



GUILDFORD AREA u3a

INTERIM NEWSLETTER 11 – 19th November 2020

Dear Gu3a members,

I hope you are managing with this second lockdown and keeping your spirits up. At least there is plenty in the news to keep us occupied!

I have recently tried out a Mirthy talk. Moira has mentioned them on our Facebook page but I only watched my first one this week. They are every Thursday afternoon at 2pm and cover a wide range of topics. Last week it was the *Curiosities of the Streets of London* and this week it will be *Grace Kelly*. To register for these talks please go to alex@mirthytalks.co.uk. I was particularly impressed by the Q&A session afterwards in which the speaker showed an outstanding knowledge of his subject.

I should like to thank all of you who took the time to fill in the questionnaire we sent to you last month. I should also like to thank David Pearce who devised it and has analysed your responses. Among the matters raised was the question of joining new groups. When you received your membership renewal letter in July you also received a short form prospectus with information about all our groups and the contact details of our Group Leaders. We were not able to hold a Group Enrolment Day this year but you may join a group at any time.

People also asked for help using Zoom. Please get in touch with our IT guru, Justin, at justingjackson@hotmail.com who will talk you through getting the knack of it or look at our YouTube Zoom training video at <https://youtu.be/TjqwfadShrl>. You can rewind it as many times as you like!

The matter of the cost of Zoom Professional was also raised. Some Group Leaders find the 40-minute cut-off disruptive and have bought the package. To discuss reclaiming your expenses please get in touch with our Treasurer, Mike Brooks, at mb4188368@gmail.com, and please copy our Director of Studies, Moira MacQuaide, moira.macquaide@gmail.com, into your email.

Many of you raised the question of the subscription fee and our finances. Our '18-'19 accounts were published at our last AGM in November '19 and this year's accounts will be published in the AGM papers for 25th January 2021. thefuturegu3a@guildfordu3a.org.uk remains open to receive any comments from members as to how GU3A can improve its present activity and how it should operate in future.

I thank you most warmly for all the kind and supportive comments. They do mean a lot to us at this tricky time.

Keep safe; keep warm; keep in touch.

*With very best wishes,
Julie Beattie
Chairman, Guildford Area u3a*

NOTICE OF GUILDFORD AREA u3a ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

To be held at 2pm on 25th January 2021 on Zoom and Telephone

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Confirmation of the minutes of the AGM held on 25 November 2019
3. Chairman's Report
4. Presentation of examined Annual Accounts 2019-20 by the Treasurer
5. To agree Membership Subscriptions for 2021-22 by the Treasurer
6. To receive the Annual Report for the year 2019-2020 by the Secretary
7. Director of Studies Report
8. Election of Officers and Management Committee for 2020-21
9. Election of Independent Examiner for 2020-21
10. Any other business

As you know, we do not feel it is safe yet to plan our AGM face to face and we intend to run the meeting on Zoom and telephone. The accounts and paperwork will be sent to you shortly after Christmas. This year, we will be asking you to vote before the meeting and we will then collect your votes to report back to you at the meeting. We will not be actually voting at the meeting. For those not on email, information will be sent to you by post. If you would like to attend our Zoom Annual General Meeting – you can register your interest at: chairman@guildfordu3a.org.uk, stating your name and membership number (or name and postcode). Details of how to log in to the meeting will be sent to you nearer the time.

If you would like to join the meeting by telephone that is also possible. Please can you let me know at least one week beforehand, so I can give you the correct instructions. (My telephone number is 01483 222572)

We will run a practice meeting a couple of days beforehand, in order to give us time to help you if you are experiencing problems using Zoom or the Telephone to gain access to this meeting.

Even though it is possible to hold polls on Zoom, we are going to run our AGM in house, without the expense of outside help (and to avoid duplication of votes). I very much hope that many of you will be able to attend and get involved and that you are also happy to assist us with voting on the above Agenda before the meeting. Further details will follow.

If you have resolutions or anything you would like to be brought to the attention of the Chairman and membership, it is important that we can share this with the membership at the time of sending out the AGM details. So please can you let me know your suggestion by email or letter as soon as possible. Also if you have any nominations for members to be elected onto the Executive Committee, please write to me before 10th December 2020, with confirmation from the member that they are happy to be nominated. My address is: The Secretary Gu3a, The Black Cottage, Newlands Corner, GU4 8SE or email: secretary@guildfordu3a.org.uk

Thank you very much.

Sonia Ashworth
Secretary, Guildford Area u3a

u3a MUSIC ...ON ZOOM!

As a near technophobe I was very wary of trying to present programmes on Zoom to keep the Concert Choice and Chamber Music groups going. But it is amazing how much there is out there to discover and enjoy! I fear the ubiquity of recorded music has separated the performance from the performer. To hear the latest Beethoven symphony, or a Mozart piano concerto, before the 20thC we would have had to be sitting there at the time of performance – a privilege afforded to very few people. The development of recording technologies has democratised music such that anybody can tune in to hear the music of their choice at any time, but nevertheless only rarely feel the connection with the musicians that comes from being at a live performance.

We have found that Zooming the Concert Choice and Chamber Music programmes enables us to re-connect with conductors, musicians and their instruments. A recent discovery was an amazing Symphony for Percussion which featured 7 marimbas, two xylophones and a full array of timpani and other percussive instruments.

For November's Chamber Music we thought we might have a little Beethoven as his 250th celebration year is coming to a close soon. We chose one of his early string trios –the C minor No 3, published in 1798 – all stormy and passionate. Then came Fur Elise. This is probably the one piece that everyone who has piano lessons has to learn - and it's hugely popular. Who was Elise? Nobody knows, as this beautiful little piece was unknown in his life-time (it came to light some 40 years after his death.) We saw and heard it played sensitively and superbly by Lang Lang, on a Black Diamond limited edition Steinway in 2019. What better way to spend a wet and windy afternoon!

For more information about Concert Choice or Chamber Music email
westwood.m@talktalk.net

Margaret Westwood

A reminder that our next remote Monthly Meeting will take place on 30th 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 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.



Here is the link for the latest podcast from u3a which was mentioned in our last Interim Newsletter. You may like to listen to the piece from Guildford u3a member Joan Owen.
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrqc8qYDZ4U24lq0J4qx0fQ>