

August 2020



ASHBOURNE & DISTRICT U3A

It may become necessary to update some of the information that follows. Please check the Ashbourne & District section of the u3asites.org.uk website to check whether changes have been made to dates, times and meeting places.

Monthly Meetings

August 7th at 2:30pm. This talk by David Skillen will be delivered **via Zoom**. Its title is: **The Bentley Boys – The Playboy Racers.**

It promises to be a fascinating talk about the exploits on and off the track of these charismatic, dare-devil young men who drove these iconic cars in the nineteen-twenties. How the Bentley Boys came to dominate racing will be of particular interest to car enthusiasts



September 4th via Zoom by Kathryn: The talk is entitled **'Through the Seasons at The Dorothy Clive Garden'** and includes recent changes made within the garden, plants, personalities and plans. The Dorothy Clive Garden was chosen as one of the 'Top Ten Woodland Gardens for 2015' by Executive Vice President of the RHS, Jim Gardiner

October 2nd via Zoom: A grandmother's legacy: my travels around India. This is described by its presenter, **Jenny Mallin**, as: 'An intriguing and entertaining vignette of some of my travels around India (of which there have been over twenty-five trips during the past thirty years). This talk is filled with amusing anecdotes from the arduous task of just purchasing a train ticket to stories which have demonstrated the kindness of a stranger, the superstitious side to a nation and an insight into how much India has changed since 1990 with the progression of technology.'



JULY MONTHLY MEETING

Our first Zoom Monthly Meeting took place on Friday July 3rd and approximately 100 members participated. Our speaker was Jack Perks, the well-known wild life photographer and free-lance film maker.

He uses a wide range of photographic equipment and is particularly passionate about underwater photography.

Starting in the far north of the UK, in the Shetland Isles, we were shown stunning photographs of the seabirds around the rocky coasts. We travelled south with him on a photographic trail of animals and birds of the British Isles. All along the route we were given hints on how to improve our own photography.

Jack is keen on environmental conservation and has volunteered for a number of wildlife and river trusts. Here he is accompanied by his dog, Pepper, preparing to take a film footage of river bank life.





Many members will have seen Jack's work on BBC's *Springwatch* and *The Great British Year*.

He appeared on *Countryfile* on July 5th demonstrating how he photographs water voles.

Jack has kindly allowed these photographs to be published in our Newsletter.

Group News

ART APPRECIATION

We are obviously still unable to meet, but I am giving careful thought to what we will be doing when conditions permit and will contact members through Beacon in due course.

John Barnett j.r.barnett@reading.ac.uk or 07503 152 610.

BEGINNERS' BRIDGE

Nothing has changed re. Beginners Bridge classes. I don't know when we shall be able to have these classes again yet, as we all need to sit fairly close to each other.

Pat Dixon

CRAFT

I hope you have been making masks for yourselves (and family and friends) - Mavis came across a really simple pattern based on a circle and it seems to work really well. The elastic can be made adjustable so can fit anyone and it is easy to put an extra layer in (I used sew-in interfacing) to hopefully make it more effective. If anyone wants details of how to make one contact Jill on 418659.

Jill Smith

CURRENT AFFAIRS

Eighteen of us met on Zoom for our July meeting. We discussed whether we should be worried about the possibility that food standards may drop when the UK leaves the EU next New Year's Day. We don't grow enough to be self sufficient; we depend on a lot of imported food. Will the bacon we get now from Denmark be replaced by American pig meat stuffed with illegal chemicals and antibiotics? Should chlorinated chickens concern us? Our discussion was enhanced by valuable contributions from members with expert knowledge of food production. Our conclusion can be summed up: it can't be as bad as we think it might be - it just can't.

No meeting in August: the next one is on **10th September** when we hope to discuss what the world will be like after the pandemic.

David Holt

FAMILY HISTORY

We are having Zoom meetings once a month, with more than a dozen members taking part. I hope it won't be too long before we can meet up again physically so that we can reunite with all the members of the group. We had a very good meeting in July, with everyone present getting very excited about the information we dug up during the meeting to help one of our members.

At the meeting it was decided to have a meeting in August, as no-one has plans to go away, so the next meeting will be on **Thursday 13th August at 2.30pm** on Zoom.

Anyone wishing to join the group should contact me : email to tiano121@btinternet.com or leave a voice message on 079 9981 7759.

Vivien Tiano

FRENCH

We are continuing with our Zoom meetings, both with the improvers and the advanced group, meeting as usual on the **1st and 3rd Mondays** of the month for the improvers and the **2nd and 4th Mondays** of the month for the advanced group. Most members now seem to have got used to using Zoom. But of course we all look forward to the day when we can meet up again physically. At the moment we have no plans for a summer break as most of us are going nowhere!

The advanced group is just starting to read a new book by one of the most popular contemporary French authors *L'Héritier des Beaulieu* by Françoise Giroud. So it's a good time for new people to join in!

Anyone wishing to join us for either group, please contact me : email to tiano121@btinternet.com or leave a voice message on 079 9981 7759.

Vivien Tiano

GARDEN GROUP

Our schedule is currently affected by Covid-19. Organisers Patti Green 07720 812278 sidewaysw@aol.com and Sue Dandy 01335 345157.

We are sorry to advise you that all planned events for the summer have now been cancelled due to social distancing regulations or cancellation by the host garden.

We will arrange some local events once the social distancing advice is changed.

Patti Green

GERMAN GROUPS

The Improver and Intermediate German groups are now taking their usual summer break and hope to restart in September either virtually by Zoom or socially distanced in a venue yet to be confirmed. The decision will be made nearer the time when we know more about the situation and restrictions. We shall plan to continue with respective Willkommen courses along with supplementary grammar, listening and speaking activities. We have all missed our normal sessions but everyone has continued their independent study with the help of Duolingo and worksheets from Rhona. More information about the groups can be obtained from Rhona Hunt 01335 344660 or rhonahunt@outlook.com

HIKING GROUP

Tuesday 11th August. If government guidelines are altered to allow a group walk we will meet on this date. For further details check the website.

Judy Harrison

LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE GROUP

The Landscape and Heritage group will not meet in August. Hopefully, conditions will allow us to have a guided walk of about 4 miles at Roystone Grange on **Friday morning, 18th September.**

Pamela Boura

ONLINE DANCING

Although many restrictions are easing slightly it looks like it will be some time before we can get together and dance. Meanwhile a few of us continue to keep in touch and dance with the help of Zoom. The session runs from **7:30 to 9:00 on Monday evenings.** We are dancing some old favourites and learning some new ones too, with the emphasis on new one-wall dances because of the limitations of teaching on line. If anyone would like to join us then email me and I'll send an invitation. I am happy to try a connection in advance if there is anyone who has not used Zoom before.

Sue Edmonds

PÉTANQUE

I am delighted to say that the Pétanque group is up and running again, albeit our games have a reduced number of participants to conform with the government's Covid guidelines.

We meet at the Red Lion at Hognaston **every Wednesday** at present. If you want to play you must book a slot - no more just turning up on the day like we used to. Depending on the level of demand we may expand our playing days to accommodate more players in future weeks.

We welcome players of all abilities and experiences. We are weather dependent, but unless it's raining hard there are usually at least a few hardly souls that turn up for a couple of hours of fresh air and fun. We play for free at the pub, so most of us make a point of giving them some business in return, drinks and/or food

Contact me at sheila.crawley@gmail.com or 07968 310255 to book your slot, or if you are interested in joining us.

Sheila Crawley

PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

As you are all aware we are currently enjoying our photography via Zoom, which has proved to be successful.

Next month's meeting will also be on Zoom on **Thursday August 6th at 10:00**, the theme should have been *Wirksworth*, so if you have not managed a visit there then you can use *Engineering* or *Gates/gateways* which were cancelled due to Covid or any photos you wish.

There is also a Facebook page for the Photography Group so if you wish to join in that, please contact John Green (john.green122@outlook.com) or Helen Bluff (helenbluff@hotmail.com) and they can give you contact details for Roger.

Helen Bluff

STROLLERS

Our group is waiting for the U3A powers-that-be to give the go ahead for walking groups to resume. At present there seems no sign of that happening. I do see groups of 6 people walking in a socially distanced line but it doesn't look much fun to me but perhaps that is where we will have to start once we have the OK.

This Monday we should have been walking from Sheepwash to Carsington and back with the inevitable tea stop in the middle. The next planned walk was along part of the Staffordshire Way from Alton to Denstone. We can but dream.

I hope Strollers are enjoying their own local walks and have discovered some new ones we can all enjoy who knows when?

Karen Tallant

TABLE TENNIS

Freedom Leisure are hoping to open the centre on 25th July and decisions will then have to be made regarding the use of the various facilities. We, in the group who play table tennis, are poised to begin again, but await permission.

Wendy Goddard 01335342532

WALKING GROUP.

Oh for those happy, carefree days when we could walk with our friends & enjoy a convivial lunch in a pub afterwards. Now, because of a pandemic from the other side of the world, all we have is cherished memories which fortnightly we share by Zoom from the isolation of our homes. These photos show where we were in August 2019 when we walked from Ashford in the Water to enjoy the view from Monsal Head & the flower filled pasture adjacent to Monsal Trail.



WRITING GROUP

As usual since the beginning of lockdown, we've been sharing our writings via email. I email out a theme with a deadline, the group members email me their writing, I collate all the contributions and send them out to all members. If they wish, members email me their thoughts on the writings. Recent themes have included *The Senses* and *A Good Laugh*. We're very happy to welcome others who would like to join this process - just email me at granimal999@gmail.com.
Leader: Gina Harris Tel. 01335 300041

Please send contributions for the September Newsletter to Mavis Lund
by **August 18th**