

The Newsletter, the Website. . . and a little eco-friendliness

The Newsletter: The Cheltenham U3A Newsletter forms one of a small number of key features that staple our U3A together. It contains all the Groups, their calendar updates and their news. It contains information on upcoming speakers and their Open meeting dates. It contains communication guides to the committee and other roles that are the turning wheels of our U3A. It contains outings and trips, a crossword, a picture puzzle and a front cover usually contributed by a member. It drops on the mat every two months.

The Website: In relatively recent years the new phenomenon of the web has intruded and a majority of us, though not all, have embraced it. Cheltenham as a U3A has embraced it, and has its own website www.cheltenhamu3a.org.uk - though "Cheltenham U3A" will find it as readily. On our website you will find all the information available to The Public, to encourage him or her to join.

And you will now also find a members' area, which is unlocked by your membership number.

The website members' area has not only this Newsletter in all its full-colour glory but all the *later* news updates as they come in, day by day, between publications.

A surprising number of members asked so far have not looked at the website! If you do have broadband and have not looked yet, please do – you will find even this piece on there in the same place in the same Newsletter!

You can access the Newsletter now anywhere you have your computer, tablet or smart phone. So while you are on your phone, turning up the central heating or booking your next doctor's appointment, you can be reading the Newsletter too.

and a little eco-friendliness: This leads to another thought train.... a number of Cheltenham U3A members claim they do not read their Newsletter. That is fine, but the committee are interested to know if they would be happy not to receive one, or just to read it on the web site. After all, over 1300 copies of the Newsletter are printed every other month weighing around 66 kg – or about the weight of a small U3A member - and all end up at the tip (hopefully to be recycled). As an experiment the committee ask that *if you would be happy not to receive a copy, you let Gerry McAllister membership@cheltenhamu3a.org.uk know, and the posting list can be reduced. You can change your mind and be re-instated readily later.*

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