



May 2021

[www.u3asites.org.uk/Ashford-Wye](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/Ashford-Wye)

Registered charity number 1172873

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## News from the chair

As a way of introducing myself as the new Chairman of Ashford and Wye u3a – alongside the committee role of my wife Glenda as Business Secretary - I have been asked to provide some background to our Kent connection.

Following meeting up at the St Bride's Players of Fleet Street in 1968, we married at St Leonard's Church, Hythe in September 1969 as Glenda and her family had lived in Kent (especially Hythe and Folkestone). After our respective careers took us to various parts of the UK, we decided in 2016 to return to the county of our matrimonial roots. We chose to live in Ashford with easy proximity to London and Paris plus friendly communities.



Tony Boyd-Williams – new u3a Chairman – with his wife Glenda

As new members at u3a we were made exceptionally welcome by the Play Reading Group and then at our first coffee morning. Over the following years, Ashford Wye & District u3a has given us much pleasure and we now feel that, by accepting these posts on the committee, we may put something back into such a friendly and lively u3a.

Like my predecessors, I should like all our Group Leaders to know they have my encouragement and support. I also hope that members generally (especially those of you who are new) will enjoy all that is available.

Recent phone conversations with our National Office have provided the welcome advice that, with the Government Roadmap on track, we may certainly make plans to resume activities, including coffee mornings from Wednesday, July 28, listed in the Programme Update on page 4.

Glenda and I look forward to meeting you all again, especially those who are new to Ashford u3a. Meanwhile, thanks to the committee for their support and contributions.

I am most grateful to my predecessor Sue Long for arranging a smooth succession as Chair.

If anyone would like to discuss u3a matters, please email me at:

**[u3achairashford@gmail.com](mailto:u3achairashford@gmail.com)**

## Ashford & Wye u3a – new committee

<b>Chairman</b> - Tony Boyd-Williams	<b>Vice Chairman</b> VACANT
<b>Treasurer</b> - Richard Wadey	<b>Business Secretary</b> – Glenda Boyd-Williams
<b>Membership Secretary</b> - Aileen Dickson	<b>Programme Manager</b> - Bernie Rogers
<b>Systems/website administrator (SA)</b> Clive Wren	<b>Newsletter co-ordinator</b> – Adrienne Lowing
<b>Speaker Secretary</b> - Anne Fuggle	<b>Trips Organiser</b> - Carol Clay

### Theatrical approach to lockdown restrictions

The Play Reading group met four times prior to Christmas. Including Barry and myself we have ten members meeting fortnightly via two-hour Zoom meetings. In the hands of Tony and Glenda, we had a reading through of a 1900s farce called A Gown for his Mistress. Two sessions have been allocated to a two-act play by Simon Williams Laying the Ghost.

For a further two sessions there is a possibility I will take the wraps off the play I wrote during Lockdown One! We may perform it at a Coffee Morning. But it might be deemed to be unfair to members who do not do Zoom as only those currently taking part will know the plot and characters and might be seen as having an advantage for the casting!

One cannot read a script from the screen while on Zoom! Not everyone can or will want to print them off. Getting scripts from the library means checking whether it is a suitable play for the numbers of male and female characters. Also I have to order them from Maidstone, well in advance, then wait for delivery to Ashford's Gateway library. To maintain social distancing I pack them individually into sanitised plastic pallets for each member to collect from our porch. When finished the scripts can be put through our letter box.

**Maureen Andrews**

### Newcastle Trip Taking Place

Our much-delayed trip to Newcastle is back on track  
providing we can fill up the last few places!

**NEWCASTLE SHORT BREAK FRIDAY 24/9/2021 – 5 DAYS, 4 NIGHTS**

Minimum 20 bookings £395 twins £467 singles

3-star hotel, dinner bed/breakfast

Full itinerary – Newcastle, Beamish, Bowes Museum, Auckland Castle, Durham.

Extended stops on both journeys.

To express your interest contact Ieda Hogarth on 01233 612821 or  
email: [ieda.hogarth@sky.com](mailto:ieda.hogarth@sky.com).

Final booking confirmation must be received by **TWO** weeks after receipt of this newsletter.

## **Cookery coming back**

Later in the year I will be running the four-week Cookery Course entitled Around the World (originally mentioned in the u3a programme booklet – September 2020 to August 2021). Hopefully it will be held in September and I will take email bookings once we are able to actually set a date.

**Beverley Jarvis**

**Mirthy talks via the internet  
will continue until June 23  
which will be the last one.**

## **Zooming around the world in 80 days**

With Zoom meetings in French taking place again, most of the group participate. We start with each member talking of their news or chosen topic as it is a little difficult to find interesting news during lockdown! We continue to chat and go over any new vocabulary which came from the news. Lastly, we are reading from our own copies of bilingual book Around the World in 80 Days. We will continue with Zoom every two weeks until we are able to meet again in my garden, hopefully in May.

**Beverley Jarvis**

## **Card crafting**

It is obviously not possible to socially distance at a Card Crafting Group. However, it looks like hope is on the horizon for the existing five members who will be joining together again when circumstances allow with the activity continuing to be run from our house.

**Maureen Andrews**

## **Art Group**

Our art group still goes from strength to strength on WhatsApp. We are being challenged by one of our more experienced artists to paint fairly difficult motives, so far on black background and show our works, if we have done any.

Jokes and daily experiences are also shared, which has brought us very close together. Even when we finally return to the Iron Room, we want to continue with WhatsApp.

## **Classical Music**

Our Classical Music Circle is continuing on Zoom. The "host" chooses a programme in advance, the other members listen (or view) the piece(s) in their own time but before the Zoom meetings. We then discuss or compare the pieces we heard/saw. So far we listened to/viewed The Mikado from the ENO, Samson et Delilah from the Met in NY, Grieg's piano concerto, Alban Berg's violin concerto and Edgar's Cello concerto. We are a very small group who would usually meet in each other's homes.

**Ursula and David Peters**

## **Receiving TAM choice**

While we are hopeful our u3a members read this Ashford and Wye newsletter, it is apparently not always the same reception for the national u3a magazine Third Age Matters (TAM). In some cases TAM goes straight into the recycling bin. *A*

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It would be even more environmentally kind if members who do not read TAM opted out of receiving it. This would reduce the amount of paper used and also save the energy involved in printing the magazine.

To cancel TAM contact the Membership Secretary Aileen Dickson so she can arrange cancellation via the Beacon system.

**[u3amembershipashford@outlook.com](mailto:u3amembershipashford@outlook.com)**

## Coffee Mornings update – getting together again?

If all goes to plan, members can look forward to attending at Repton Connct Community Centre with an initial coffee session on July 28. Consideration is being given to splitting the coffee morning events into separate groups – morning and afternoon.

The prospect will be equally welcomed by Centre Manager Charlie Lloyd. He said: "The way the u3a uses the Centre is what it is built for – a place for the community to come together." And he is proud of the efforts made to keep visitors safe. "It has been through a full chemical deep clean, way beyond what is legally required."

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**July 28** – a Coffee Morning at Repton Connect, just a convivial chat meeting which will which will give us an idea of how many folk will come!

**August 25** – another Coffee Morning at Repton Connect but this time Beverly Jarvis will speak about her forthcoming book. Beverley is a u3a member and a home economist.

**September 22** – Back to 'normal'! Chris O'Donahue will be speaking to us at Repton Connect on 'The Great Dixter' (famous gardens).

**October 27** – Paul Robbins presenting his talk 'Great British Eccentrics'.

**November 24** – Bernard Locket speaking about Gilbert and Sullivan.

**Ann Fuggle**

## Mindfulness – finding peace in a frantic world

The current times remind us of the uncertainty of our own existence – and how important it is to remain focused, grounded and in the present moment.

Following the aims of the u3a, to learn and grow together, our objectives are to develop the ability to have a quiet, clear and curious mind and be in the present.

By doing this, many areas of our life can be improved, namely our emotional, physical and mental wellbeing. It can help us be more focused, enjoy life more and understand ourselves better. It is easy to end up 'living in our heads', resembling a washing machine permanently on fast spin. During sessions, we aim to strive for freedom from this inner chatter and reconnect with our own bodies,; focused and living in the moment!

Zoom course runs at 2pm for 40 mins, on the first Tuesday of the month. For more information or to join, please contact me email:dunnanddusted22@gmail.com – 01233 622330 (Call guardian intercept on this line)

**Brenda Dunn**

## Weekenders looking for Sunday lunch solutions

With continuing uncertainty about future restaurant restrictions, the Weekenders Sunday lunch club has been investigating ways groups of members could enjoy a restaurant meal again. Many members canvassed about the possibility of limiting numbers to six people were enthusiastic about the idea of and it is being looked into further.

**Adrienne Lowing and Sylvia Millard**

*A&Wu3anewsletterMay 21*