



## GUILDFORD AREA u3a

### INTERIM NEWSLETTER 15 – 21<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Dear Gu3a members,

I hope that by now you will all have had at least one vaccination. I had mine at GLive and I must say the organisation seemed very smooth and efficient. Like you, I expect, I am very much missing human contact and proper social interaction cannot come soon enough for me!

We have, inevitably, fewer members since the start of the pandemic; we would all be happy to see our numbers back to pre-Covid levels. To this end, we thought it would be a good idea if you asked any of your non-u3a friends if they might like to join Gu3a. **We are offering a free trip or outing or a year's free membership to whoever recruits the most new members.** Just ask your friends to write "recommended by" and your name on their enrolment form. Closing date is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021. Good luck!

**The next monthly meeting will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> March.** The Age UK Advice Manager, Catherine Jezierski, will speak to us about benefits, care needs, etc, and answer questions. It has been suggested that we could have these meetings more frequently if some of our members gave short talks on something that interests them. Talks could be for 40-45 minutes with questions afterwards, but as little as 30 minutes would be quite all right. Recent talks such as the excellent one at the Engineering Group on Church Bells would also make most interesting Monthly Meeting talks for all. If you have an interest you would like to talk about at a Monthly Meeting, please get in touch with Jennifer Margrave on 01483 569884 or at [margravejen@gmail.com](mailto:margravejen@gmail.com).

**The next Coffee, Cake and Chat is on 9<sup>th</sup> March.** If you would like to come along please get in touch with Moira on 01483 452376 or at [moira.macquaide@gmail.com](mailto:moira.macquaide@gmail.com).



**The deadline for contributions to the Spring Newsletter is 12th March.** Please send your news and reports to [margrie.morgan@icloud.com](mailto:margrie.morgan@icloud.com).

Those of you have received the latest newsletter from national office please note that the date given there for **National u3a Day** is incorrect; it should read **2nd June 2021**. We are planning our events for u3a Day but at the moment it looks as if most of them will be online. To receive your own copy of the national newsletter just sign up at [u3a.org.uk/email](http://u3a.org.uk/email)

We have a number of **Situations Vacant** just now which might interest you. Firstly, our current Vice Chairman, Justin, will be standing down at the end of his period of office at the next AGM. If you would like to know more about what is entailed, please get in touch with Justin on 01483 429473 or at [justingjackson@hotmail.com](mailto:justingjackson@hotmail.com) or our Secretary, Sonia, on 01483 222572 or at [secretary@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:secretary@guildfordu3a.org.uk).

Our Assistant Treasurer or Venues Cost Controller, Des Brown, is also stepping down. Anyone offering to help with this needs spreadsheet skills and a good eye for detail. If you would like to know more please get in touch with Des on 01372 459200 or at [derekjamesbrown123@gmail.com](mailto:derekjamesbrown123@gmail.com) or our Treasurer on 07711 132224 or at [treasurer@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@guildfordu3a.org.uk).

We also think it could be useful to have a co-ordinator for our new members. This would involve offering them a contact who could answer any queries they might have and generally make sure they have settled in happily. This is particularly important just now when there are so few opportunities for personal interaction. If you would like to help out in this area, please get in touch with our Membership Secretary on 07759 021326 or at [membership@guildfordu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@guildfordu3a.org.uk).

Several u3as in the area have been putting their heads together recently in an attempt to devise a **programme of shared resources** during the pandemic. This involves enabling other u3as to access, for example, monthly meetings and any other group meetings which might be of general interest. It would be very helpful if we could have one of our members happy to take on the co-ordination of these offers. More information is available on the resources page of the Surrey u3a Network website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/home>. If you would like to know more about what would be involved please get in touch with our Director of Studies, Moira, on 01483 452376 or at [moira.macquaide@gmail.com](mailto:moira.macquaide@gmail.com).

Our Secretary, Sonia, would like to share this poem with you. She found it particularly heartwarming.

Today I dared to let myself dream  
That the world will one day open again  
That the locks will loosen, the walls will fall,  
The doors will fly open and reunite us all

I dared to imagine the warmth of a cuddle  
A group of my friends all locked in a huddle  
I felt all the heartbeats, drumming with mine,  
I heard all the laughter, I tasted the wine

I thought of the feelings I've missed for long  
The room full of music, united by song.  
The freedom to roam, to plan and to meet  
To hold someone's hand, to meet, to greet.

Just for a moment I dared to dream of  
The flights I would board to the places I love.  
The moment those eyes would meet mine at the gate,  
The feeling of joy after so long a wait.

Today, I dared to let myself dream,  
That the life we once had would happen again.  
That we'd no longer fear the danger of air,  
That our lives would not depend on such care.

They say that we mustn't wish time away.  
But it's hard, my friend, when faced with a day  
So long in blank hours and so wiped of laughter,  
It's tempting to drift away to thereafter.

So yes, I dared to dream just a while,  
Of life coming back, it brought me a smile.  
One day I know, this will be in the past,  
And hugs will be free, again, at last.

*Donna Ashworth (no relation)*



My witch hazel has cheered me so much at this dreary time of the year and my first camellia has come out in the last day or two. Spring does seem to be on its way at last. Did you know that daylight lengthens by 3 minutes a day on average through February? Hooray!



Here are some smile-inducing pictures to give you a little lift.

If this doesn't immediately make you sing 'wombling free' are you even human?



Sometimes you just have to pick yourself up and carry on



There could just be some sunshine at the end of this tunnel. Enjoy it!

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