



Registered Charity
No 1188529

Dulwich & District



Learn, Laugh and Live!

Activity Reports for 2019/20

Locked down - but not out!



Chair's Report for 2019-20

It has been a privilege to have been Chair of D&D U3A for the last six years, but it is now time to step down and let a new member take up the challenge. Roman

Bednarz is also stepping down as Secretary. As two of the original officers, founding this U3A, we set up the Executive Committee, established its remit, organised the annual calendar of events and encouraged the first Interest Groups to develop – thus establishing the U3A that runs so successfully today. We hope to continue to be involved not only locally, but with the London Region of U3A, and nationally in the U3A movement, where we have both taken active roles and got to know key officers and staff.

It has been exciting to be part of the founding of a local organisation that so reflects my passions of purposeful and enjoyable learning, and meeting like minded people through shared activities. As D&D U3A has developed over the last six years, I am very grateful to the enthusiastic volunteers on the various Executive Committees, who have taken on the considerable responsibilities of being Trustees, and growing the organisation for the benefit of our members, contributing a range of professional skills, their local knowledge and networks, together with hours of their time. The Committees have been a great support to me as the Chair. We are very lucky in Dulwich to have members willing to give their time and to find such a wealth of talent and expertise.

Our Interest Groups continue to grow

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steadily, as our membership grows. Before Lockdown we had around 700 members and 100 active Interest Groups, some meeting monthly, some fortnightly and a few weekly. As you see from the Interest Group reports they offer a large range of artistic, practical, sport and intellectual activities. We need to say a huge thank you every year, and many times a year, to our Conveners who organise our groups so tirelessly and encourage their members to take an active part in their learning.

We have also developed an interesting programme of monthly talks with speakers who, in the main, are known to us or members have heard speak elsewhere. These monthly meetings have given us a chance to discuss the speaker's talk further, socialise over tea, share programme notices, compare our U3A experiences, and feel we are part of a social, learning community. We have also continued to enjoy our social events such as the Quiz and Golf Club lunch last Christmas and the Garden Party at Bell House last summer, even though it poured with rain.



D&D COMMITTEE 2019-20

Then came the Lockdown in March and our lives changed, as did our U3A activities. Our immediate concern was to support our members, which we did by communicating frequently with them by Newsletter, email, phone and social media with contact lists of local support and online learning opportunities. We then encouraged our Conveners to support their groups, through online media, if at all possible.

Zoom came to our rescue. Our most technically competent colleagues helped us all out, showing us how to host and participate in Zoom meetings through various practice sessions and many of our Interest Groups ploughed ahead. For our age group, who have been perceived as being reluctant to engage in virtual learning, we have done so well. In fact some Interest Groups now meet more often and with more participants, because they have had more time at home, and more time alone, and appreciated

the extra social contact. Members can also join meetings from a distance and don't have to worry about travelling. For some groups, with presentations or pictures and film clips to share the 'share screen' option in Zoom enhanced their learning experience. Small group discussions, quizzes, language groups have also worked well with groups working out how to take turns in discussion, encouraging their members' participation. But for some groups virtual learning has not worked, either because the activity precluded remote learning like sports or visiting places of interest, or because members did not have the equipment or the inclination to learn remotely. Some of these, who can meet outside, are beginning to re-group as the Lockdown eases over the summer.

Our monthly talks have also gone virtual, with speakers prepared to give presentations on Zoom, our AGM organised virtually, and two inspiring Showcase events that celebrated the diverse talents of our members in May and June. These presentations have taken a lot of rehearsing and organising as we have overcome virtual learning challenges. We are very grateful to committee members and performers involved.

And as we come out of Lockdown, what next? It is difficult to envisage when and how our age group is going to feel comfortable to meet again in any numbers face to face, particularly indoors. So we envisage the current virtual learning experiences continuing into the autumn. Maybe in the future we attempt hybrid meetings, with some members socially distanced and others joining a meeting remotely. In the meantime we have suspended membership fees until further notice, recognising the limits of our current offer overall.

We are being supported with advice from the Third Age Trust through their national website and the London Region of U3As where 44 London U3As share their good practice and their challenges. But ultimately, as an independent U3A it is up to us to meet when and how we choose, with our health and safety paramount.



44 London U3A's

Good luck with future D&D U3A ventures, where we look forward to more experiences when we Learn, Laugh and Live together.

Liz Day

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

We have started sharing our travel photos on Zoom and are now meeting fortnightly online. At a recent session we looked at photographs from a trip to Cambodia. We welcome new members who may like to share their travel experiences online with us.

Pamela Ruben

ARCHITECTURE

The Contemporary Architecture group continues to thrive with regular walks in and around London. Our last four were in Vauxhall, Pimlico, Regents Place/Euston Square and the Crown Estate in Piccadilly/St James. Our planned walk to Bellenden and Peckham in March had to be cancelled as a result of Lockdown. We keep in touch with the group via occasional online links to interesting local developments. Unfortunately, regular monthly walks cannot realistically restart until social distancing requirements change.

Ian McInnes

ART APPRECIATION



Bernie Victor's presentation of 'Women Impressionist Artists'

This group concentrates on contemporary forms of art, basically art movements which have grown up in the late 20th century and now. We normally look at a particular artist or group, using videos and photos, and discuss their work and impact. We tried to pick artists who had a current exhibition so we could go the exhibition either as a group or individually. We were meeting once a month. The same formula has been kept to using Zoom for our meetings, but of course no gallery visits. This has been pretty successful and most of our existing members take part as well as a fresh intake as our numbers are no longer restricted by space.

Bernie Victor

ART FOR BEGINNERS and Art Through the Ages

Our Art Groups are all meeting using Zoom. The groups are set projects which members investigate and discuss.

Di Deudney

ART HISTORY

The group has studied the history of art printing from early Eastern origins, examining techniques of relief and intaglio, woodblock, etching and engraving. A visit was made to the V&A print room to view examples and also the Printing Museum, where we learned about newspaper printing. The

group has acquainted itself with the pioneer print masters, especially Durer, Rembrandt and Hogarth, and the cartoon and poster creators, and book illustrators from the 18th century till now. During Lockdown we have used Zoom to study the High Renaissance in Italy, with talks on Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo, Raphael, architects Bramante and Palladio, Titian, and Renaissance music. We expect to look at American art from pre-colonial through to 20th century, in the near future.

Charles Biscoe

ART HISTORY

In the autumn we covered post impressionism where experimentation with form and colour was at the forefront of the painterly avant-garde. At the start of the New Year we tackled the complexities of 'symbolism'. Here artists focussed on expressing inner feelings and thoughts rather than on images of the external world. Thus we looked at exponents in France, Netherlands, Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Switzerland, Hungary and elsewhere. Prior to Lockdown we met fortnightly but once housebound we decided on weekly sessions via Zoom, and 'zooming' was a learning experience for all of us! After Easter we opted for a 'free for all', that is, group members would pick a theme or an artist for presentation, often as a surprise to others. Thus we covered art and gardens, women in symbolist paintings, self-portraits by women artists together with a range of artists from different countries, all within the pre-WW1 period.

Lore Arthur & Niesje de Boer

ASTRONOMY

We have no resident expert but we use online lectures and resources to inform ourselves about the universe we live in. Identifying objects in the sky is a key focus and we compare and evaluate the many different phone apps that are available. We have established links with the Astronomy Department in



Stefanik Observatory, Prague

Gothenburg and also the European observatory in Germany. Also we have outings planned to Croydon Observatory and the Astronomy Club of a local school. We often have reports from members who have visited observatories and planetariums during their holidays. Recently two of our members were lucky to meet Helen Sharman the first UK spacewoman. Another member visited the homes of Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler (17th-century astronomers) and investigated the Astronomical Clock in Prague.

Roman Bednarz

BALLET APPRECIATION

The Ballet Appreciation Group last met together before Lockdown. We would meet most months at the home of one of the members where we discussed the ballet of choice before watching the DVD. Members would take it in turns to give an account of the storyline in the case of narrative ballets, research the history of the choreographer, the composer and the ballet itself. At the first three meetings of 2020 we watched the three ballets that make up Woolf Works, a ballet choreographed by Wayne McGregor. We dipped into the three novels that inspired him and learned about the life of Virginia Woolf. Since then we have met via Zoom and discussed ballets recently streamed by ballet companies. We will continue to meet in this way until we are able to sit and watch together again.

Kay Smith

BIRDWATCHING

The Birdwatching group visited the parks, commons and open spaces locally, and occasionally went further afield every month until March. We had been to Dulwich, Crystal Palace and Peckham Rye Parks very successfully seeing and hearing a variety of common birds, and some target species too. In February we went a bit further afield by train to Hackbridge, and one of our members led us to Beddington Farmlands, where we had an excellent and exciting birdwatch on a beautiful spring day. Since then many of the group have been keeping in touch by email, sharing observations, questions and photographs of garden and park birds, and sometimes other wildlife too. As soon as we are allowed, we will be out again, enjoying learning from each other and enjoying the 'countryside' around us in the suburbs.

Sheila Northover

BOOK GROUP

Paperback fiction from any period and non-fiction of very general interest are chosen by members who then introduce them. Discussion and tea follow. We try to plan our programme ahead so that, in normal times, members can enjoy trawling through second-hand bookshops or reserving library books. We are expecting to start meeting via Zoom shortly.

Pat Verity

BOULES 1

This has been a difficult year for our enjoyment of this sociable game. In the Spring/ Summer we



played a few times. The weather wasn't kind in the autumn and we were due to start playing again in April, but Lockdown prevented this. Hopefully by next Spring we will be up and playing again!

Susan Elias

BOULES 2

Normally we meet weekly in Dulwich Park but as there was a run of bad weather we were unable to play.

Unfortunately it is not a game that can be played online! However, with the easing of Lockdown and the good weather, we started to play again in June with a few of us on the pitch, and appropriate social distancing, using the guidelines issued by the London Petanque Association. Now that we have made a start we certainly hope to continue. May the good weather last!

Terry Morin

BRIDGE

The bridge groups have suspended their meetings and games due to Lockdown. We look forward to restarting when the situation changes.

Maureen Cummings & Di Deudney
Denise Whittle

COMPUTERS

Windows PCs

This group aims to take the mystery out of using a Windows computer. We are not experts but always manage to solve members' problems. The Group motto is 'do not pay' as there is no need for expensive software. We have pointed members to free versions of apps for photos, word processing, music etc. With the guidance of the Convener we have configured brand new laptops without paying a hefty fee to a shop. Nowadays we tend to own multiple devices and there has been a lot of focus on how to transfer files and data between them including the use of 'the cloud'.

We have also dealt with uploading photos and files to social media safely, valuing antiques, buying and selling online, booking trains and theatre tickets. There is no set course in each session but we respond to members' individual problems.

Apple Devices

In this Group we deal with iMacs, iPhones, iPads and any other Apple devices. There is no resident expert but somehow we all manage to get some answers to the problems we encounter. There are separate sessions for iPad users and several individual one-to-one sessions have been arranged



to 'get you going' There is always a big focus on photos, now that most of us carry a camera in our mobile phone wherever we go. We also deal with more general aspects of using a computer such as emails, internet browsing, social media , uploads, downloads and backups. Individual advice on buying a device is also available, as the most expensive machine is not necessarily the best one for you!

Roman Bednarz

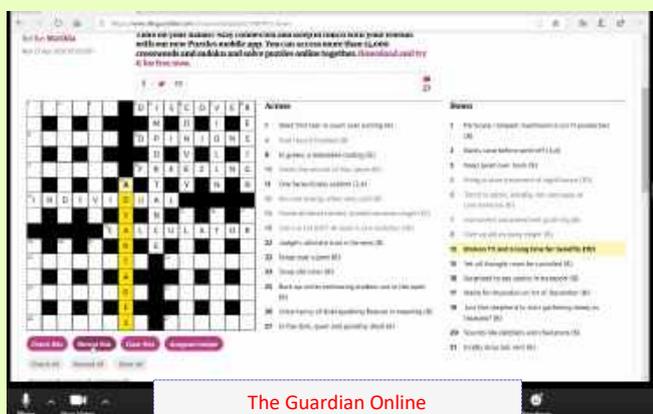
COMPUTERS

Android phones and tablets

The group is continuing to function during Lockdown using email and phone support and has been quite successful, even gaining some new members. The purpose of the group is to deal with issues as they arise - everything from setting up a new device, to security, camera use and accessibility. I hope that, at some point, the group will meet in person again but we will carry on as now until then.

Peter Hubbard

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS



The Guardian Online

In normal times, the group met monthly. We worked together to solve a variety of puzzles from differing sources and setters.

Some people have also completed an 8 session course 'Introduction to the Basics of Cryptic Crosswords.' These days, sessions take place via Zoom. Using the 'share screen' facility, we can all see and work simultaneously on the same puzzle. This has proved to be surprisingly enjoyable, and we are currently Zooming weekly. There is no travelling to get to the venue but regrettably you have to provide your own coffee and biscuits.

Jenny Thomas

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS 2

A few weeks into Lockdown we realised that we could do our crosswords on Zoom and all of the group is now using this facility. We are enjoying ourselves, meeting fortnightly instead of monthly and improving our skills. It will be good to go back to meeting in reality when we can, but in the meantime, Zoom is proving a very good alternative.

Pam Cohen

Cycling

The cycling group continued to meet regularly during the latter part of 2019, including trips to Richmond Park (to see the RAF 100 Flypast), Greenwich (in August on the hottest day of the year), Bushy Park, and the Olympic Park and Lea Navigation. This year we had already completed two trips in January and February before everything changed in mid-March when Lockdown was imposed.

However, we continued to "meet" regularly on Zoom. Fortunately, there were records of past outings of the group – short reports I had written up of over two dozen trips from 2015 onwards, complete with photos taken along the way. These were presented as slide shows on Zoom, ("thank you", Niesje, John & Denise!), giving us *Lunch by the Thames in August* the opportunity to "re-visit" places of interest along past routes; the remains of an old lime kiln in Burgess Park, the bridges and quayside along the route of the Grand Surrey canal; the imposing statue of Peter the Great at Deptford; Richmond Park with the deer in velvet; the Isabella Plantation with the azaleas in bloom. We were reminded of the rich industrial history of the area and the beautiful parks there for all to enjoy, easily reached on two wheels.

This is the sixth year for the cycle group and with the easing of restrictions at the end of May that allowed groups of up to six to meet, the first outing was organised. Numbers had to be limited, to two groups of six riders.

Here are the two groups at Brockwell Lido, our meeting point for the trip to Wimbledon Park, by way of Wandsworth Common, maintaining social distance, of course.

John Clements



CULTURAL VISITS

The group visits places of interest around London monthly. In October the group enjoyed an exhibition of African textiles at the Brunei Gallery, SOAS. The venue in November was Leighton House Museum where we learned about the work of the aesthetic movement. Benjamin Franklin House was visited in January where we listened to recordings of some of Franklin's letters while he was staying in Georgian London. Our February outing was to an exhibition of textiles at Two Temple Place which included an altarpiece made by veterans from the Great War. Our informal sub-group encourages members to organise visits at other times and they have been to the RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) and the Supreme Court.

Our visits stopped with Lockdown when we had planned to go to a Hindu Temple. We shall resume visits when it is safe and wise to do so.
Judith Nurse and Jude Brassington



Just visiting! - The Supreme Court

FILM DISCUSSION

This group works like a book group. We get together monthly to discuss a film we have watched before we meet. At the meeting we look at extracts, explore aspects of the film, its themes and style, and our responses to it. We usually watch a series of films with a common theme or director. For example, in the past, we have examined Italian films from the 50s and 60s (Fellini, Antonioni), a series of examples of American Film Noir/Neo Noir from the 1940s to the 1970s and a selection of Japanese films. We have been unable to meet during Lockdown.
Anne Cox

FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY

This 'FutureLearn' group, which was set up during Lockdown has had members from D&D U3A as well as from Scotland and the Midlands, recruited via the U3A 'Keeping in Touch' Facebook site. We have followed the FutureLearn (free) course for eight weeks, studying the materials provided individually and meeting via Zoom weekly to discuss our learning. This format has worked very successfully as the materials provided are very good, in this case from the Open University. When people commit they know how long the course will be. There is no travelling required and no venue (or refreshments) needed. The weekly 'meetings' take away the isolation normally associated with distance learning. Whilst this type of arrangement will not replace the face-to-face group meetings, when things are 'normal' again, I do see it as a valid alternative beyond Lockdown. Further details can be found at <https://www.futurelearn.com/>
Mary Fyfe

FRENCH

(Intermediate)

In this friendly group we work to improve our speaking, listening and understanding in French. Each person contributes to the group learning experience through translating, conversation and a short, prepared talk in French. We use French CDs for listening and repeating as well as a

textbook for improving vocabulary and grammar. Our native French speaker encourages and guides us. The group decided to have a break during the Lockdown and will resume when it is safe to do so.
Pam Williams

FRENCH CONVERSATION

(Advanced)

This group caters for fluent or almost fluent French speakers and all sessions are conducted solely in French. We discuss current affairs, read novels, poetry and articles from newspapers or magazines. We also share our love of French songs and films and occasionally research and present topics of particular interest to the group. During this period of Lockdown, we have been meeting virtually via Zoom and this has not caused any problems. We hope to be able to hold our annual summer picnic in the park in an approved socially-distanced manner!
Ruby Douek

FRENCH CONVERSATION

(Mixed ability)

During Lockdown our mixed ability group has been meeting weekly on Zoom - up to 10 of us. We have used objects from the house, photos etc to stimulate discussion in French.
Yvonne Brett

FRENCH REVISITED

(French at a Distance)



French Revisited

We are a friendly, happy and very supportive group. Our aim is to re-introduce French into our lives where we have become a bit rusty. We would like to be more confident when travelling in France. After Lockdown we quickly established weekly meetings via 'GoToMeetings', and all 9 of us attended and have done so ever since. We are coming to the end of our course work and our reading book. We are now getting more adventurous, concentrating on conversation, vocabulary and grammar. We are looking to do play readings, watch French films and more.
Chris Barrett

GARDENING

In February we choose and plan the visits for the

year. Activity of this group is largely based on monthly visits to parks and gardens across London. In spring or autumn we meet to exchange plants and seeds at a member's home. We had our planning meeting in February and a wide range of visits were planned but Lockdown was coming and we didn't even manage the first one. Some of the group have maintained contact through email, sharing gardening news e.g. who had compost or plants available for delivery! We hope to resume our meetings in the autumn.
Donna Warenik

GENEALOGY

Interest has been maintained by email, highlighting offers, availability and support. Due to Lockdown, and with some more time on our hands, there has been a sudden national urge to research family history, and as a result many genealogy websites have been offering free access to some of their records for various lengths of time. There's never been a better time to start researching!

Tricia Parry

GENEALOGY & SOCIAL HISTORY



Genealogy: Our families

We usually meet fortnightly in the Rocca Cafe in Dulwich Village. We share our enjoyment of delving into our family histories and our solutions of how to resolve 'blockages' and 'brick walls' in our research. All group members take an interest in each other's genealogical positions and in all our discussions we try to relate our findings to the historical dates we are focussing on and the relevant social and international histories of the time in question. We have recently purchased a magazine subscription which has provided interest and further ideas for discussion. During Lockdown we have used Zoom to continue with our meetings on a fortnightly basis and this has been very successful. On one occasion we invited the national U3A Genealogy Convener to join our session and everyone enjoyed his company, advice and suggestions for further research.

We will continue to meet fortnightly via Zoom to discuss our genealogy and family histories until such time as we can meet again face to face.

Tim Pagan

GERMAN CONVERSATION

We are a mixed-ability group of people who normally meet at Rosebery Lodge, but since Lockdown have been meeting weekly on Zoom. We work hard together in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. To encourage conversation in German we agree in advance on topics for discussion. This could involve pictures or objects, topical events, personal memories and quiz questions. A member of the group will sometimes prepare a longer presentation on a particular theme. We always have a book for reading together, currently 'Der Vorleser' by Bernhard Schlink. We have occasionally gone out together, to a German restaurant, a play or a concert, and look forward to doing so again.

Brigitte Lucas

GOLF

We started playing again in May, for the first time since Lockdown began. We can only play in pairs and must maintain social distancing. The Aquarius Club has allocated us a small number of tee times on a Wednesday morning. Aquarius is a nine hole course laid out on top of and around a reservoir and because of its location a rather unusual course. It costs £10 per player and the fee is paid directly to the club.

We have a WhatsApp group so have kept in touch whilst we were not playing. Currently we have a mixed ability group of around 8 members. We are not competitive and very supportive and welcome more members.

George Crosbie

GREAT 20th CENTURY AMERICAN LITERATURE

Meeting monthly, the group has continued to enjoy well informed and lively debates about a challenging variety of texts chosen by individual members. In the past few months we have explored poetry, prose and drama, covering, for instance, works by Armistead Maupin, Stephen Crane, Alison Lurie, Dorothy West, Arthur Miller, Carol Shields, John Updike and August Wilson. Most recently, many of our members have met on Zoom.

Michael Lempriere

GREEK DRAMA

We have started meeting on Zoom and intend to gather every month as before. We read and study the great plays in translation, with group members taking all the parts, which certainly makes them come alive.

Tony Verity

GUITAR

We play and sing popular songs and learn new chords and techniques. We have suspended our meetings recently but have weekly emails to keep in touch with each other.

Ian Schlazer

ITALIAN CONVERSATION (Higher)

The group is made up of people who have lived in Italy or have family ties there. We are currently not meeting but hope to resume when Lockdown is over.

Keith Robertson

ITALIAN IMPROVERS

We are a mixed ability group meeting fortnightly - in normal times, at Rosebery Lodge, but currently using Zoom. Our aim is to improve our understanding and use of Italian from whatever our starting level. Each meeting is planned and presented by a different member of the group and we have been looking at each of Italy's 20 regions in turn. Each person's approach to his or her region is different, which has led to our tackling diverse aspects of each one: geography, history, industry, agriculture, culture, including tourism and holidays, music, food, literature and even local language.

We also review elements of grammar that arise from the written materials or are raised by group members. Two key aspects of learning the language do tend to be weakly represented, namely conversation and listening to Italian spoken by Italians. There's much room for improvement!

John Grimwood

JAZZ APPRECIATION

This group exists to introduce members to all types of jazz. We previously met at members' homes where we listened to recordings or videos of all types of jazz, either concentrating on a performer, instrument or style of jazz, which we then discussed. Since Lockdown we have kept to much the same formula, but meeting on Zoom, which has been so successful that we now meet twice a month.

Bernie Victor

JAZZ (Live)

We started as a group with the aim of visiting eight or nine venues a year to listen to all types of live jazz including modern and contemporary jazz groups. By February this year we had enjoyed ten sessions visiting gigs at the Hideaway, Omnibus Theatre, The Crypt and Kings Place. Our last gig in February was at the Hideaway club where we enjoyed listening to the Errol Lynton Band. We were looking forward to a busy Spring programme which included visiting the Southbank. Sadly Lockdown has brought our visits to a halt but we are setting up a Zoom programme where we can meet, chat and listen to jazz on YouTube. We are looking forward to a time when we can meet again visiting a live gig.

Pat Wright

KNITTING FOR CHARITY

In the last year the group has sent many more articles of knitting to 'Knit for Peace' the charity that we support (knitforpeace.org.uk). In addition,

we have donated money to the organisation so that the goods can be distributed to those in need in both the UK and abroad. This money is made up from our 'tea money' collection at each meeting and from money raised when articles we have knitted are purchased. New members, whether they are skilled or unskilled knitters, are very welcome to join the group particularly as we are all knitting at home now. We hope we will be able to meet again in the autumn.

Judith Salter

LATIN

Using the Latin primers 'Teach Yourself Latin' or 'Reading Latin' the group explores the Latin language rather than the formal grammar. New members are welcome. We currently keep in touch by telephone.

Bob Goodrich

MAH JONG

We are all missing playing Mah Jong dreadfully but managing to stay in touch with emails. We miss the social contact as much as the play. We have looked into trying to play Mah Jong using Zoom and it may be possible to play but in a more complicated way.

Tricia Parry

MAP READING

The 6 week sessions cover: understanding map scales, grid lines, contours, map symbols and grid references, using a compass and understanding what the landscape will look like from studying a map. Each session has a theory and practical element. Initially we use large scale orienteering maps as these are more detailed and enable us to cover lots of features without



Map Reading

having to walk too far! We then move on to Ordnance Survey maps which you would normally use for a walk. The main aim is to be able to plan a walk with confidence and be able to produce a detailed route description for anyone to follow. During Lockdown the emphasis inevitably is on the planning stages using various software and phone Apps.

Roman Bednarz

MATHS FOR FUN

The Maths for Fun group meets monthly at the Plough on Lordship Lane in normal times, and recently on Zoom. We have had several sessions on problems and puzzles with a mathematical flavour, and have enjoyed drawing intricate curves using geometry sets. We have explored topics

related to maths, like stereoscopic photography, calendars and rulers and also looked at the history of maths exams. We look forward to revisiting the maths gallery at the science museum when it reopens, and perhaps trips further afield.

In the meantime we have aimed to take advantage of meeting online to explore places and fields in maths that are suited to computer screens, where each person can see what is happening rather than all crowding round one laptop. A highlight was a session on Conway's 'Game of Life'. We concentrate on having fun rather than doing difficult maths. All are welcome.
Verity Mosenthal

MUSEUMS & GALLERY VISITS

Our theme this year was Diverse Cultures and we met fortnightly in the autumn and spring terms up to Lockdown, finding a range of exhibitions on diverse cultures to visit. Different members took responsibility for researching and co-ordinating each visit, sharing their experiences and knowledge between us.

Since March, other than some virtual social contact between some of us, we have not met, and following recent email correspondence there is little appetite to convene this group virtually, given that it exists to visit places of interest together, accessible by public transport. We are however aware of the virtual learning possibilities, and if the remote engagement situation remains, we will reconsider in the autumn.

Liz Day

MUSIC GROUP

Our members come together each month to listen to music of their choice. We have developed a new format this year so that we share each session with a particular theme. These have ranged from American composers, Baroque, individual composers and members' own choices or their private passions. For over three months we had good quality recordings using Apple Music and sharing CDs.

Since Lockdown we have chosen to meet fortnightly using Zoom. We keep to a similar format as before, but as music cannot be shared easily over this website, the Convener collates members' chosen YouTube links onto a playlist and sends them out before each session. Each member introduces their short piece and we mute ourselves before listening through our own computers. The full playlist is always available for further listening. The new technology has been challenging for each of us but we are gradually learning how to overcome any difficulties and are aiming to have more relaxed sessions to include discussion and conversation.

Spring and summer sessions have included brass instrumental music, British composers, film music, birds and flower themes. We are soon to explore ethnic music which will require some in-depth

research.

Caroline Knapp

OPERA

This group responded to Lockdown by arranging for a DVD of choice to be passed round to members' homes, before a discussion of the DVD on Zoom. This has worked well and all members of the group are involved. We also circulate details of the many full operas available free online from the Met, the Royal Opera House, Glyndebourne and other opera companies. We have deep concern about the future of opera and other art forms and will try to respond in any way possible to requests for support.

Rona Black & Lindsay Merriman

OPERA APPRECIATION

There are two groups, which prior to Lockdown met at Rosebery Lodge. We aim to extend our knowledge and enjoyment of opera by learning about the background of the composers and listening to the music. We take it in turns to introduce an opera and the less confident members are encouraged to get involved. These are friendly groups and we explore aspects of each opera in often lively discussions. We cover a wide repertoire, ranging from the baroque to the modern, comedy to tragedy and the obscure to the well-known.

We also had regular outings to see operas, both on stage and in local cinemas. This is an important feature of the groups. We welcome opera 'novices' as well as those who are more knowledgeable.

Irene Greene

PHILOSOPHY

Before Lockdown, the philosophy group used to meet once a fortnight in one another's homes. We would discuss a particular philosopher and their ideas and sometimes a movement such as the Enlightenment or the Frankfurt School. We usually start with a biography and like to consider the character of the philosopher and the times they lived in as well as analysing their ideas. Some preparatory reading is recommended as it really helps. During the restrictions we have been meeting online, first on Hangouts and then on Zoom. We are currently exploring modern philosophers like Bernard Williams, Alain de Botton and Daniel Kahneman. We have continued with our usual format and we have had several sessions on the Stoics which seemed particularly appropriate during Lockdown. One such philosopher was a Roman called Boethius and he suggested: "*Contemplate beauty, mystery and the complexity of the universe. True philosophers rise above their immediate circumstances and identify with the vast forces of history and nature*".

Christine Hinton

PHOTOGRAPHY

(with Lightroom)

Our very enthusiastic members meet weekly and produce pictures on a wide range of topics including water, birds, green things, shadows and architecture. We use Lightroom software to process and catalogue our photographs.



We have adapted to Lockdown by having Zoom meetings where we can show each other a selection of photos on a given theme.

Trevor Roberts

PLAY READING (Lunchtime)

This small convivial group reads a mixed bag of plays chosen by the members who bring a copy of the play to the readings - and their own lunch!

Readings so far have included Pinter's Betrayal, The Importance of being Earnest, The Tempest, History Boys, An Inspector Calls, Pygmalion.

During Lockdown members preferred not to Zoom but have kept in touch through group emails. We have copies of three Ayckbourn plays ready for future readings.

Jill Batty

PLAY READING (Evening)

The evening play reading group continued to meet monthly until our last face to face meeting in March when we read Uncle Vanya. More recently, we have been reading plays on Zoom and we are currently working our way through plays by Alan Ayckbourn, reading an act each week.

Unfortunately, a small number of our members have not been able to join in, but most of us are enjoying reading this way. We hope to be able to meet and read together again, fortified by wine and crisps. Three of us had fun reading an extract from Bedroom Farce as part of the first U3A Showcase Zoom event.

Yvonne Levy

POETRY

The Poetry group has been keeping in touch, but it took until June for us to brave the Zoom experience. However, it proved enjoyable and our focus then was on the Irish poets, Yeats and Heaney. We next returned to England and explored Clare and Hopkins.

John Turpin

POLITICAL DISCUSSION

We are a non-party political group. We follow current events and aim to discuss some political theories. No ranting is allowed! Members get the opportunity to lead the discussion on a topic, or chair the meeting. The venue is normally at Bell House but currently we meet monthly online via Zoom.

Martin Goffe

POLITICAL IDEAS

'Political Ideas' is a mutual learning group in which participants decide on a thematic programme that is then studied over 3-6 months. So far we have looked at: the origins of political order; leading political thinkers like Hobbes, Machiavelli and Mill; the political aspects of phenomena like climate change, globalisation and population growth; and we have just completed a programme on revolutions, ranging from the Peasants Revolt to the Arab Spring. In September we begin a programme on 20th Century political thinkers, including Gramsci, Gandhi and Sartre.

We ask that participants take it in turn to research, write and present introductory papers. There is usually plenty of time to prepare papers and help is available if needed. Group meetings are fortnightly via Zoom. In due course we hope to resume face to face meetings at Rosebery Lodge.

Tony Heal

QUIZ

During the Lockdown the Quiz Group is meeting fortnightly using Zoom. We are also taking it in turns to devise a weekly quiz which goes out to group members via email. Those who wish to participate send their answers to the quiz setter after which we all get an email with the answers and an indication of how people did.

Jenny Saville

RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

We have two groups meeting weekly. We had two objectives - to learn basic Russian, and to discuss (in English) Russian history and culture. Working in small friendly groups helped us to concentrate on learning Russian but we also found time for members' short talks on Russian History. We have had to suspend our meetings due to Lockdown but are investigating the use of Zoom. We look forward to when we can meet again safely around a table.

Philip Ivory



Science Group at Bletchley Park

SCIENCE GROUP

This group meets to discuss a wide range of scientific ideas. This year these have included fuel cells, drugs and the drug industry, nano-technology, the new banknotes (design, material,

and security), the sense of smell, prime numbers and internet security. We also visited Bletchley Park and were joined there by the Duchess of Cambridge who opened the new D-Day exhibition.
Andrew Graham

SHAKESPEARE

This group is flourishing. We have read and discussed a variety of plays, including Measure for Measure, As You Like It, Henry IV parts 1 and 2. Some of us have been to performances in the theatre and the cinema when plays have been available. However since Lockdown those of us who wanted and are able to, have regularly met over Zoom. We now meet fortnightly for a shorter time which suits the format better. We have concentrated on the more cheerful plays at this time!

There have also been plenty of opportunities to enjoy broadcast performances on both radio and television and on the internet, which we then discuss at our meetings. The wonders of modern technology have helped us continue to develop our love and enjoyment of our great writer.

Susan Elias

SCRABBLE

The Scrabble group continued to meet fortnightly at Rosebery Lodge until the Lockdown. There are similar online games to Scrabble that we can play 'remotely' with each other and we have taken to this with great enthusiasm. We try to play every Wednesday afternoon remotely but also anytime someone fancies a game they put a message out on our WhatsApp group and there is always someone around happy to play. We also meet up for a Zoom catch up every fortnight just to chat, see each other, and share experiences.

I hope that once we get back to playing at Rosebery Lodge we will also continue to play remotely, which I am sure will be of great value to members who are not able to join us there.

Diana McInnes

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

The group, led by our very skilled member, Sue Anderson, has gone from strength to strength in the past year. Our repertoire has varied from well-known classics such as 'Where'ere You Walk' to favourite musicals e.g. 'Oliver', 'Oklahoma' and 'Les Miserables'. Folksong and Gospel are included along with several rounds to help develop a keen ear. Our warm-ups have kept us challenged, laughing and better balanced at the start of each session.

Singing for Pleasure has not been active since March so some members have joined Gareth Malone's online Great British Home Chorus to keep their voices exercised. Caroline has offered to sing along with any member over the phone, and BBC Radio Three has played weekly songs on their daily Breakfast Show. We were due to move to a larger venue after Easter to accom-

modate our rising numbers. However due to the Lockdown this has had to be delayed until group singing is considered to be a safe activity.

Caroline Knapp

SINGLES CINEMA

(Saturday)

We are an informal and flexible group of members and have had three outings prior to Lockdown. Since March we have been unable to meet since cinemas are off limits at the time of writing.

Jo Lightfoot

SINGLES SUNDAY LUNCH

We normally meet on the third Sunday of the month at different pubs and restaurants around the area. Members of the group take it in turns to choose the venue (and make the table reservation) so we all get to experience places that we might not otherwise have known about. When will we be restarting? Hopefully, at the time of writing, when Lockdown is over and pubs are open again.

Sara Jane Spratt

SPANISH IMPROVERS

The group provides an opportunity for its members with an intermediate level of Spanish to improve their listening, speaking and reading skills. Prior to Lockdown we met fortnightly for 2 hours in Rosebery Lodge to listen to short news podcasts, to read short stories and to work through a grammar-based book. We also practised our conversation skills, helped each other improve our vocabulary, pronunciation and understanding of the grammar language as well as shared our experiences of travelling in Spain and other Spanish speaking countries. Between sessions we attempted short written exercises and shared information about online and other learning resources.

We are now looking at starting up as an online group later in the year.

Joy Harris

SUPPER GROUP

The supper group has been suspended but we keep in touch with each other on Zoom and look forward to restarting as soon as possible.

Maureen Cummings & Di Deudney

TABLE TENNIS

Our group meets twice a month at St Barnabas in Calton Avenue. We are a mixed-ability group with some experienced



players and some beginners but all are encouraged to play. Table tennis has benefits for mobility and hand-eye co-ordination but most importantly it's fun! We are a

friendly, sociable group and equipment & tea/ coffee & biscuits are provided. There is a charge of £3 per meeting which covers hall-hire and refreshments.

Jo Morrison

TENNIS

The group normally meets in the morning, once a week at North Dulwich Tennis Club to play tennis throughout the year. These are informal 'drop in' sessions with all tennis players participating in friendly games.

At the time of writing, we will be starting again after the tennis club reopens, and subject to the Lawn Tennis Association and government advice.

Grace Conacher

TREE GROUP

Before Lockdown the group met almost every week in an agreed park or street and looked at the trees in that area for an hour or more and then usually had coffee together in a local cafe to discuss and research what we had seen.

Throughout the year we all recorded what we had seen in our own way, drawing, painting, photos and/or dried samples.

Since Lockdown we have not met as a group but some members have met in spaced pairs. We have occasionally exchanged photos or other information on something interesting. I hope we will resume meeting as a group again once it is permitted.

Anne Spence

UKULELE (Wednesday)



We have given 'Singalong' ukulele concerts at the Catford Diamond Centre, Clapham Nightingale Home, and Stockwell Healthy Living Club, which have been well received.

Since Lockdown we have continued to meet on Zoom fortnightly for shorter sessions of about an hour. Music over Zoom is problematical due to the 'latency' or time delay, making it impossible to hear everyone playing or singing at the same time. We have worked round this by 'muting' everyone, except the lead player, enabling the rest of the group to play along to the leader, while still seeing the rest of the group strumming away, taking turns to lead the songs. It's not as much fun as playing together and sadly, we have had to cancel a couple of performances at community centres.

Mary Standfast & Neil Abrahams

UKULELE "Second String Strummers"

Our small friendly group has continued to master more skills and gained in confidence over the last year. We are now attempting more complex pieces and adding different strumming patterns, tabbing and finger picking whilst retaining our priority of having fun playing and singing.

Since Lockdown we have moved to Zoom and adapted our sessions accordingly. All members take a turn leading warm up chord sequences and we have introduced PowerPoint on 'shared' screen for 'Chord Bingo' and any theory that we cover. Members have also taken a turn leading a song of their choice.

Our next challenge is to try a hybrid session whereby some members will attend 'live' - socially distanced in the garden whilst the others join via Zoom. Additionally, we have been running a weekly drop in coffee morning on Zoom.

Sarah Howell-Davies & Lynne Waring

WALKING

Our group is a great way to get out and about, meet folks with a common interest and get to know the beauty and history of our capital city and surrounding countryside. We completed on average, two walks every month until Lockdown curtailed our activities.

Short Walks – Explore London

Our monthly short walks last around two hours in London and are led by group members who decide a theme or topic of interest. Our recent explorations have included Marylebone Village, Charing Cross to Saint Paul's and Artworks in the Olympic Park.

Intermediate Walks - Green and open Spaces

These walks, of 5 miles or so, explore green and open spaces in or near London. These vary and have included Blackheath and Greenwich Park, the Darent Valley Path from Otford to Eynsford and Finsbury Park to Ally Pally. A pub is usually the finishing point.

Long Walks - Country Walks

Our monthly long walks are typically 8 to 10 miles in length. We venture further afield in the summer and have walked widely in the Chilterns and the North Downs. In the winter we walk nearer to home and we completed a 10 mile green walk of South East London. We usually start and end every walk at a train station.

At the time of writing the restrictions have stopped all our walking, but we are ready to start the moment we have the go ahead.

Stephen Frost

WELSH GROUP

This is a recently started small group working at improving our conversation skills. We are looking forward to meeting up again once Lockdown allows.

Margaret Thomas

WINE APPRECIATION

There are now two groups, both meeting on Tuesday evenings. The meetings usually consist of a tasting of three or four wines followed by supper with more wine. To date tastings have been based on Michael Schuster's ten-part DIY wine-tasting course. Last November the groups had a joint outing (our first) to visit the London Cru winery in Fulham.

Since April both groups have had monthly Zoom meetings, where members each choose a wine to taste at home and tell the others about it. This has proved a successful format: between us we have tasted some very interesting wines from fifteen different countries (so far) and it has given us plenty of ideas for future meetings.

Group 1 has almost completed Michael Schuster's course for the second time (with different wines).

Group 2, after a couple of introductory meetings, had time for only one tasting from Michael Schuster's course before lockdown.

Gerard Dickinson and Anne Sharpley

WOMEN'S STUDIES

Our group has visited the V&A Museum to see the Mary Quant exhibition. We have also been to the Bethlem Hospital, Museum of the Mind to see art by women who had been patients there.

We have researched and discussed the changing experience of women in the 20th and 21st centuries, in relation to work, appearance, youth and health. We have also looked at how women are impacted and can influence the climate crisis. We have been meeting and will continue to meet via Zoom for the time being.

Sandra Tait

WRITERS WORKSHOP

We are a small group for those, experienced or otherwise, who wish to develop their writing. Over the last months we have continued to write, reviewing each others' work by email and continuing to meet fortnightly for discussion and feedback on WhatsApp and Zoom. We have begun to write a novel entitled 'On First Hearing About Covid.' Versions vary from fantasy escape to memoir and we are free to continue our own or someone else's. Examples of our work have been read at the U3A Showcase events and some of us have entered the U3A Short Story competition.

Maggie Smith

ZUMBA GOLD

I regularly post mini videos, filmed in the garden or recorded before the restrictions and send the links directly to members. Last term we explored some new dance rhythms adding *Bachata*, a smooth fluid dance from the Dominican Republic, and some gentle toning to African inspired music. We are looking forward to meeting live again.

Ruth Kellar



Zumba Gold - Ruth Kellar

Dulwich & District U3A Online Zoom Annual General Meeting 2020

Monday 3 August 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes of AGM 2019
2. Chair's Report and Activity Report
3. Approval of Treasurer's Report
4. Motions from members
5. Election of Executive Committee and Officers

Followed by:

Guest Speaker: Laurence Marsh
on "Herne Hill - Past & Present"

*The Zoom link will be sent to members
prior to the meeting*

Would any member who is experiencing problems
receiving our D&D U3A emails or monthly Newsletters
please contact

the Secretary at: secretary@dulwich-u3a.uk

U3A Video 'Life in Lockdown'

"During this period, the national U3A movement has stepped up to find creative ways to keep in touch, keep learning and stay connected. This isn't a time to celebrate but we did want to reflect the amazing ways you have adapted to the pandemic.

It is only a snapshot – there are so many of you doing so many great things we couldn't include everyone – but more than anything, we wanted to showcase the shared endeavour that is the U3A movement."

To see the whole video go to:

<https://tinyurl.com/y9u3ozok>

Monthly Open Meetings

In addition to the regular activities of our Interest Groups we hold monthly Open Meetings with a wide variety of interesting and informative speakers. These meetings, which are open to members, potential members and friends, attract around 100 people.

APRIL

THE RISE AND FALL OF REMBRANDT

Rupert Dickens, a local Art Historian gave us a wonderful, illustrated talk about, "The Rise and Fall of Rembrandt". He whetted our appetites for the Rembrandt Exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery scheduled for that Autumn.

MAY

NATIONAL PARK CITY LONDON

There was a good turn-out for Daniel Raven-Ellison's talk, prior to our 2019 AGM. He spoke enthusiastically about the project demonstrating how green a city London is, with diverse species and wildlife and how this benefits our residents' health and wellbeing.

JUNE

SHAPING OUR VIEWS. Journalists Simon Tait and Nigel Reynolds discussed their experiences as arts journalists of national newspapers and the changing role of newspapers.

JULY

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY

Despite rainy weather, over 100 people came to Bell House. There was croquet, boules, table tennis, golf, walks and a delicious cream tea. Entertainment was provided by members of the Ukulele Groups.

SEPTEMBER

THE THIRSTY METROPOLIS

Nick Higham pointed out how we take clean water for granted. He talked about the history of London's water supplies from the Middle Ages to the 20th Century. We learnt about the cause of the terrible outbreak of Cholera in the 18th century.

OCTOBER

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

We had a lively discussion on Climate Change with Councillors from Southwark and Lambeth, Cllr Richard Livingstone (Southwark), Cllr Jane Pickard (Lambeth), Angus Hanton (Bell House), and green shop owner, Jessica Rimoch, of Jarr Market, Zero Waste in Herne Hill. We discussed, amongst other topics, local transport, electric cars, recycling, plastic free shopping and LED light bulbs.

NOVEMBER

THE DAY WE WENT TO THE MOON IN 1969

Dr Andrew Graham gave us some insights into the momentous event of 50 years ago. He talked about the moon rocks and what they have taught us about the probable origin of the moon. His talk was complemented by a Moon Quiz from Roman Bednarz, the Convener of the Astronomy Group.

DECEMBER

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS QUIZ at the Carnegie Library, was challenging and fun with questions submitted from the Interest Groups.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH at the Dulwich Golf Club on the 18th was very well attended and gave us an opportunity to socialise with other members.

JANUARY

THE GOLDEN ROAD TO SAMARKAND

Diana Driscoll who is an experienced traveller and Asian expert, Tour Guide and lecturer at the British Museum gave a wonderfully illustrated talk on the origins of The Silk Route from China to Europe. Her slides showed the amazing blue, brick and turquoise tiled buildings of Samarkand and Bukhara.

JANUARY

ART HISTORY WORKSHOP IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE DULWICH PICTURE GALLERY

We held a joint workshop event in partnership with the DPG, attended by 7 of our Art, History, Museum Visits, and Cultural Groups, reflecting on "What can we learn about Art History at the DPG?" The DPG had generously contributed the Linbury room and Curator Helen Hillyard talked about 'Rembrandt's Light' Exhibition, with each group sharing their different approaches to learning.

FEBRUARY

THE HOUSE OF COMMONS - A DECADE OF CHALLENGE

Sir David Natzler, the recently retired Clerk of the House of Commons spoke about his experiences over the last decade in his post at the Palace of Westminster. David described the unsettled nature of government over this period mainly due to Brexit and related issues.

MAY

SHOWCASE ZOOM EVENT

Our first Zoom Open Meeting included presentations of Zumba by Ruth Kellar, poetry by Sarah Wintle, a piano recital by Nadia Lasserson, and an example of Creative Writing by Lauretta Tomlinson. It finished with a three hander play reading from Yvonne Levy, Susan Elias and Charles Biscoe. Despite a number of technical hitches the audience of 100 gave it their enthusiastic support.

JUNE

SHOWCASE ZOOM EVENT - 'On With the Show!'

Our second event included a Quickfire Quiz from Diana McInnes, a talk on Women Impressionist Artists by Bernie Victor, poetry from John Turpin, and a Creative Writing story from Carole Abrahams. David Beamish demonstrated the art and creativity of the Photography Group.

JULY (Zoom)

Carolyn Steel on her new book 'Sitopia - How food can save the world'.

AUGUST (Zoom)

Laurence Marsh on 'Herne Hill: past, present and future'. The talk looks at the houses that were built and the lives of some of their occupants.



Open Meeting with Daniel Raven-Ellison



Quiz Group team winners in aid of St Christopher's Hospice



Annual Quiz at Carnegie Library



Summer Garden Party at Bell House



Christmas lunch



The Ukulele Group Singalong concert at the Healthy Living Club, Stockwell



'Bedroom Farce'

SHOWCASE PRESENTATIONS



Nadia Lasserson



Zumba - Ruth Kellar



Over 90 Interest Groups



ART

- Art Appreciation
- Art for beginners
- Art History

COMPUTERS

- Android devices
- Apple devices
- PCs

DISCUSSIONS

- Philosophy
- Political discussions
- Travel
- Women's Studies

FILMS & THEATRE

- Ballet appreciation
- Concert outings
- Cinema & Theatre
- Play reading

GAMES, HOBBIES & CRAFTS

- Bridge
- Cryptic crosswords
- Mah Jong
- Photography

- Quizzes
- Scrabble
- Sewing, Knitting & Crafts
- Tennis & Table Tennis
- Wine appreciation
- Zumba Gold

HISTORY

- Archaeology
- Architecture
- Genealogy
- Museums & Galleries

LANGUAGES

- French
- German
- Italian
- Latin
- Russian
- Spanish
- Welsh

MUSIC

- Guitar
- Jazz
- Music appreciation
- Opera Appreciation

- Singing
- Ukulele

OUTDOOR

- Bike rides
- Birdwatching
- Boules
- Gardening
- Golf
- Map reading
- Trees
- Walks

SCIENCE

- Astronomy
- Maths for Fun
- Science

SINGLES

- Singles Cinema
- Singles Lunches

WORDS

- American literature
- Book reviews
- Greek drama
- Poetry
- Shakespeare
- Writers workshop



Car or window sticker

Dulwich & District U3A
Website: www.dulwich-u3a.uk
Email: secretary@dulwich-u3a.uk
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Dulwichu3a/>
Phone: 0843 8860 980
(calls may cost 7p per minute plus your phone company's access charge)