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THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

November 1990

CHAIRMAN'S NEWSLETTER No. 2

A belated thanks for all your support at "Contact 90" - a reasonably successful day I think. If we try it again it must be somewhere large enough to give each interest Group a better chance of meeting the visitors.

I did hope we might unearth some interest Group Leaders, but so far only two volunteers, one to take Music Appreciation to Hatfield, the other is a possible leader for a "sociable friendly" Bridge playing group.

One common comment was why have "Contact" if places in interest groups were not readily available. My reply to that is we must ascertain what the need is and find some means of satisfying that desire to join us. Owing to pressure for places the decision has been taken with the approval of existing members, of the Pen and Ink Group to split, Welwyn Garden members to meet at the Vineyard and on alternate Mondays the Hatfield Group to meet at the Forum. The Hatfield Group is full before the first meeting has taken place. I know there is similar pressure on other groups, what can be done to alleviate the situation? Anyone out there with a magic wand?

We are growing slowly but surely, now 143 members - better than a "boom and bust" growth. One factor does bother me, can we find somewhere for our Christmas Party meeting - I fear that Minster House may be bursting at the seams. Success has its penalty!

One awful problem has been lifted off my mind, Rosemary and Brian Mitchell have undertaken the programme function from Anna Bailey, who had to take on a very time-consuming task for her other lifelong interest, the St. John's Association. So if you have any ideas for meetings fire them at Rosemary and Brian - good ideas are always welcome.

Thoughts for the future; our A.G.M. will be mid-February 1991 for certain! I will definitely be moving out of the Chair, a breath of fresh air is necessary if the branch is to maintain its health. Having disclosed that, I sincerely hope that some of the existing committee will carry on to maintain some continuity for whoever is elected.

As winter approaches and holidays 1991, our highly efficient travel organiser, Joan Bensley has two in prospect, following the roaring success of the Paris outing. A similar 4-day tour to Amsterdam next September is planned, and a more ambitious 9-day tour in mid-June through France to the western Pyrenees, with a leisurely taste of the Dordogne area on the way south. Please spread the word; too often it was said last year that members were ignorant of some events.

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For financial reasons it is desirable that we are registered as a Charitable Organisation. Is there anyone who would undertake to study the why's and wherefores of a model constitution, explain it to the members, and see it through to acceptance by the Charity Commissioners. I have some guidance notes available.

Thank you all for your continuing loyalty to the Welwyn Hatfield Branch of U3A.

Derek Greener.