



**Is it too Early to Celebrate?**

**Willand Village Hall  
has been booked for  
Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021**

If everything continues to progress in line with the Government's Roadmap, we hope to hold our first “post Covid” meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> July, starting at 2pm.

## Upcoming Zoom events ...

Please try to join Zoom events in good time as they will start at the stated time.

**20 Question Quiz** – Saturday 17th April at 5.00pm host and question setter Hazel Newman. Please note delayed time. Due to the funeral of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh we have moved the start time of the quiz to an hour later than usual.

**Outdoor pub meet up** – Friday 23rd April – maximum 6 folk who must book in advance. Contact Kevin who will organise ([llamakevin@gmail.com](mailto:llamakevin@gmail.com))



**Photography Competition** – Friday 30th April at 2.30pm – two photo's per participant – time to show off your photography skills. Please be prepared to provide a short introduction to your photograph/s. Kevin will post photographs on the Culm Valley u3a Facebook page for members to vote for their favourite photograph. The winner will be announced the following week.



**Coffee and Book Chat** – Wednesday 5th May hosted by Gill

**Life History with Gwyneth Garner** – Friday 7th May at 2.30pm hosted by Kevin. From State Registered Nurse to a BOAC stewardess, from Family Planning a French degree Gwyneth's life is one worth hearing about.

**20 Question Quiz** – Saturday 15th May at 4pm. Winner of quiz on 17 April to set quiz questions.

**POSH Gardens** – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May meetup at 2:30pm at Knightshayes for a coffee and walk around the gardens.

The **IT Group** meets on Zoom every Wednesday afternoon at 4pm and chat about all sorts of things not just IT! If you are interested in joining this group please let Sue know and she will pass your contact information on to Andy.

**If you have an idea for a topic, or you would like to host a zoom event  
Please get in touch with Kevin at [llamakevin@gmail.com](mailto:llamakevin@gmail.com)**

## Coming Soon on Zoom ...

We are in the process of arranging a Zoom event entitled Driving Safer for Longer. It is run by Red One Ltd, the commercial trading arm of the Devon & Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. The workshops are run by Approved Driving Instructors.

The key aims of the workshop are to build confidence and address worries that people might have on driving in today's roads and traffic conditions, they aren't specifically aimed at older drivers but may help people who haven't been driving much over the last year of lockdown, are anxious about driving their grandchildren, are upset/frustrated by other people's driving practices e.g. tailgating, etc.

The course is intended to be interactive and therefore the time is variable but somewhere around 1 to 1½ hours depending on questions.

Our session will be on a Thursday or Friday in May and final details will be emailed out once they have been confirmed.

**IF YOU NEED HELP USING ZOOM PLEASE GET IN TOUCH  
[shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shlawrieu3a@gmail.com)**

## Latest from the Book Group....

Our good (or not-so-good) reads or what the group have been reading since last month's chat:-

Prue Leith **Choral Society** - a light read of three womens' lives intertwined.

Lisa Lutz **The Passenger** - a woman chooses to 'disappear' rather than confront the fallout after she finds her husband dead at the bottom of the stairs.

Anne Tyler **Redhead by the Side of the Road** - Anne Tyler's rece between an ordinary man, a handiman, whose (unknown) teenage son turns up on his doorstep one day.

JoJo Moyes **Silver Bay** - Silver Bay is set in Australia. The reviews on Amazon and Waterstones promise a good read with this reliably good author.

Christy Lefteri **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** - Dealing with the flight of a Syrian refugee couple and their eventual settlement in the UK, it details the traumatic experiences of the journey and life in refugee camps en route but is ultimately uplifting.

JG Ballard **Empire of the Sun** - Re-read and greatly enjoyed, it's the story of a young British boy brought up in Shanghai who becomes separated from his parents during the Japanese occupation and following the Pearl Harbour attack.

Claire Duende **The Fortuncity of Birdie Dalal** - another refugee story, this time from Idi Amin's Uganda in 1972, Birdie and her family ending up in Kensington, London. A debut novel, of an uplifting tale of kindness and hope and not turning away from our true path. This is the first of a trilogy, although no idea how long we'll have to wait for the follow-up.)

Kazuo Ishigur **The Buried Giant** - It's a fantasy fiction of an elderly couple in post-Arthurian England in which no-one is able to retain long term memories. Another Marmite book it seems! you have been warned!

Winifred Watson **Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day** - About an unfairly dismissed middle-aged governess, down on her luck in late 1930's London. Sent by mistake, by her agency, to an unusual posting which changes her life! Described as a Cinderella story it seems to have been a forgotten classic rediscovered and made into a fun rom-com in 2008.

James Rebanks **English Pastoral** - A personal view of the author's farming life in the Lake District Fells, he takes us through the decline of traditional farming practised by his grandfather, through 'modernisation' of his father's generation and the inescapably obvious demise of wildlife and natural balance on the land through intensification and over-use of chemicals. At times depressing, it's nevertheless always a lyrical and beautifully written observation of the land and life he loves, and is ultimately full of optimism that the tide is turning on factory farming in the UK and a better balance is possible.



## Groups Co-ordinator needed to join the Culm Valley u3a Executive Committee

Can you help with the setting up of new Interest Groups and providing ongoing support; while keeping groups and the Executive Committee updated with developments, issues and challenges?

Interested?

Drop an email to [Shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:Shlawrieu3a@gmail.com)

## Is it Too Early to Celebrate?

The Government's Roadmap is now heading towards Step 3, which is anticipated to take place no earlier than 17 May, and at least five weeks after Step 2; following a further review of the data and the four tests. The Government will announce one week in advance whether restrictions will be eased as planned.

**Step THREE** – COVID Secure Guidance remains in place including mask wearing and Social Distancing.

- Indoor entertainment and attractions.
- 30 person limit outdoors. Rule of 6 or two households (subject to review).
- Domestic overnight stays.
- Organised indoor adult sport.
- Most significant life events (30).
- Remaining outdoor entertainment (including performances).
- Remaining accommodation.
- Some large events (expect for pilots) - capacity limits apply.
- Indoor events: 1,000 or 50%.
- Outdoor other events: 4,000 or 50%.
- Outdoor seated events: 10,000 or 25%.
- International travel - subject to review.

**Step FOUR** will take place no earlier than 21 June, and at least five weeks after Step 3, following a further review of the data against the four tests. As before, the Government will announce one week in advance whether restrictions will be eased as planned.

As we slowly move closer to June 21st and what that date promises, the Willand Village Hall has now been booked for our first "Post Covid" meeting on Thursday 1 July 2021 at 2pm.



The plan is to hold a tea party, as a celebration of Covid related restrictions being lifted and the fact that we are able to meet together again.

We would love it, if whoever feels they can, would make something for the tea. Cakes, biscuits, sausage rolls, anything edible!

If you do not feel like making something yourself then perhaps you could buy something to contribute to our celebration tea.

Yes it is early days, and we still have some way to go, before we can be certain that we will meet together again on 1 July; But perhaps you could give some thought as to what you might make or buy for the tea and let me know by email to [shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shlawrieu3a@gmail.com). I will keep a log of who is doing what and may suggest alternatives if it looks like we are going to be overloaded with a lot of the same thing.

We still have plenty of time, so no rush!

*Thank you*

## Membership News ...

The Executive Committee have agreed that we will not collect Membership Fees this year 2021. As it has been a strange and unusual time, we have decided to allow existing memberships to roll over until April 2022.

Any new members joining Culm Valley u3a between now and April 2022 will be expected to pay the required membership fee, pro rata, agreed by the Executive Committee.

## Please be fair and HELP with YOUR u3a ...

Culm Valley u3a has, at present, 80 members. Five people have been doing all they can to keep things going during the past year and at times this has not be easy.

As we move towards the possibility of meeting together again and running a full programme of monthly meetings and Interest Groups we are going to need help.

Like each of you, the members of the Executive Committee have families, interests and commitments other than u3a and some work part time. Just like you, each of these things take up their precious time.

If we are going to get things up and running again we are going to need your help. Please give some thought to how you can help run your u3a. We need a Groups Co-ordinator to join the Executive Committee and we are going to need various volunteers to make up a Management Team, responsible for booking speakers, editing the newsletter, keeping the website up to date, looking after technical issues etc.

It is important to understand that without a Groups Co-ordinator we can not create and provide ongoing support to the Interest Groups. The existing Executive Committee members already spend between 1 and 3 days a week on Culm Valley u3a business and it is unfair to expect us to take on any more.

Please do think about this and if you would like to know more about the Executive Committee or the proposed Management Team please see the website or contact any member of the Culm Valley u3a Executive Committee.

Many thanks.

**Stay well  
Stay safe**

**And look for the light at the end of the tunnel!**

