

July 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

U3A Quiz Friday 5th June 2020

Our sincere thanks to Vivien Tiano for setting the quiz questions and for hosting the event. Thank you to everyone who took part. It was so good to see smiling faces and lots of laughter although we do all need to find the mute button on our computers as it was possible to listen to the answers from other participants! All good fun, thank you again Vivien.

Friday 3rd July: A Zoom meeting from **Jack Perks**, the renowned wildlife photographer. Zoom will only allow 100 participants at any one time so if you wish to watch the presentation, please, email Sheila Crawley as soon as possible on sheila.crawley@gmail.com to book. Sheila will then, nearer the time, forward you the details required to view.

Friday 7th August: no meeting

Friday 4th September: To be arranged

Group News

ART APPRECIATION

John Barnett has now taken over a leader of this group and is beginning to plan future activities. Many thanks are due to Anne Butterworth for organising and running the group so well. We look forward to getting together again once meetings are permitted.

Contact: John Barnett j.r.barnett@reading.ac.uk Tel 07503 152610

CRAFT

Hope you are all keeping busy and knitting, sewing and generally crafting away - no excuse for not getting round to that kit that has been in the back of the cupboard or the material you bought and just put in the drawer. Send Mavis photos of what you have been making so we can all enjoy your efforts and maybe get inspiration.

Jill Smith

CURRENT AFFAIRS

What will the world be like when things get back to normal (or less abnormal)? Will income tax be doubled to pay for the economic costs of the pandemic? What about the money the NHS desperately needs? As big businesses go bust leaving many thousands unemployed, will there be jobs for our children and grandchildren? Twenty of us met on Zoom for our June debate on a subject that is very topical and hugely important. It was led with great authority by Bob Hodgson who answered our many questions and explained complicated concepts - such as oil having a negative value - in simple words.

On **Thursday 9th July** we shall discuss food standards after Brexit. Will we be eating Kentucky Fried Chlorinated Chicken, imported Ugandan beef (so much cheaper than that produced by British farmers with their rules and regulations about animal welfare and food safety)?

David Holt

FAMILY HISTORY

We are having Zoom meetings once a month on the **second Thursday** of the month, with about 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.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9th July 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

With no-one able to go away anywhere, we are getting good attendances for our Zoom meetings, both with the improvers and the advanced group. We are 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 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.

The advanced group has now finished reading "La Gloire de Mon Père" and we are going to watch the film of it.

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 JULY 2020

Our schedule is currently affected by Covid-19. The current guidance from the government and Third Age Trust precludes any outdoor activity such as our garden tours. When and as the lockdown is lifted, the organisers will need to complete an outdoor activity risk assessment checklist and all participants will need to review this form for each individual event and carry out their own personal risk assessment. As always there will be a form that will need to be completed to ensure these decisions are documented for insurance purposes.

Thursday 9th July – Wentworth Woodhouse – Postponed TBC

Monday 3rd August - Highgrove House – Closed at present – still no news

Thank you for those who have reconfirmed interest.

Tuesday 18th August – Rockingham Castle and Gardens – The gardens are re-opening on 23rd June but I am unable to organise any tour until the above guidance lifts.

Organisers Patti Green 07720 812278 sidewaysw@aol.com and Sue Dandy 01335 345157.

GERMAN GROUPS

The beginners and intermediate German groups continue to tick along nicely with a supply of work for independent study from Rhona along with lots of online Duolingo.

Some members of the beginners group meet fortnightly for a Zoom coffee and chat catch up but everyone is missing being able to meet together as usual. Information about both groups can be obtained from Rhona Hunt: 01335 344660 or rhonahunt@outlook.com

HIKING GROUP

Tuesday 14th July: If Lockdown is relaxed a little further to allow larger groups, a socially distanced walk will be offered. Watch the website and monthly update for further details.

Judy Harrison

LANDSCAPE AND HERITAGE GROUP

Friday 31st July: Zoom meeting at 10.30am to discuss whether commemorations in our towns and villages of prominent figures from our past, who are no longer considered politically correct, should be removed or is this erasing an important part of our history and heritage?

All group members will receive an invitation to join the meeting.

Pamela Boura

ONLINE DANCING

A small group of us has begun to dance again 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 (via u3asites.org.uk) 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

The Pétanque group has not played since before lockdown, but we're just beginning to dare to dream. Once pubs are allowed to open and we have the permission of our venue to play, we will get underway again, albeit probably with reduced numbers per session, at least to begin with. We enjoyed a very social Zoom session in early June, it was so nice to see everyone's face again and have a good blether.
Best Wishes, Sheila Crawley

STROLLERS

Strollers continue to miss their fortnightly strolls and can't wait for restrictions to be lifted so we can meet as a group. A few of us met on Zoom recently and it was good to see everyone. We compared notes on how we were managing lockdown and sorted the world out - were it that easy. We remembered our last stroll on March 9th at Kirk Ireton led by Sue Hawkings who provided delicious hospitality at the end of the walk.

Looking ahead to when we can meet as a group and do our strolls the Derby Connect bus (which we use from time to time) can only take 4 passengers at present. This will rise to 6 if social distancing is changed to 1 metre. It was agreed that if ever we can meet as a group those without cars should have priority for the bus. Other members would then make their own way to the start of the walk. We also agreed that, whenever it is, our first walk after lockdown will start at the Tunnel and go along the trail to Thorpe and back. This all seems a long way off unfortunately. Enjoy your local walks while we have the good weather.

Kind Regards, Karen Tallant



A llama at Snelston - where we walk regularly

TABLE TENNIS

At the moment the Leisure Centre is closed so no table tennis. However there is a possibility of a change which may mean opening next month. Freedom Leisure are in charge but are not giving out any future plans just now. There is no longer a waiting list for table tennis, so if anyone is interested in joining us when we resume play please contact me, Wendy Goddard 342532 or wendygoddard@fastmail.fm.
Regards, Wendy Goddard

WORDPLAY

Unfortunately due to the continuing restrictions there will be no opportunity to meet in at least July or August. I hope everyone is keeping well and safe and I will update you should anything change.
Regards Margaret Marsden.

WRITING GROUP

We are continuing our writing activities much as we would if we could physically meet. Our latest themes have included 'Comfort', 'My Own Manifesto' and 'Childhood Beliefs' and traditions. I email out the 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. 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

WALKING GROUP

By participating in fortnightly quizzes conducted by Zoom, about 25 members of our group continue to reminisce about past walks which we have done & the delightful local countryside which we are unable to visit at present. Photographs of places, flowers, pubs, maps, etc are displayed on screen to constitute the basis of the questions, all conducted in a jovial & light hearted manner.

See Ashbourne U3A website for further details (u3asites.org.uk). Any member interested in participating should contact Peter Worboys via the email link on the Walking page of the website.

Some photos of the quiz sessions are set out below.

Peter Worboys



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