

Chair: Michele Doran
Vice-Chair: Neal Goulborn

**Monthly General Meetings are held: via Zoom
on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm**

NEWS from the COMMITTEE

Welcome to your April 2021 Newsletter.

Another month and another step forward! Spring is upon us and the sun is shining. I am enjoying the sight of the birds in my garden beginning their courting rituals and finding nesting sites. New growth in my borders and containers is nudging me into action again.



From 29th March outdoor gatherings (including in private gardens) of either 6 people or 2 households are allowed. Outdoor sports facilities such as tennis, open-air swimming pools and netball courts are allowed to re-open and people are able to take part in formally organised outdoor sports. Just in time for us to get back outside and top up our vitamin D levels – so important for our health in so many ways!



Fingers crossed, 12th April will see the opening of non-essential retail – hairdressers are expected to be under siege! Public buildings, libraries and community centres, indoor leisure facilities, most outdoor attractions and settings, outdoor hospitality venues, self-contained accommodation such as campsites and holiday lets will be opening taking us closer to normality.

All things being equal, next month, the government will look to continue easing limits on seeing friends and family wherever possible. Restrictions on meeting others outdoors will be lifted - although no more than 30 people. Meetings indoors will still have the Rule of 6 or 2 households. So larger groups will have to continue with alternative arrangements for a while longer.

In the meantime, we will continue to offer Coffee Mornings or Afternoon Tea sessions, via Zoom, for any of you to have a chat with others, or for groups to get together for a chat or to plan for their re-start. Just get in touch and I will arrange a date and time for you.

Stay safe and keep positive

Michele



hvu3a Website

We are always looking for new pictures to go on the website. Don't forget to ask everyone in your picture if they are happy to be put on-line. Pictures make the website more part of us, so please send to: Alex Ross OR Neal Goulborn

NEWS about GROUPS

I would like to give a big **thank you** to all the Group Contacts who have responded to my email with updates of your Group's membership and current/planned activity. This information is very useful to the committee as we plan ahead.

We are all looking forward to resuming 'usual activities' as the restrictions ease. Most Walking Groups and the Golf Group are restarting in small groups. If you want to check that your activities comply with Covid rules, then you can check the Government Road Map at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-response-spring-2021/covid-19-response-spring-2021summary>

Please remember that any activity groups must have a standard risk assessment to comply with insurance. The link below takes you to the latest advice from the u3a Trust. <https://u3a.us9.list-manage.com/track/click?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=010e80b44a&e=d6527833ad>

In the meantime, there is a lot happening via technology. We have 16 Groups regularly active online. Many other Groups are now enjoying Zoom Coffee Mornings to socialise and plan for the future.

Our HV Website is a useful source of information for members and prospective members. Please have a look at what is on (and let me know if you have any updates to your Group's activities). <https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley/groups>

Remember there are now also activities on offer from the Southampton Network. Information about these, together with contact details, can be found in the flier 'Network Events 2021' which was sent to you with last Month's Newsletter.

If you are interested in joining any Group, or in starting a New Group please email me

These groups currently have vacancies

Backgammon (Online)

Book Club (Zoom)

Philosophy

Nordic Walking

Computers and Home Technology Online (Zoom) - is now welcoming visitors. Please email me for an invitation.

New Ideas for Groups are also welcome – if you want it, probably others do, too!

Alison Baker

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS

Cancellation of event

We have trialled running Social Events in the evening via Zoom. The first event in January was a great success and we contracted 2 further entertainers for March & April. As these are social events, we introduced a small charge for those who wanted to attend.

The take up for Miss Crystal Enigma was slow but we just managed to break even and feedback on the evening was positive. However, our next event, the singer Amy Baker, is very under subscribed and therefore we have decided to cancel it. It just isn't viable, or fair to Amy.

Our feeling is that perhaps providing such events in the evening on Zoom is not meeting your needs. Those of you who use internet/TV have access to a varied range of evening entertainment. Plus as the nights get lighter, we feel the take up will not increase.

Those of you who are keen to see Amy, please look her up on usual social media outlets and you can join one of her other events. If you have already paid, please bear with us regarding your refund as our treasurer, Wendy Brown, is new to all this!

Meanwhile, we will concentrate on exploring outdoor events that we can attend together

In the meantime, we really are keen to attract new people to join our committee. You can help us and your fellow members enjoy new experiences once we are comfortable going out & about. Do contact me or email me and I will be pleased to talk through what we do, how we do it and how much of a time commitment this means (not huge!). Plus it is a great way of getting to know all that is going on in our area – and getting to know our members.

Lesley Hobbs Social Team

MEMBERS' SECTION

URGENTLY WANTED:

We have started planning for a u3a day of our own in the hope of recruiting new members and would really appreciate input from you. If anyone would like to join a brainstorming session, **PLEASE** contact me. Any members who have a background in or experience / knowledge of publicity and/or recruitment **OR** any members who have enthusiasm and imagination would be welcomed with open arms! *Michele*

Membership Renewal

Please keep a look out for membership renewal forms for 2021-2022 which will be sent out the last week in April by email or post if you are not on email. The forms may be completed on-line and returned to me by email or printed off and returned by post to the address on the form if you prefer. If you have any queries, please contact me either at memsec.hvu3a@gmail.com or on 01489 783787.

Jo Fennell. Membership Secretary

MONTHLY GROUP MEETING TALKS

Tuesday, 13 April 2021 **Tim Young - Ladies in the Air**

This talk is about the creation of the Air Transport Auxiliary and the fearless women who delivered the much needed planes from factory to airfield during WW2

11 May 2021. Retired Detective Inspector Paul Stickler – The Murder of Sir Harry Oaks

DI Stickler will put the case; we, the jury, will deliver a verdict. He will then review the verdict Don't miss it! There is new information about the case to be imparted

TV/FILM CLUB

Members' recommendations this month of TV series and films to watch:

The Red Dot - Netflix (sub-titles) Thriller Behind their Eyes (series) - Netflix
McDonald & Dodds - ITV Crime series Grace - ITV Crime series
Deutschland 89 - Following the Fall of the Berlin Wall Homeland - Netflix Spy thriller
The One - eight episodes, based on a couple who 'match' people using their DNA a real take on online dating! Lots of twists and turns and 'on the edge of your seat stuff'.

If you have any recommendations, please forward them to Michele Doran so they can be published on our Facebook page and in our Newsletters. They can then be added to an on-going list.

BOB'S IRREGULAR PODCAST UPDATE – 2

Podcasts: Hi I'm back to let you know that I've come across some more podcasts that you might find interesting. If you have come across something, why not share that find. Others, I'm sure, would also enjoy it.

Here are a few suggestions from what has caught my ear recently.

- **u3a podcast**
The u3a Trust are releasing their own series of podcasts. These feature interesting / inspiring stories from around the u3a's across the UK. You can watch as well as listen, as they are YouTube videos. You'll find them on the u3a's own YouTube channel. Each episode is around half an hour.
- **Letter from America by Alistair Cooke's:**
The BBC have released as podcasts the whole series of the weekly radio broadcasts that Alistair Cook made on American life, history and politics. I remember these being a feature of my mum's Sunday morning while I was growing up in the 60's & 70's. He broadcast them from 1946 to 2004. You'll find them on BBC Sounds. Each is a quarter of an hour.
- **About a girl:**
A strangely listenable show from the makers of hit true crime series Disgraceland, About a Girl offers a scripted, partly-fictionalised look at 12 women behind some of music's biggest names, among them David Bowie's first wife, Angie Bowie, and Rita Marley, spouse of Bob. Each episode is around half an hour.

There's a "how to access and listen to Podcasts" guide now available to save/print on the HVu3a website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley>. Look in the "Tech Help" section.

Bob Baker - Business Secretary

