



### Still Moving in the Right Direction

As the 21<sup>st</sup> June moves ever closer, a sense of anticipation is beginning to stir. With only a few days to go until we can hug again, we are being made aware of new strains of the virus which could potentially upset our plans for the 1 July, but we continue to hope for the best.

As stated in the last edition of **UPDATE** we plan to hold a tea party, as a celebration of Covid related restrictions being lifted enabling us to meet together again.

If you could make a cake, some biscuits or scones, sausage rolls or anything else suitable for a tea party it would be very much appreciated. If you do not feel like making something yourself then perhaps you could buy something to contribute to our celebration tea.

If you are happy to make or buy something please let me know by email to [shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shlawrieu3a@gmail.com). That way I can 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.



*Thank you*

*Keep on staying safe and staying well.*

# Corona Virus – Government Roadmap Step THREE – 17 May 2021

## Social contact

As part of Step 3, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible, allowing people to decide on the appropriate level of risk for their circumstances.

This means that most legal restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted – although gatherings of over 30 people will remain illegal. Indoors, the Rule of 6 or 2 households will apply – the Government will keep under review whether it is safe to increase this.

The Government will also update the advice on social distancing between friends and family, including **hugging (yipeeee)!**.

## Business and activities

Most businesses in all but the highest risk sectors will be able to reopen. In all sectors, COVID-Secure guidance will remain in place and businesses may not cater for groups bigger than the legal limits. Indoor hospitality will reopen and customers will have to order, eat and drink while seated.

Other indoor locations to open up include indoor entertainment venues such as cinemas and children's play areas; the rest of the accommodation sector, including hotels, hostels and B&Bs; and indoor adult group sports and exercise classes. The government will also allow some larger performances and sporting events in indoor venues with a capacity of 1,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number), and in outdoor venues with a capacity of 4,000 people or half-full (whichever is a lower number). In the largest outdoor seated venues, where crowds can be spread out, up to 10,000 people will be able to attend (or a quarter-full, whichever is lower).

## Events

Up to 30 people will be able to attend weddings, receptions and wakes, as well as funerals. This limit will also apply to other types of significant life events including bar mitzvahs and christenings.

**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.



## Recent Zoom events

The **20 Question Quiz** in April was won by Janet and Barbara who are setting the questions for this Saturday's (15 May 2021 at 4pm) 20 Question Quiz.

On 7<sup>th</sup> May **Gwyneth Garner** shared some of her fascinating life story in a talk entitled "From State Registered Nurse to a BOAC stewardess, from Family Planning to a French degree"

Sadly the **Photographic Competition** only attracted three entries, which was a bit disappointing.

The **Coffee and Book Chat** on Wednesday 5th May – A small group met for the 40 minute session, giving us time to share the titles we had been enjoying as well as some other more general chatter. Barbie, one of our most avid and voracious readers, wasn't able to join this time but updated us on her month's reading, including endorsements of some of the titles previously listed, and some new ones.

With Barbie's permission I've included her thoughts here on previous recommendations as they may help some of us make our choices!

**Night Music** by Jojo Moyles – A great read. Not something I would usually pick up.

**The Invention of Wings** by SM Kidd – Brilliant. I'll read it again sometime

**A street Cat named Bob** by J Bowen – Quick, easy and enjoyable

**After the Bombing** by C Morrall – Not my favourite but a good read

**Mrs Pettigrew lives for a Day** by W Watson – A little gem and a quick read too.

Hazel had also read this since last month and loved it – 'so funny and light'.

**The Thirteenth Tale** by Diane Setterfield – A really clever story. Gothic suspense genre

We've also had another ringing endorsement for Richard Osman's **Thursday Night Murder Club** mentioned at an earlier session. Gill says – I've now known so many people who've loved this book that I really must get into it myself!

### **New titles we've been reading since last month include:-**

**The Witch Elm** by Tana French – A twisty page turner, part mystery, part thriller, part family drama.

**Let's Meet on Platform 8** by Carole Matthews – A romantic affair develops on a London commuter train with inevitable consequences. In part hilarious, with a moral message as lies build up.

**They Fought for the Sky** by Quentin Reynolds – The story of the WW1 Flying Aces

**The Vacillations of Poppy Carew** by Mary Wesley – Very funny, quirky characters and plot around Poppy's father's funeral

**The Confession** by John Grisham – Unputdownable!

**The Ocean at the End of the Lane** by Neil Gaiman – Fantasy, magic and darkness told by an unnamed man who returns to his home town for a funeral and remembers events that began forty years earlier.



A BIG thanks to Gill Sole who kindly arranged an extra Zoom event this month entitled **Driving Safer for Longer**; presented by Red One Ltd on behalf of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. The Zoom session was attended by about 25 members and kicked off with an exploration of what we all enjoy about driving; before exploring, in more detail, the frustrations of today's roads and poor driver habits (theirs, not ours of course)!

Via examples of photos, illustrations and lots of discussion –

Speed limits were explained and clarified (remember *N.S.L.* – No Street Lights = National Speed Limit).

Dual carriageways defined (by the presence of a central barrier and NOT by the number of lanes, apparently).

SMART Motorways were explained and, surprisingly to many of us, defended as being far safer statistically than conventional motorways (although the distance between safety reservations on some is acknowledged as being too long).

We learnt the acronym C.O.A.S.T. (Concentration, Observation, Anticipation, Space and Time) to help us manage our own driving, reducing our stress and pressure, since we cannot control the behaviour of others.

Red One Ltd, on behalf of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, offer individual driving development assessment sessions either from your own home or on the Westpoint Driving Road Circuit if preferred. Anyone interested in this service can find more information on their website – <http://www.red1drivertraining.co.uk> or by phoning 01392 444773

## Upcoming Zoom events ...

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

**20 Question Quiz** - Saturday 15th May at 4pm. Winner of quiz on 17 April, Janet and Barbara are the question setters for this one. Winner/s of this one will set questions for next 20 Question Quiz on 19th June.

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

**PLEASE NOTE** – Kevin will be taking a break and not running Zoom sessions during June. We are very grateful to him for all his efforts with the Zoom events.

**Coffee and Book Chat** – Wednesday 9th June at 11.00 hosted by Gill, everyone welcome.



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 need help using Zoom please get in touch with [shlawrieu3a@gmail.com](mailto:shlawrieu3a@gmail.com)



## Please 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 been 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.

Executive Committee members

## 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)



### 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.

1 July

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

### 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.

