

# u3a Epsom & Ewell

## Learn, Laugh, Live

<https://u3asites.org.uk/epsom-ewell/home>

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Hello Friends,

The first month of the year has slipped away and we find ourselves in a very different place than we were this time last year. Despite the many changes we are now facing in our lives there is now positive hope for everyone as the Covid vaccine programme is rolled out across the nation. As you should all now be aware I sent out a Covid vaccination survey in early January and to date we have had a very good response with 118 of our members having had their first vaccination and 16 having had both first and second during January. Across the whole of the UK almost nine million people have had their first dose, and almost half a million have had first and second. We are still a long way from where we would like to be but as the year unfolds with the start of spring and the continued push into the vaccination programme I feel we are all heading to a better place.

As some of you may be aware a few of our younger, less vulnerable members have volunteered to be marshals at the local major vaccination hubs that cover our area, and to those u3a volunteers and indeed to all those volunteering I would like to send my sincere thanks for being a major part of the vaccine programme.

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## Important Your u3a needs a **SECRETARY**

In the last month there were six emails from National Office. The

Secretary role requires someone to forward these to the relevant committee members. The secretary also attends bi-monthly meetings with the team currently on zoom.

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### **Important Announcement** **Membership**

The usual fee of £15 per person will become due on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and will be valid for 12 months.

Any new members joining now will pay £15.00 for 14 months membership.

If any of our less vulnerable members feel they can offer support to the vaccine programme in this way I have included the link below for more information:

<https://vcsutton.org.uk/volunteer/covid-19-registration-for-volu-2/>

## Travel & Events

At this time, we are not able to say how our events programme will unfold. Although we are due to start our travel activities in late April, realistically this will all be subject to the vaccinations, restrictions and the confidence of our membership in wanting to venture out again. The Travel team will keep everyone informed of any changes that occur as soon as possible. Irene is keeping in contact with our tour operators for our first trip to Llandudno and will update members who have booked as more information becomes available.

Meanwhile we continue to run our monthly events programme virtually via zoom and have started to enhance this by sharing our resources with like-minded u3a's in a reciprocal way. At our February monthly talk we were pleased to welcome 5 members from Horley u3a. Within the south east network, a small group of u3a's have started to form a cluster to share resources in this way, although this is in its very early stages we hope it will strengthen and grow.

## Groups

A lot of our groups are continuing to meet using technology of various kinds. We are also liaising with other u3a's with a view to sharing our resources and groups where appropriate.

We've also offered the facility to group leaders to use the Epsom & Ewell Pro License facility in order to have uninterrupted meetings. There is now a Zoom Pro Diary page on our website that lists which groups are meeting using this facility. If your group would like to use this facility check the page to see if the day or session that you would like is available. All bookings are made via the link to the booking form on the Zoom Pro Diary page on our website.



## HOST KEY

Our u3a has a zoom pro license and this gives us the flexibility to schedule meetings for groups with unlimited time, rather than the 40-minute limit of the basic free package.

So far 8 group leaders have signed up to take advantage of this facility.

Book via website

Every year in May we host an Open House event at Bourne Hall where we invite people to come and learn about the u3a and its role in the local community. Also, as a National organization the u3a had planned last year to hold their first ever National Day. Sadly in 2020 both of these events did not take place.

2021 is a new year with new challenges and fresh hope. Our Open House event will possibly be cancelled, the committee are reviewing at the March meeting and will then decide what is the best course of action. If we cancel the Open House, we will instead arrange a monthly speaker event for members to enjoy.

National Day is another thing entirely. The u3a National office are keen for as many u3a's as possible to arrange an event on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.

**This is where we need your help**

There was a meeting last week to put forward proposals from all the u3a's in the UK. Some have suggested yarn bombing and flash mobs etc., some have suggested that maybe we will need to organize an online event.

We need to know if you have any ideas that we can put forward at the next committee meeting in March. We are already arranging as much publicity as possible to promote our organization but we need to know, what would grab your attention? What would make you look twice? What would interest you enough that you'd look at the website or ask some questions?

Why did you join? What have you enjoyed most about the u3a? Have we met your needs? What do you think would make people join?

I'll leave you to think about how you might help to achieve our goal.

Stay Safe

Tony

Chairman



**Monthly Extras**

**Thursday 18th February**

**Laughter in the House**

a pre-recorded presentation.

**Narrated by Julie Walters**

**Thursday February 4<sup>th</sup>**  
we will host our first

**Zoom Impossible Quiz night.**

This will be limited to 15 devices logging in, we already have eight members who have booked a place.

**Booking forms available on the events page.**