



GUILDFORD AREA U3A

INTERIM NEWSLETTER 7 – 28th August 2020

Dear GU3A members,

The most exciting news this time is that the Third Age Trust (TAT), our governing body, has said that under certain circumstances we may resume group meetings. In the first instance this will apply to groups meeting outdoors and/or in venues which meet their criteria. There are quite a lot of conditions imposed. I fully understand that not all of you feel comfortable about doing this; that you are happier meeting via Zoom or receiving emails; that you would rather wait for a vaccine. Please get in touch with your Group Leaders to find out exactly what your situation is. Conversely, could Group Leaders also make sure that their members know what the plans are for this term. Group Leaders might also wish to take advantage of the opportunity to check on their members' status and intentions.

We are very grateful to those Group Leaders who are starting up again, although we quite understand if members are waiting to see how things pan out before deciding. Even though the Group Leader and the venue will have completed a risk assessment, you are responsible for your own health and safety. Good ventilation is most important. You might prefer to wear a face mask and disposable plastic gloves but please bear in mind that if it is essential that members see exactly what the Group Leader is saying (as in a language group) this might not be convenient. Members with a hearing impairment will find it much more difficult to understand a speaker wearing a mask. Group Leaders might therefore not wear a mask but rather stay at least 2 metres away from the nearest members. Each group will make its own decisions on this matter.

If you have not yet remembered to renew your membership, now is a good time. Some members have been in touch with us to say they have not had their membership renewal letter. If you receive your communications by email the letter will have arrived on 21st July from Justin Jackson, our IT head. It might just have gone into your spam folder or have been accidentally deleted, in which case by now it might no longer be accessible. If so, please get in touch with Justin (01483 429473; justingjackson@hotmail.com) for another. Our Beacon database tells us that every member did receive a renewal letter.

The first of this year's monthly meetings will take place via Zoom at 2pm on Monday, 28th September. Geoff Saunders will be giving a talk entitled "To a Mountain in Tibet". To register for this talk please go to monthly@guildfordu3a.org.uk giving your name and membership number.

Many of you will know that our previous newsletter editor, Irene Black, died earlier this month. She contributed an inestimable amount to GU3A, running groups on Creative Writing as well as Indian Art and South East Asia Studies. She will be very much missed. You can read a tribute to her from her friend Jennifer Margrave at <https://drive.google.com/file/d/16CahXFfs-vPPErV8xwkBPqBJx0uUjTK/view?usp=sharing>.

Some of you will be familiar with the work of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, SSAFA, an organisation which assists anyone who has ever served in the armed forces. They also visit veterans who for whatever reason find themselves in prison. There are 5 prisons in Surrey and currently there is only one person, a GU3A member, who is assisting 8 clients in two of those prisons. She is doing this remotely just now because of the pandemic. I am so impressed by this worthwhile and amazing work and so proud of what our members do.

Congratulations are due to Silvia Potter who was the first member with the correct answer to last time's puzzle. Well done! The answer is 34 days. If you would like the working I can mail it to you on request. I am afraid there is no puzzle, cartoon or joke this time. All contributions welcome!

We are looking to start small group outings again. Details will be sent by email. If you don't have email and think you might be interested, ask your email buddy to let you know when it is publicised.

Like me, you must have noticed that the nights are drawing in. I now wish you to keep warm as well as safe!

With very best wishes,

Julie Beattie

Chairman, Guildford Area U3A

Keep Learning – Keep Well – and Keep in Touch