



GUILDFORD AREA U3A

INTERIM NEWSLETTER 6 – 5th August 2020

Dear GU3A members,

One or two members have asked how they may sign up for or rejoin groups this year since we are not having an Enrolment Day. Just get in touch with the leader of the group, either by phone or email. All contact details are in the July newsletter.

If you are a Bridge fan, Tim Keogh would like you to know that the A/B groups which meet on Tuesdays are continuing to meet online through August. They are using a bespoke software package rather than Zoom and there is scope for new members to join them in September. If you are interested please get in touch with Tim on 07973205229 or at tim.keogh@ntlworld.com. For Chess fans, the Chess group is playing online using the website Lichess. For those not online, games are played over the phone. They are currently playing their second tournament through the summer and the next one will start in September. Anyone interested can contact Mike Adams on 01483 233324 or at mikeadamsbsc@gmail.com.

Zoom has been an absolute life saver for us during the lockdown. If you are still a little less than confident about using Zoom, just get in touch with our IT manager, Justin, on 01483 429473 or at justingjackson@hotmail.com. He will guide you gently through the process.

Many of you have asked if you may make a voluntary contribution with your annual subscription. Just add it to your normal sub; there is no need to do anything separate. We very much appreciate your support at this difficult time.

If you enjoy a challenge, our Webmaster, Roger, has come up with the following puzzle for you (he might have been listening to the Radio 4 *Today* programme just before 7am):

A country of 300 million has 60,000 new viral infections a day. A trial vaccine against the infection is about to start. They have recruited 30,000 people, half in the treatment arm and half in the control arm. Assume that the vaccine is effective at controlling the disease in the treatment arm and that it needs 100 cases of infection in the control arm to show that the vaccine is effective. How many days will it take to show that the vaccine is effective?

Answers please to webmaster@guildfordu3a.org.uk.

I hope you are still all safe and keeping well. Enjoy the sunshine!

With very best wishes,

Julie Beattie

Chairman, Guildford Area U3A

Guildford Area U3A Facebook Group

Social Media is, whether we like it or not, a part of our lives in 2020. For some it provides an easy way to keep in touch with friends and family, for others it feels like a worrying intrusion. I know that Facebook isn't for everybody, and that is absolutely fine. Many U3As around the country have been starting their own Facebook groups. We asked members if they would be interested and got sufficient support, so we have set up a private Facebook Group for members of Guildford U3A. You need to have a Facebook account in order to join. Then you type Guildford Area U3A into the search box and when it appears just click on it. You need to ask to join the group (click on Join Group) and you will be asked to provide your membership number. As soon as we have verified that you are a bona fide, paid up member of Guildford U3A your request will be approved and you will be let into the group.

The aims of this group are twofold:

- a) To share information, ideas and suggestions about Guildford Area U3A and our groups, National U3A (Third Age Trust), and life in our U3A worlds.
- b) To offer an opportunity for discussion about interesting topics that are relevant and appropriate in a positive environment.

As a private Facebook group, only members can see who's in the group and what they post, but anyone with a Facebook account can find the group and see that it exists. We have a set of group rules that everyone is asked to respect, and these can be viewed when you click on About and scroll down the page.

We hope that all our members who join the group will find it both informative and fun, as well as providing an opportunity to chat with other members about a variety of topics. The group is now open to all Guildford Area U3A members.



Come and give us a try.

Moira McQuaide
Director of Studies

Update on Outings and Trips

We are regularly monitoring the latest Government advice and rules relevant to us being able to arrange outings again, especially in relation to when venues will allow group visits, and also group travel. Venues are now slowly starting to re-open with timed entry slots for a small number of visitors, in particular outdoor venues, and we are watching carefully to see when they will accept group again, with some of the larger ones already doing this. Some coach companies are currently piloting group travel, with safe social distancing, loading in seat order, cleaning regimes, etc. but as many as two thirds of the seats need to remain empty in order to maintain the social distancing requirements, the number of passengers would be so low that outings with this arrangement would not be financially viable for us to run at the moment. We are keen to return to our schedule of outings and trips as soon as we are able and it is safe to do so, as we know how much the social element of these has been missed in the past few weeks. We will be keep you informed of any developments.

*Ann Elms and Jackie Ring
Outings and Trips*

COVID-19 and the Post

As part of our programme of Outings, we had been looking to arrange a visit to The Postal Museum in London, but this has closed temporarily and we are not sure when it will reopen. But in the meantime they are looking for items which could be included in a new project and exhibition to document the current crisis and capture this moment in time for future generations. The post has been a lifeline for many families and communities across the UK and the world. It's carried our thoughts to those we have been separated from and supported those who rely on it for vital supplies.

Postal networks have long been a part of our social infrastructure, but the COVID-19 emergency has provided new and different meanings to the purpose and value of post. They are looking for items for the collection to reflect how postal operations have changed to deal with the pandemic, how people are using them to maintain personal relationships and the importance of post to the economy. Physical objects and personal accounts which reflect the complex and shifting relationship people have with the post, including the very real impact on postal and delivery workers, will all be included in the collection.

Suggestions for items covering the period from March 2020 onward are around three areas:

- **Letters and Envelopes** - whatever the content, as well as any mail art that you may have created or received.
- **Greetings and Post Cards** – these reflect how the post has enabled us to mark special occasions, especially now at a time of not being able to see each other in person.
- **Parcels and Packaging** – businesses have used the post to continue trading, so they are interested in what has been used, plus also the contents of parcels and what these have meant to you.

If you have a suggestion for an item you would like to submit, there is a short form to complete on their website, <https://www.postalmuseum.org/> and they will then contact you when they have reopened and more staff have returned. As the Museum is currently closed, please do not send any items yet. But they want to make sure that items aren't thrown away before they can collect them!

Jackie Ring

Exciting news...

The September monthly meeting is due to take place online, via Zoom.

There's a new speaker, Geoff Saunders, who will give an illustrated presentation about his visit to Tibet, entitled *To a Mountain in Tibet*.

Geoff has travelled widely, for business and pleasure and has worked on all continents. Now retired, he has used those experiences to write and publish about the wonders of the world, far and near. He explains that his talks are more than just travelogues, as they aim to inform, entertain and enthuse.

The time and date is the same: 28 September at 2.00 p.m.

If you wish to attend you will need to register, so that a Zoom invitation can be sent to you. You should email your interest to: monthly@guildfordu3a.org.uk.

Shortly before the talk is due to start, you will be sent an invitation to join the meeting.

Jennifer Margrave
Monthly Meetings

Free Talks by Guildford Institute

There are 10 short sessions taking place on Zoom and all are completely free to join! Delivered by Institute tutors, the taster sessions provide the perfect opportunity to develop your confidence in using Zoom or to have a go at something new.

Go to their website and just type Free into the keyword search box and the sessions will come up. Topics range from Creative Writing to a Brief History of Mars, Jane Eyre and Spanish Intermediate, and a Titian painting.

www.guildford-institute.org.uk

Houses of Parliament

For those members who came on the Houses of Parliament (during the days of Brexit discussions which seem such a long time ago now), and those yet to visit, a comprehensive virtual tour is available. You are able to see a lot more of the detail, as it was quite busy while we were there and some areas were covered with scaffolding, and, of course, we weren't allowed to take photos. They've added short information spots which are interesting. Also – until we can visit in person again, there are some short free talks available, which you need to sign up for.

<https://www.parliament.uk/visiting/virtualtour/>

Do check the GU3A website as this is regularly updated with ideas for 'visits' and things to do.

My husband saw a cockroach in the kitchen this morning.
He sprayed everything and gave the kitchen a really good clean.
Tomorrow I am going to put the cockroach in the bathroom.

Keep Learning – Keep Well – and Keep in Touch