



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Cranleigh & District U3A Newsletter – January 2020

Local website: www.cranleighu3a.org.uk
Editor: Barbara White

National website: www.u3a.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1071260



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

May I wish you all a very Happy New Year!

As the new decade begins, I am sure we are all looking forward to starting our groups once more. As your new Chair, I hope to visit many of these and get to know you all.

Jane was an excellent Chair and I hope to live up to her enthusiasm and involvement. With a great Committee, knowledgeable Group Leaders and new groups about to begin, I am sure we are going to have a successful 2020.

National U3A are running the first U3A Day on 3rd June 2020 to heighten awareness of the organisation. Locally, we do this with our Open Day in August. This year we also plan to have a stall at the Lions Carnival on 27th June and any ideas for this will be welcome.

We are fortunate in Cranleigh to have a wide range of U3A activities on offer thanks to our team of voluntary Group Leaders and, of course, you, our lovely members.

Best wishes

Veronica Barnard

MESSAGE FROM THE OUTINGS SECRETARY

Maggie Atkins

We have five outings on offer for the period March to May 2020. After several attempts in the last few months, we have succeeded in getting some very good tickets for "Tina – The Musical" at a good discounted rate. This has had rave reviews and should prove very popular.

In May we have a Kentish Lady river cruise on the Medway from Maidstone with a visit and tour of Allington Castle. The castle is privately-owned and is not normally open to the public.

In addition to these, we have a visit to the V&A Museum or a day out in London, always popular, a visit to the Post Office Museum with a trip on the Mail Rail underground railway, and a visit to Eltham Palace.

Please see the Outings Programme distributed with this Newsletter for full details and booking form.

ORGANIC GARDENING

There are still a few places available for the planned visit to Judy and Michael Knights' organic garden. The date is yet to be confirmed, but it will take place in April/May. Please contact me if you wish to express an interest in attending.

Barbara White

DO REMEMBER TO TAKE A LOOK AT THE REGIONAL AND NATIONAL WEBSITES WHERE YOU WILL FIND MANY INTERESTING IDEAS AND EVENTS, INCLUDING STUDY DAYS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS. YOU CAN ACCESS THESE SITES VIA THE EVENTS PAGE ON OUR WEBSITE (www.cranleigh3a.org.uk)

NEWS FROM U3A GROUPS

U3A GUITAR GROUP

Robin Chapman

Wow! What a start to a completely new group. First there were nine, then eleven and now fourteen guitarists. With a completely open forum, we set out to identify where we all were, on the scale from raw beginner to very able. We came up smiling with a wide variety of skill levels: some complete beginners; a few who had taken lessons a while ago; a couple of ex-band members and a few that had dabbled around chords and songs purely for pleasure.



Currently we are trying out a split format arrangement, whereby beginners work with one or two experienced players, with the remainder exchanging techniques and exploring more advanced playing. All very ad hoc at present but with the aim of learning something new, even if it is discovering the ability to teach others. So, a great start to the Guitar group with some very positive feedback received. We will develop as we go and hopefully play an ensemble together, accomplish the 12 bar blues and explore if we have the ability to write and play our own songs. Anyone for a Sausage Roll?

**Chicago Bridge Club: Tuesdays 10.00 am–12.15 pm,
Cranleigh Village Hall**

We are loving this group. It is friendly, enjoyable bridge, just as it should be. Strictly ROLL UP, NO PARTNER REQUIRED and each week there are several participants who come as singles. There is always someone available to fill in. Also, Tony and Sue are there to answer questions should you so wish - but not to dictate, as there is no formal instruction. Our aim is to enable members to practise playing. We have a very healthy turnout, but are always happy to welcome new players. The photo shows our Christmas session, but sorry we couldn't get the mince pies into the photo!



Tony Hodge and Sue Kariuki

Scrabble/Upwords Group

New members are welcome to come and enjoy a social afternoon of Scrabble or Upwords. We meet at Cranleigh Arts Centre on the 3rd Tuesday of each month between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm. Further details can be found in the U3A Handbook.

The Photography Group

Owen Scott

Our meetings are in three parts.

- 1. Before a meeting we all submit an image that is based on our learning from the previous month. These are projected and become a group learning experience as we share ideas and learn from each other.**
- 2. We then discuss a new skill or aspect of photography and have recently studied aperture, shutter speed and ISO and how an understanding of these could be used to take better photographs.**
- 3. After a coffee break, we have a practical session where we use our own cameras to practice the new aspect of photography.**

Our January meeting will be on the 23rd when we will be investigating Smartphone Photography. This will include considering the four best Smartphone Apps and six top Smartphone tips. During the practical session we will experiment with using the Snapseed App on our own phones.

At home we will experiment with using at least one of the top tips studied during the meeting.

Our February meeting will be on the 27th when we will be studying the Rule of Thirds, Composition and Cropping for a better photograph. The practical work at home will be to photograph a still life arrangement.

Our meetings are held in the Cranleigh Arts Centre between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. There are 13 active group members and only a few additional places available, so do get in touch if you would like to join us.

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

*Please send your contributions to me no later than
Wednesday, 15 April, 2020.*

Barbara White