



COTSWOLD LINK

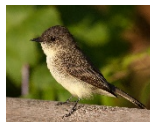
Newsletter – May 2020

Due to circumstances beyond everyone's control, we have unfortunately not been able to meet recently and share information in our normal way. I have been in touch with many U3A groups in the South West and West Midlands Regions on behalf of the Regional Trustees following up the questionnaire sent out by National Office. It has been encouraging to hear of the innovations used by different groups to keep in touch with their members and the different choices to keep them engaged with zoom meetings, quizzes, competitions, crosswords, even managing to play bridge, plus many other ideas. However, I am aware that for smaller groups it is more difficult to keep running and I trust that normal service can be resumed when current restrictions are lifted.

Certainly our lexicon has been enlarged as we are all now familiar with words in addition to coronavirus such as lockdown, social-distancing, self-isolation, furlough, r-rate, EPP.



For the last couple of years the Cotswold Link has been invited by National Office to attend meetings with other networks and links throughout the UK. As ever, it is always useful to share experiences and learn from what other groupings are doing. (Although I believe Cotswold Link is unique in having groups from two different regions in membership.) As a result of these meetings National Office wishes to formalise arrangements and Cotswold Link has been asked to sign a Network Affiliation Agreement. After on-line discussion, the executive committee has agreed that we will continue with our own constitution (last revised in 2017) and we do not intend currently to register as a charity. We also agreed to sign the licence to use the U3A logo.



As you will be aware, we had to cancel the special interest day 'Grand Designs' planned for 30 June. This was a pity as we had a great line up of interesting speakers. However we are hoping this is only a postponement and we will hope to organise another date in the future – so watch this space.

Also cancelled was the Annual General Meeting and half yearly meeting to be held 25 March. Our next half yearly meeting is planned to be on **13 October 2020** and if possible we will hold the AGM at this meeting instead.

We do have planned a **training session for Treasurers** to be held on **4 November** – venue and details to be confirmed later. Although entitled ‘for treasurers’ it would be very useful and informative for chairmen and any other executive committee members new to the role who wish to learn about running your U3A group. As a non-financial person, when I attended this course in Birmingham I found it extremely helpful and informative. Subjects to be covered include:

- Explain Trustees responsibilities
- Discuss accounting and reporting requirements
- To consider good practice within charitable accounting
- To provide an overview of Gift Aid
- Network, share ideas and problem solve



Finally, please share this newsletter with your committee. As we cannot at present meet and share in person, please also use the Cotswold Link website, via our website manager, your activities, ideas, poems and photos during this period of lock down.

www.u3asites.org.uk/cotswold-link

Stay safe and well

Jane Flynn, Chairman

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LOCKDOWN

There's a subject we've all been discussing

It's known as COVID-19

It's caused consternation and fussing

From the elderly down to the teen.

Whether living in Kent or Kalgoorlie

In Tooting or Timbuktu

You need to stay in or truly

You really could suffer it too.

Symptoms are no energy and coughing

And your food becomes tasteless they say

So your meals you won't be scoffing

With relish 'til it all goes away.

Isolation is really not funny

There's only so much you can do

And it's hard to spend any money

'Cos the shops are all closed, 'cept a few.

You can be proud if your job is a nurse

Or a doctor or carer, you're great

Without you our plight would be worse

And we'd just have been left to our fate.

The environment has gained a big bonus

It's quiet and vehicles are few

No planes, less fumes fall upon us

And the sky is a new shade of blue.

When it's over, what future will face us
Will we learn from the experience we've had
And be ready for the next global virus
So the impact will not be so bad.

John Curtis