



newsletter express

5th June 2020

Dear Member

As the whole world now seems to know, Phase 4 of the Exit from Lockdown was effective from last Saturday, 30th May. (Dr Nicky Brink seems to be all over the UK newspapers, TV and radio stations!) But, she is still working very hard towards the very real likelihood of a second wave, which may happen when our borders are eventually reopened. We, too, must continue to work hard to support Dr Brink and the measures that she has promoted to beat Covid-19 that have led Guernsey to be the envy of many countries around the world.

Your U3A Guernsey Executive Committee met on Tuesday to consider the impact of Phase 4. There is a lot of work now required in terms of **the differing impact on each of our 73 interest groups** in order to properly comply with the requirements under Phase 4.

First, the good news - Under Phase 4 **we CAN finally restart some of our interest group activities!**

Now for the not so good news - **a fair number of our interest groups will NOT be able to restart** due to the continuing restrictions required, **or to only restart in a different way.**

However, Dr Brink and her Guidance Notes for Phase 4 make it very clear that group activities and gatherings including classes, events, etc involving groups of **individuals who may be vulnerable such as over 65**, or with underlying health conditions are asked to consider the increased risks of resuming contact with other people.

Furthermore, her continued message is "**Stay at Home** if you are not well, or for individuals who are and still wish to remain shielded, or who feel particularly vulnerable" even now. For these reasons, some convenors may not yet be comfortable in restarting their group for the time being.

Already it is clear that **certain groups should not restart**, such as the **Singing Group** (choral groups should avoid performing or practicing), **Metalwork Group** (sharing tools and close personal contact work is strongly discouraged) and **Scottish Dancing Group** (close personal contact is strongly discouraged). And **some groups will be restricted in their activities** - the **Ukuleles Group** would not be able to sing (no choral again), the **Music Group** would have to do without some of its players (no wind or brass instruments allowed) and the **Wine Discovery Group** might have to work out things differently (maximum of 30 people only allowed and sharing - of bottles - is strongly discouraged).

And there are lots of other groups which have shared equipment e.g. tools, books, scores, cards, balls, etc being used, which can only restart if they have **appropriate hygiene measures** in place.

Then there is the issue of groups who use indoor premises, as we need to categorise them into those who hold their activities in a supervised public venue (eg Beau Sejour), an unsupervised public venue (eg a community hall) and a private residence.

Did you know Phase 4 consists of revised regulations (**the Law**) under Direction Notice No. 9 and new States of Guernsey Guidance Notes which are based upon the Law?

Did you know Direction Notice No. 9 consists of **14 pages** of the Law and that the new SoG Guidance Notes for Phase 4 consists of **18 pages** of detailed instructions and requirements?

Then there is a decision to be made by each group as to whether they wish to meet in an uncontrolled environment or a controlled environment. And following from that decision, if it is to be a controlled environment, there will be a requirement for the convenor to notify the SoG, maintain a register of attendees, etc

It will still not be possible to have any membership events, such as coffee mornings, as they would involve a gathering of more than 30 people (but such events may be possible in due course when we get to Phase 5).

So, what happens next?

We have formed an **Interest Groups Restart Sub-committee** comprising of our Vice Chairman - Alan Chubb, our Interest Groups' Co-ordinator - Jane Pearson and our Deputy Treasurer - Judy Dyke, who are already working hard to produce a set of requirements for all interest groups to adhere to - a framework and checklist. Once this framework/checklist has been signed off by the rest of the Committee, then the Sub-committee will respond to each group that requests a restart.

Those convenors that wish to restart should then apply for approval to recommence their group's activities.

If your interest group is able to restart and you wish to rejoin it, we would ask that all members:

- Do not attend if you are unwell
- Stay at home if you are shielding or you are particularly vulnerable

If you do wish to continue to stay at home, then we would ask that convenors keep your place in your interest group.

If you do decide to rejoin your group, we would ask all members to act responsibly within the Law and the requirements as set out in the SoG Guidance Notes - **everyone's safety is our paramount concern.**

It is advisable for all members to keep a diary of all the people that they meet every day and keep information for 14 days to help support contact tracing should it be necessary (the SoG have even produced a simple diary for you to print out and use).

And, we are still waiting on the insurance confirmation from the National Office of U3A that we can recommence activities. We are still hopeful that this should be a formality, but a necessary formality.

Please do bear with us a bit longer as we work through what we can do under Phase 4. We do not wish put any undue pressure on any convenor or any member to restart their U3A activities until, and unless, they are happy to do so.

À la perchoine,

Ian Daish, Chairman U3A Guernsey

Did you know that the new SoG Guidance Notes for Phase 4 detail the following restrictions on our lives in Guernsey (the "new normal")?

They include the following:

- Social Distancing - at least 2 metres in **Uncontrolled environments** such as supermarkets
- Reduced Social Distancing - at least 1 metre in **Controlled environments**, such as our interest groups, BUT **ONLY where a record of attendance and personal contact details is kept**
- Record keeping - all groups wishing to operate in a Controlled environment need to notify the SoG and to maintain records of attendees for 14 days after every event/activity
- Cleaning & strict hygiene requirements, especially in toilets and kitchens
- Sharing equipment should be avoided, otherwise disinfecting or disposed of after each use
- Contact sports are not permitted
- Choral activities are strongly discouraged
- Wind & brass musical instruments are discouraged
- No gathering is allowed of more than 30 people (except for certain events such as weddings)
- All groups, classes, etc are required to carry out a risk assessment before restarting any activities to ensure compliance

Our Phone Line: **07781 193333**
Please leave a message

Our Website:
www.u3asites.org.uk/guernsey

Our (closed) FaceBook Group
www.facebook.com/groups/GuernseyU3A