

u3a Epsom & Ewell

Learn, Laugh, Live

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

Email enquiries to: u3aepsom@gmail.com

Hello friends.

I hope you all managed to have a happy Christmas in the best way you could considering our circumstances.

It's been a hectic 2020 full of trials, tribulations and challenges. 2020 was also a year of intense learning for our members and us as a team as we all tried to put together an interesting and entertaining package for 2020 as well as concentrate on our plans for 2021.

This package proved to be very popular and I have to say, not only did our members provide brilliant content for our website, but were very keen to attend the talks and presentations we put on via Zoom that lifted the spirits and lightened the load. Although, I can tell you that there were one or two scary moments, I have to admit, but we did our best to hide the screams and hysterical shouting that was going on behind the scenes.



Important Your u3a needs a **SECRETARY**

In the last month there were eight 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.

Important Announcement Membership

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

Any new members joining now will pay £15.00 for 15 months membership.

Travel

Our Travel Team are especially pleased with the number of bookings they are taking for our 2021 programme and I can advise that places are starting to fill up very nicely now. If you have not already booked then please do so as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.

Groups

I had a series of virtual meetings with our group leaders at the end of last year and at the end of these meetings was very pleased to find that at least 70% of our groups are continuing to operate on Zoom, Skype, WhatsApp, emails or phone calls. This shows that when we need to find another way we can, and we do with true determination. Of course, some groups just could not continue owing to the nature of their interests. But I know they will be planning to return as soon as possible.

Covid19

One of our group leaders, Ann Norman, has asked me to put an idea out to our membership. This is a cry for help really, it concerns the Covid19 Vaccination Hub at Nonsuch Manor in Nonsuch Park. The people who are organising this are asking for volunteer marshals to help and guide people to the vaccination site. Those of our members that are not shielding and are in good health may want to become involved with this programme. So far, I know of two who are currently active in this role. However, I have to stress that this is entirely voluntary and is not being done with any association to our u3a.

If you do decide that you would like to help, I have added the link to the volunteer's web site below.

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



January 11th 2021

Concorde: The World's only supersonic passenger aircraft

Tim Young

Chairman of Newmarket u3a will present his talk about Concorde.

Mid-Month Special

Thursday 21st January 2021

The Normans

a pre-recorded presentation.

Bookings via the events page as usual

What would you do?

The National office has a Facebook page called Keeping in Touch. A u3a member has added a post relating to the Heywood Foundation Public Policy Prize. It is being suggested that it is something we could become involved with as a National organisation.

We all like to shout at the television, throw the paper up in the air and generally moan about the situation that we find ourselves in. However, if you are someone who thinks that things could be done differently and have credible ideas on how this could be achieved then this is your chance to put those ideas down on paper.

Also, as an incentive there are money prizes to be won for the best idea. If you would like to investigate this further, I have added the link to the site below.

[CONTEST link: \(heywoodfoundation.com\)](http://heywoodfoundation.com)

As this New Year dawns, it is fresh and cold, but the days will get lighter and warmer. That light of hope on the horizon will get brighter. We won't really know how 2020 has affected our membership until April, but I do know that the resilience that drove us all through 2020 will now carry us on into 2021 and when we look back, and we will, although maybe with some sorrow we will know that once again our generation was tested and once again, we were not found wanting. We should all draw great strength from the union that we share and the bond of friendship we find within our u3a.

I would like to wish you and your families all a very happy New Year and you never know I may see some of you in the Vaccination queue.

Best wishes

Tony

Chairman



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 7 group leaders have signed up to take advantage of this facility.

PATHFINDER

The latest Pathfinder meeting was held on Monday 4th January. The meeting this month focused on our website, technically our window to the world and how best to advertise our u3a and what we have to offer the local community.

There were presentations from 5 other u3a's who have all done a substantial amount of work on their websites and there were some interesting ideas to take away from the meeting.

Sue, our website admin, attended the meeting with me and was very interested in some of the ideas that were put forward to try.

My current request was that each month should have a theme and that our home page should change on the 1st of each month. This month's theme is the year ahead and what we can look forward to.

Sue has also changed the Welcome page to give potential new members an insight into what we can offer.

The general idea from the meeting was that we need to capture people's attention within 15 seconds of them logging in and that 2 minutes 20 seconds was the length of most people's attention span.

We are learning lots!!

Hopefully you will all notice the changes.

Events Page

We've also added a couple of links on the events page that may be of interest to members, especially during lockdown 3!

The first is a workshop on January 26th for the High Street Project that National office are organizing.

The second is King Lear Competition which is a creative arts competition for over 65's, it covers Art, Poetry, Real stories and Solo Musical Performances, and runs from Jan 4th – March 19th



We have added a couple of extra events to the website recently, don't forget to check the events and excursions pages for more details.

Extra mid-month talk especially for Tolkien Day on March 25th.

Extra special outing to Knightsbridge Barracks in June.

Irene has been sweet talking the Major.