



GUILDFORD AREA u3a

## INTERIM NEWSLETTER 10 – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Gu3a members (as I must now address you!),

As you know, National Office has changed our logo and we are now all lower case, although tracking down that 3 with a flat top is proving tricky. I'm not at all sure whether that G should be capital or lower case, so I apologise to any of you with strong feelings on this point whom I might have offended.

So, we are all locked down for the second time this year. This means that there may be no face to face u3a meetings at all, although all the remote and virtual meetings will carry on as usual. We are looking into the possibilities of joining forces with other u3as so that we can share online offer. We are doing this already with the Astronomy Group and Camberley u3a.

I wish you the strength to draw on your inner resources to get you through the next month (or so). Stock up with good books and if you feel the need, take out that Netflix subscription so you can watch *The Crown* (I still haven't seen it but it is on my to-do list). Have another look at the Winter Learning Programme, details of which were in the last interim newsletter. Dress warmly but please do not scrimp on your heating; we have few enough comforts these days, Heaven knows.

Right back at the beginning of the pandemic I told you I had not touched another human being since 14<sup>th</sup> March. Well I now have a confession to make. I have been hugged. By my cleaning lady. She was so pleased to see me again when the first lockdown restrictions were lifted she gave me a hug. It felt very, very naughty. Nothing since, though.

You might remember that u3a has branched out into radio. If you still haven't heard it, their first podcast is available at <https://youtu.be/9zGNxpUSUAc>. (\*\*see overleaf for some news on their next podcast)

I spent so long delivering newsletters to members without email over the summer I decided it would be a good idea to have my bike done up under the government's scheme and use that. Well the bike shop over the road looked at it sadly, told me that would be £220 but quite honestly I should take it to the Surrey Bike Project to be scrapped and buy a reconditioned one. Which I did! £150. I cannot recommend them enough. They are only at their Woking Road depot for the duration, not at Southway. You will be relieved to know that I am proceeding cautiously, mostly on pavements.

If you have made any useful discoveries during the pandemic, do let us know so we can share them around. And do please, too, keep an eye on our website. We are constantly topping up the things to see and do there.

Keep safe. Keep in touch. Keep warm!

*With very best wishes,*

*Julie Beattie*

*Chairman, Guildford Area U3A*

**The next u3a Podcast which will be available from 17th November will include an item from our own Gu3a Member, Joan Owen.** She will be talking about her story and the way in which she has supported her husband Eddie since he had encephalitis in 2013. Having this condition meant that he suffered loss of memory in the part of the brain which helps with recall. She was advised to keep a journal and photographs to remind him of their life together, and he reads this every day. He also makes notes about what he does on a day by day basis, and this has helped to keep him included in conversations when people chat about what they have been doing. She thinks that doing something like this can be a benefit for anyone who is supporting another with memory problems, and can help them to cope with the sudden change in lifestyle. To find this from 17th November, search for u3a podcast on the National website.

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### **A Christmas Celebration with John Rutter and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.**

Gu3a Outings Team had planned to visit the Royal Albert Hall in December for this ever-popular annual concert. This year, however, this will be available to watch in the comfort of our own homes!

The concert will be available to watch from its premier on Thursday 10 December at 7.30pm and for 12 days afterwards. Tickets have just gone on sale and are £10 each, plus the opportunity to make a 'pay what you can' donation if you wish. Recorded in St Albans Cathedral, it features John Rutter and the RPO, plus guests including Simon Callow and vocal group VOCES8, and features carols, fanfares, Yuletide classics and much more. So why not invite a friend or two (if we are allowed to by then), dress up, pour yourself a mulled wine, warm a mince pie and tune in for a very special Christmas Celebration.

<https://rpo.tixtrack.com/tickets/series/CCJRRPO/a-christmas-celebration-with-john-rutter-and-the-royal-philharmonic-orchestra-280632?startDate=12-10-2020>

*And make a note in your diary that our reservation of tickets has been moved to next year's concert – Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021.*

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Our next remote Monthly Meeting will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November. **RHS Wisley: past, present and future** - Susan Corr will give an insider's view of the developments at the RHS garden, Wisley. This will be a Zoom meeting, starting at 1.45pm with the talk at 2.00pm. To register to take part please email [monthly@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:monthly@guildfordu3a.org.uk) giving your name and membership number. We aren't carrying over requests from previous months, so anyone interested in this talk needs to register again.

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*Keep Learning – Keep Well –  
and Keep in Touch*

