

June 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'

Friday 5th June: Vivien Tiano will be hosting a quiz via Zoom. Please contact Vivien: tiano121@btinternet.com if you would like to take part.

Friday July 3rd: To be arranged

THREE MESSAGES FROM OUR CHAIRMAN:

RE U3A MEMBERSHIP 1ST APRIL 2020 TO 31ST MARCH 2021

I would like to say a special thank you to the 352 members who have kindly renewed their membership despite the difficulties we have encountered with the coronavirus. I am sorry to see around 60 members have not renewed their membership. You may be thinking it is not necessary to rejoin if groups and meetings can no longer meet and I can understand that but I would like to explain the situation we are in. As members of the national body the Third Age Trust (U3A) we are obliged to pay capitation fees and to cover the costs of the magazine: Third Age Matters. We also have to be in a good financial position to restart as soon as we are allowed to do so.

You may have considered that U3A is not for you and all we ask is that you let us know so your name can be removed from our list. Our Membership Secretary has, I know, sent out reminders and many of you have responded which is really appreciated.

Although we are not all meeting as before some group leaders are using Zoom and trying very hard to keep in touch with groups that can link in this way. A Quiz for all members is planned on the **5th June**. I don't want you to leave or miss out but from the **31st May** we will update the list and remove any unpaid members. I do hope this won't be your last copy of the Newsletter or Silly Joke Sheet. We do plan to make adjustments on membership fees next year but we can only do that if all members are fully paid up this year.

If you enjoy U3A please consider rejoining before the end of the month.

U3A COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

The U3A Committee met on Tuesday 19th May via Zoom to discuss issues that needed to be addressed although we are officially still in lockdown. We are aware that many groups are now meeting through Zoom so a special thank you to the Group Leaders who can do so. Sadly there are many groups who cannot meet in this way but we hope that there will be a relaxation in the rules which will enable small groups to meet with social distancing very soon.

Meeting via Zoom is working well but 40 minutes goes by very quickly and although it is possible to re-join it would be good to take away the interruption. The Committee has decided to pay on a monthly basis the licence fee required by Zoom to allow members to meet for an indefinite time period. If your group is interested please contact Sheila Crawley our U3A Secretary to book your slot. Only one group can meet at a time but this shouldn't cause too many problems as many of you have chosen your normal meeting times. However you must book in advance.

Using Zoom is very welcome at the moment but I know you will prefer to meet again in person. We all miss the friendly chats over a cup of tea.

Sheila Allen Chairman

THANK YOU, U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP!

On Friday 8th May as part of the VE Day celebrations Vivien Tiano and John Rawson showed via Zoom a presentation of stories shared by the Family History Group. Some 50 households within the U3A family signed up to see a very moving and emotional insight into the shared experiences of family members throughout the war.

There is little doubt that what we are experiencing now pales in insignificance with the loss of life and torture during WW2. Can you imagine now sending our children away with no telephone or Zoom to help us keep in touch? This is just one example of how difficult life was and how endurance conquered.

The presentation will be displayed in the Ashbourne Library when it reopens so for anyone who did miss Friday's presentation do make a point of going along to see it when it is safe to do so. We will let you know the dates when they are available so watch this space!

My sincere thanks to Vivien, John, Arnie and the Family History Group for a wonderful presentation. I felt very emotional at the end and perhaps my thanks did not do justice to the standard of work and music involved.

Sheila Allen

Group News

BRIDGE FOR BEGINNERS

I regret that our classes will not continue until the social distancing rule is completely lifted. However, I suggest that you keep looking at and reading your crib sheets and any other leaflet I have given you, then deal out the cards as normal and look at each hand to see what bids you would make. After this try and play out the hands individually (as though you are in the places of the other 3 players) and see if you can make your contract. Have Fun!!

Pat Dixon

CRAFT

Unfortunately, Craft doesn't really lend itself to Zoom events - but it would be good to stay in touch and see what everyone has been doing. Jill has been sewing scrubs and knitting sloths. Her sloth is, at the moment lacking black, beady eyes. This has given Jill the idea that we might be able to provide one another with missing items while it is

difficult to shop. The suggestion is that we contact Jill with our requests and she will send round an email. Jill can be contacted via the blue envelope on our web page. She will then co-ordinate the requests and then try to deliver the items to us.

If you are able to order online then you might consider visiting the Empress Mills website to look at the range of their fabrics and haberdashery items. Currently, they are only charging £1.50 for delivery.



CURRENT AFFAIRS GROUP

Bearing in mind that the average attendance at our conventional meetings is about 23, it was very encouraging to see 18 at our Zoom meeting in May.

“The Internet: a power for good or a new dark age” was the presentation by Roger Thomas. Superbly researched and professionally delivered, Roger effortlessly coaxed innovative contributions from us all and left us with a lot to think about.

On 11th June, Bob Hodgson will lift the veil on the probable effects on the economy of this blinking pandemic.

David Holt

FAMILY HISTORY

Our May family history meeting was our second meeting on Zoom. I did a presentation on how different it is to search for ancestors in France compared with in this country, and then we had time for a cup of tea/coffee and to help a couple of members with their family history as well as some general chat. The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11th June 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.

In addition to our monthly meetings, we are now running DNA workshops on the 4th Thursday of each month. These will reflect the needs of participants, so will vary from an introduction to DNA testing for family history for new testers and those who are considering testing, to more advanced sessions introducing more complex analytical techniques.

To know more about these workshops, whether you already belong to the family history group or not, please contact Sheila Crawley at sheila.crawley@gmail.com.

Vivien Tiano

FRENCH

We are continuing with our meetings by video connection, the improvers on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month, the advanced group on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Everyone seems to be getting used to the video connection even if it is not a perfect solution. It is keeping everyone's French ticking over, and we manage to see each other.

We even stop briefly part way through the session to go and get a cup of tea and a biscuit!

If anyone else would like to join us, 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. Please see the website for any updates.

Saturday 27th June Highgrove House - Cancelled

Thursday 9th July – Wentworth Woodhouse – Postponed TBC

Monday 3rd August - Highgrove House – Closed at present - TBC

The Highgrove Board is not discussing the re-opening of the garden until next month. I will be communicating with everyone who showed interest in this trip in the next few days. If the U3A has not lifted its lockdown guidance by that time we would not be insured and the trip could not go ahead.

Tuesday 18th August – Rockingham Castle and Gardens – TBC

GERMAN

With a plethora of listening activities on the internet and a never ending supply of homework from Rhona for independent study, the German Groups are ticking over nicely but everyone is missing the tea and friendly chat.

Rhona Hunt

HIKING GROUP

Tuesday 16th June. Depending on the situation regarding the lockdown, it is hoped that we may be able to offer a socially distanced walk. Please check the website for further details.

ONLINE DANCING

A small group of us has begun to dance again with the help of Zoom. There are two sessions **each Monday evening**. We start at 7:30 with the easier dances to keep us moving then take a break after 35-40 minutes. We reconvene at 8:15 for those dances that are a little more difficult and also some new ones. If anyone wants 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

STROLLERS

Strollers fortnightly Monday walks, like everything, are not taking place for the foreseeable future. I do hope Strollers are managing to get out each day and walk from home. I have done some of our favourite walks from Mayfield: Snelston, gated road at Blore, Thorpe to Mayfield, Adam Bede walk from Ellastone. Here are some photos to remind you how lovely the scenery is.

Karen Tallant



TABLE TENNIS

The Leisure Centre remains closed until further notice which means that there is no table tennis being played at the moment. Let us hope that before long there will be a change and we will return enthusiastically to our Friday morning sessions. If anyone is interested in joining us in the future, please call me on 342532 or e.mail at wendygoddard@fastmail.fm.

WRITING GROUP

Like most groups, we haven't been able to meet physically but fortunately writing is one activity that is simple to carry on virtually. Group mailing is made very easy by the use of the Beacon system. 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. 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.

While we are not permitted to walk in our beautiful countryside, some of our group are reminiscing about past walks & that countryside by participating in quizzes conducted by Zoom. A practice session was held on 29 April & a quiz comprising 20 questions was held on 13 May. The next quiz is scheduled for **3.30pm on 27th May**. See Ashbourne U3A website for further details.

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.



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