

Letter from the Chairman of Caterham & District u3a - 9th October 2020

Dear Caterham u3a Members

Wendy and I spent last week sailing in the Solent. Apart from Thursday night, when Storm Alex dumped half of Ryde beach on our boat, we had very nice sailing weather. I have attached two interesting photos - "Sand" and "Sand 1" - showing the devastation. While we were sheltering from Storm Alex in Ryde Marina, I sat and read **Doreen Harper's** "bumper edition" of the Newsletter. It was a truly magnificent effort, and I want to thank all the contributors. The roundup of the Group's activities was amazing and showed that our u3a remains undaunted by the pandemic.

What is more incredible is that I **know** there are more groups who are still operating, but who did not tell us about what they are doing! When we publish the next Full Newsletter, and if your group did not share their experiences in the last Newsletter, please do tell **Lyn Robinson Jones** how your group is functioning during the pandemic. The Newsletter is published on our Website, which is seen by the unlucky people who have not yet joined the u3a. Let us show them what they are missing! As winter sets in there will be more people suffering from loneliness and isolation, and we can help them.

An even more positive development, which I should perhaps call "Stop Press". **Wynny Mehra** has just launched **another** new Group. Crocheting will start on Monday at 7.30 pm on Zoom. If you are interested (and have some knowledge of crocheting) please contact Wynny via the pigeon icon on the groups' page of the website, or contact **Lyn Robinson Jones**.

The group has only just started so the frequency of meetings has not yet been decided,

On the subject of our Website, our webmaster **Phil Singleton** has done another great job of updating it. The **Latest News** page has been reorganised and some older items have been moved to a new page -

Earlier News. He has also ensured that all the entries that are under our control reflect the new u3a branding. **Group Leaders**. Please keep Phil informed if your group is functioning, and keep it up to date as often as you can. If you look at the Groups page you will see just how many of our groups are maintaining an active program. **Well done all the Group Leaders**.

The latest Third Age Trust Newsletter mentioned the launch of the u3a radio station. You may have noticed the new branding for the u3a. I remembered to use the new branding this time, but I might forget from time to time! I listened to their launch "Podcast" and thought that it was very well put together. Very professional, and very interesting. If you do not subscribe to the u3a Central Newsletter, it is also worth reading. There are links on our own website and of course, you can also go on the Third Age Trust website and subscribe.

The Third Age Trust is still offering Zoom tutorials. Regrettably, I think that we will be relying on Zoom until well into the New Year, so even if you do not like Zoom, it might be time to "bite the bullet". If you do not want to sign up for a tutorial, **Paul Knight** and **Phil Singleton** are still happy to give advice.

I am sure that you will all be pleased to learn that **Paul Knight** has now launched our new **Facebook** page. It is easy to find. Just log in to Facebook, and type in Caterham u3a in the search box. It will open with some lovely photos of our catchment area, and is being populated with more information as I write this "Postcard". At the moment, it is a "closed" page, but if you want Paul to add anything, please let him know (you can get a message to him by clicking on his photo on the contacts page of our website). He is more than happy to make anyone who wants to add to the page an "Administrator" so that you do not have to go via him every time. He would like everyone to visit the page and click on the "thumbs up" icon. (You can even share it with family and friends, and get them to "like" it). This is quite important as it will enable us to increase the circulation.

As a result of my sailing holiday, I missed the talk by **John Nathan**. I gather from the feedback forms that it was an excellent talk, with some very good photographs. Many thanks, John. We have another talk coming up on Friday October 16th. This one will be by **Councillor Bob Milton** on his life as a diplomatic protection officer. I understand that he has some humorous stories about well know politicians, so it should be fun.

Our "virtual" **quiz night** is coming up soon. Due to the constraints of Zoom, you will not be able to form teams in advance, but this should provide you with an excellent chance to make new friends. Some of us took part in a practice run, to iron out any problems. I can assure you that it was very enjoyable. Just remember, if your main reason for going

to the quiz night was to enjoy the fish and chips, that you can always order a takeaway!

One of our Group Leaders - **Vera Gray** - told me the other day that she has been taking trips up to London on a regular basis over the last few months. The trains are empty, and so are most of the museums and galleries! It is easy to get a table for lunch, and altogether a really good day out. If you do decide to give it a try, don't forget to take your mask. Given the latest news on the new infections, it might be best to wait for a while, but it is a good idea as we move into winter, and walking in the woods and parks becomes less enjoyable (although as we get deeper into autumn, you could always go out and take some spectacular autumn scenes to share in the Photo Sharing initiative which I mention again below!

I have been sent details on the new music library service being offered by Surrey libraries. You can now stream music using your library card (I am sure that the Music group will be pleased to learn about this if they did not already know). You just click on the link below.

[Music fans this one is for you! With Naxos Music Library you can stream music online using your Surry Library card! Access over 35,000 CDs All you need is your library card number <http://ow.ly/UVU950BDzb6>](http://ow.ly/UVU950BDzb6)

There is a very interesting documentary programme coming up on Apple TV if you have a TV that can stream Apple TV or an Apple TV box. The series started on 1 October and is now available for streaming. There are 6 episodes, and it is a wonderful series about "Tiny Creatures". If you missed the programme earlier this week with Prince William talking about the importance of preserving our environment, it was excellent and well worth watching on Catch Up. I am not usually a great "Podcast" follower, but I have decided to give the new David Dimbleby podcast on the Iraq War a try. It sounds fascinating, and you can easily find it if you Google "David Dimbleby Podcast on the Iraq War". I have listened to episode 1, and it is a fascinating story.

Congratulations go once again to **Ray Howgego**, who correctly identified that the **Photo Challenge** picture was taken in Tupwood Lane between Twyford Lodge and North Downs hospital. The Pillar is next to the lodge for North Downs hospital. It is unclear which part of the land the site was originally assigned to but it was sold off at the same time as the

Twyford estate in the early 1950s. Many thanks to **Paul Knight** who set the challenge and monitored the results. I must confess that I had no idea where it was taken, but then I live in Purley! Since there were few entries this time, I think that it must have been quite hard!

The latest challenge was set by **Ian McIntosh**, who will be running the challenge in future. If you have any photos which you would like to submit as a challenge to others, please email Ian at ianblair@btinternet.com. The latest photo is attached. If you can guess where this one is located and what is the name of the field in which the clock is located, please email Ian. We will publish the name of the first correct guess.

Doreen's Newsletter mentioned the "Photo-Sharing" invitation which we are now setting up. I received a comment that there might be some confusion between this and the photo challenge. If that is so, I apologise. The photo-sharing invitation is to enable us to share and enjoy each other's photographs (a bit like the "Weather watchers" on Breakfast TV). As per the Newsletter item, please send any "Autumn" photographs that you are proud of to Mike Barker at mike@barkers.me.uk. Our Photo Challenge is quite separate from this, and each week, for as long as we get "challenges" we will publish a photo and invite you to guess where it was taken. For the Challenge, you simply follow the instructions given in my weekly "Postcard". If you want to set a challenge, please send your photograph with the answer to Ian McIntosh at ianblair@btinternet.com.

I know that Alan Kingsmill usually tells you about all the alarming scams which are out there, but this week I was told by Ron Giddens about a rather alarming scam which is particularly dangerous as we approach Christmas (and, of course, we are all using online shopping much more often than in the past). Please see the attached notice about a firm called PDS. Whilst on the subject of scams, I would like to tell you about a website that I found which tells you what to do if you think that you have been scammed.

<https://www.which.co.uk/consumer-rights/advice/what-to-do-if-youre-the-victim-of-a-bank-transfer-app-scam>

You can either click on the link or paste it into your browser. It is really well explained.

Some time ago, I mentioned the **COVID Symptoms Study App** and encouraged you all to sign up to help this important research project. If you have not yet done so, it is worth considering signing up (it is not too late). It is easy to download, and easy to complete (a few seconds each day is all that is really required, with some additional questions from time to time).

In the last Newsletter, we also mentioned the **NHS Tracing App**. To avoid any possible confusion, these are two completely different Apps fulfilling different purposes. The NHS App is to enable the government to track contacts and alert you if you may have come into contact with someone who has tested positive. It is also very important that we all download this App. When you go into any venue displaying the tracing App logo (QR Code for the technical), just hold your phone in front of it with the app open, and it will record that you were there.

So finally, my item of humour for the week. I am once again grateful to Diane Hanley, who sent the following Headlines (I am not sure whether they are all genuine headlines, but they are all funny):

- War Dims Hope for Peace
- If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
- Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures
- London Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide
- Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges
- New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group
- Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Perhaps I can add one of my own (and I did actually see this sign in the office building where I worked!)

- Toilet out of order. Please use floor below.

And to finish, a short "Scam" related story which was sent to me by Alan Kingsmill, but which originated on the u3a "Keeping in Touch" Facebook page.

During our discussion about scams, I forgot to mention a phone call I received a week or so ago - I don't know if it was a scam or not. A recorded message told me that I had won a competition and that I could choose between two prizes - either £100 cash or two tickets to an Elvis Presley tribute concert. I was told to use the keypad to indicate which prize I wanted - it was 1 for the money or 2 for the show..... (a clue - Blue Suede Shoes!)

As usual, I will conclude with my reminder:

Stay Safe

Check our Website

Follow the guidelines

Best wishes

Mike Brigden

Chair

Caterham u3a





PLEASE NOTE AND PASS TO ALL YOUR CONTACTS

Christmas is fast approaching, Royal Mail & The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information, see the Crime Stoppers website:

<http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam>

Please be aware that the premium rate number may change but nevertheless please do not call any number stated on a card from PDS.

Can you please make all your family, friends and neighbours aware of the above.