



OK so our plans are delayed, but we can still see an end to the Covid restrictions happening sooner rather than later. With my positive and optimistic hat on you could say that the delay gives you even more time to consider some of the questions we will be asking when we all get back together again.



So if you are desperate for something to do, over the next few weeks, while leisurely enjoying a nice cold drink (or 6) in the gorgeous sunshine, perhaps you would give some thought to the following questions:

Monthly Meeting

- Do we always have to have an outside speaker? Why or why not?
- What else could we do during the time when we meet together monthly?
- Do you have a story, skill, experience, interest or talent that you would be willing to share with the rest of us at a monthly meeting? OR perhaps hold a debate every so often.

Interest Groups

A few interest groups have managed to keep "meeting via zoom" during lockdown, which is great, but some have also fallen by the wayside. When we get back together again the Executive Committee plan to start again from scratch.

- What Interest Groups would you like to see?
- Would you be willing to help organise one or more interest groups?
- Could we think "outside the box" about Interest Groups – for example could an Interest Group be set up of those willing to skill share or skill swap amongst CVu3a members?

Management Team

- What skills, interests and/or talents could you offer as we consider setting up the Management Team?

There is no right or wrong so please jot down your ideas and suggestions ready to share when we get back together again.



We have a new
Groups Co-ordinator

We are grateful and excited that
Barbie Bradbury has agreed to take
on the role.

Thank you Barbie and thank you
again to Vicki Woodward for all your
hard work in the initial setting up of
our Interest Groups

Recent Zoom events

The **20 Question Quiz on 15 May** was won by Hazel and Martin (again!), however Linda Le-Milliere will be our question setter for the quiz this Saturday's (16 June 2021 at 4pm)

Book readers 'zoomed' again last week for another friendly chat about books, holidays and other matters and exchanged our usual updates on what we've been reading. Since the recent huge improvement in the weather – hurrah summer seems to be with us after a long hard spring – the list is lighter than usual as most of us have spent more of our time in the garden. Nevertheless a few good titles emerged which are passed on here.

Gwyneth was brave enough (and skilled enough!) to re-read Albert Camus' *La Peste*, in French, from her degree days. Although set in Algeria in the early 20th century and the plague was rat-borne, she drew many references to the current pandemic in terms of human behaviour, fears and resiliences. She also enjoyed re-reading *A Many-Splendoured Thing* – Han Suyin, a semi-autobiographical love story between a married British foreign correspondent and a Eurasian doctor in Hong Kong during the communist revolution in China.

Hazel read Mary Wesley's *Harmonising Peacocks* but wasn't gripped, so defaulted to another JoJo Moyes, *Night Music*, which was 'wonderful'. Barbie also enjoyed *Me Before You* by JJM and Annie Murray's *Black Country Orphan*, historical fiction set in Cradley Heath the west midlands centre of chain making in the last century, depicting the dreadful working conditions endured by the women until their case was taken up by the suffragette movement and they were encouraged to form a union and strike for a living wage.

Jackie recommended Tony Porter's *The Great White Palace*, a fascinating retelling of the restoration and adaptation by him and his wife of the hotel on Burgh Island in the '80s. Anne enjoyed *The Other Bennett Sister* by Janice Hadlow, a fictional story about the middle sister Mary who we only knew from *Pride and Prejudice* to be boring, shy and plain but this brought another side into view.

Sue had read her first Jeffrey Archer 'Hidden in Plain Sight' – good plot and easy reading so she will be reading more Archer novels.

Mo 'devoured' Susan Lewis's *The Moment she Left* of love, uncertainty and betrayal which she couldn't put it down and read it in 3 days. Thanks Mo, sounds like a good recommendation.

Other books enjoyed included the Jack Reacher novels by Lee Child and Thomas Hardy's Under the Greenwood Tree.

The next Book Chat on Zoom is scheduled for 11.00am on Wednesday 7th July.

Tea Team

If you were part of the Tea Team (pre-Covid) and would be happy to help with preparing the refreshments for our first meeting back on Thursday 5 August 2021 please would you get in touch with me (shlawrieu3a@gmail.com). This also applies to anyone else who would be prepared to assist with making the refreshments. I will pass your contact details onto Carol Mitchell who is co-ordinating the team.



Monthly Meeting Dates for 2021

(Subject to Government imposed restrictions/lockdowns)

Monthly meetings will be held on the **First THURSDAY** of each month unless members are notified otherwise.

5 August

2 September

7 October

3 November (Please note this is a **WEDNESDAY**)

2 December

Monthly meetings are held at

Willand Village Hall

Gables Rd, Willand, Cullompton EX15 2PL



Keeping everything crossed that we will be meeting together again on Thursday 5 August 2021 at 2pm