aspects of the world around us. Over the years, successive programme secretaries, have engaged many good speakers, and no doubt will have many more. Our members may be 'of the third age', in that we are generally retired from our various careers, but the appetite for learning among u3a members is as strong as ever.

There are other societies in our district which offer interesting lectures, but for many u3a members it is the learning that takes place in the 60 or so Activity Groups that makes u3a such a special organisation. They offer members the opportunity to revive old interests put aside during our working days or days spent raising a family, and the opportunity also to learn about completely new subjects or develop new skills, in the company of others.

The social element of Activity Groups and Thursday Lectures is very important. The lectures and activity groups provide a place where we are accepted just as we are and often make new friends as we learn together. After nearly a year and a half of being unable to meet for most activities, we have at last begun either to gather again in groups of six or under for some indoor activities and to revive outdoor activities.

We are grateful to the current programme secretary, John Munson and his predecessor, Veronika Keczkas for arranging talks and to Keith Taylor, our Website Organiser, for his help in making the lectures available on Zoom during the Coronavirus pandemic. However, not all members are connected to the internet and the social aspect of u3a is so important, that whatever our anxieties about mixing, live meetings must become the norm again, especially as most people of u3a age have by now received the protection of two vaccination doses.

As the new Chairman, I am personally very grateful for the support and help I have received from Paul Poulouse, our previous Chairman, and from all the committee members. Thanks to the vision of those who founded Swanland u3a back in 1996, and all who have contributed to its life as members, convenors, or committee members in the last 25 years, Swanland u3a has much to celebrate and much to offer to our community.

John Scotney Chair.