

Chair: Michele Doran
Vice Chair: Neal Goulborn

Monthly General Meetings are held: St Luke's Church, Hedge End, on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 2.30 pm

Greetings from the COMMITTEE

Welcome to your February 2022 Newsletter.

The Government has relaxed the Covid restrictions and, happily, people will be able to attend our indoor activities without the need to wear masks.

However, I fully understand that some members will have reservations and members who still prefer to wear their masks have our full support, as do the groups who are agreeing their own norms regarding social distancing, regular cleaning of shared equipment etc. The pandemic will be with us in some form or other for a little while yet, so caution in certain circumstances is still sensible, but at least it feels like we can look to the future with confidence.



This month's General Meeting on 8th of February is being held back at St Luke's. There is still a limit on numbers so don't forget to book a seat if you would like to join us. I would also ask that, if you do book and then find you cannot attend after all, you let me know as soon as possible so that I can contact people on the waiting list.

I am pleased to see that we are still welcoming new members, and receiving ideas for new groups. Don't forget the Groups team can help facilitate new group start-ups.

Many of our long-standing groups have re-started. I am sure we will be at full strength in the very near future. If there are any difficulties, please call for a chat – might be able to help!

I am pleased to advise you that the Social Team are busy organising future events. I believe that the first one is imminent so do keep an eye open for communication from them.

Talking about Social events, £112.00 was raised by the raffle at the Christmas lunch and this has been donated to Countess Mountbatten Hospice. Thanks to all of you who participated and made it such a successful and enjoyable event.

There is always lots going on in Hamble Valley – please visit the website to keep in touch with what is happening.

Michele

MEMBERS in ACTION – Please seriously consider the following:

We currently have 296 members, and 12 associate members. To keep our u3a running (and to help share out the work of keeping it running so that people can comfortably fit it into their other activities) we need at least 12 committee members.

I have been advised that some Committee Members and Officers will be stepping down at the AGM. This means that we need volunteers to join us. Amongst others, the Treasurer's position needs to be filled. You do not have to be an accountant to do this – Diane has set up a good system and is happy to have someone shadow her in preparation. As for the other roles – all members of the Committee would support the transition process.

Without sufficient Committee members and / or Committee Officers (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer), Hamble Valley u3a cannot function. A lot of work has been done to keep us running over the last 2 years and it would be a shame if we could not continue, particularly as we are starting to see people enjoying our groups and activities once again.

Please think seriously about volunteering to join the Committee and get in touch with me for a chat about what you feel you can offer.

Thank you. ***Michele***

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." ~ Henry Ford



NEWS ABOUT GROUPS - The HERALDRY GROUP

Heraldry covers the use of coats of arms, flags and seals in many spheres including national, regional, personal, royal, civic and ecclesiastical. Once you start to look you will see that Heraldry is all around you.

Our group formed in January 2016 and although membership has changed over the years, we still have seven founder members and in six years have covered a large variety of subjects. Our journey started by buying a variety of Heraldry books to teach us the basics about shields, the colours, symbolism, patterns, and the rules associated with them.



We then located another U3a in the Midlands with an advanced Heraldry group and their very experienced leader, Vic, kindly agreed to combine a holiday on the South Coast with a slide talk to us, complete with handouts. At this point we realised what a vast subject we had taken on. Undaunted some of us then attended a short residential course at the WI Denman College near Oxford where our tutor, Chloe, taught us so much and included a heraldic tour of the City of Oxford and the historic colleges. (picture left: Queen's Coat of

Arms)

This was soon followed by a group trip to Windsor, primarily to see St George's Hall and Chapel which are full of banners and coats of arms. Then began the study of Knights of the Garter and their Arms.

Next, we tackled the Arms of our home towns (*picture right: Southampton's Coat of Arms*), English Earls, Royal Arms over the centuries, the Magna Carta Barons, and members of the Order of the Bath.



These were followed by our largest project in researching the Guilds (Livery Companies) of the City of London. There are now 110 Guilds, many with fascinating histories. They include such companies as Goldsmiths, Brewers, Bakers, Saddlers, Glovers, Coachmakers and the Gunmakers. More modern Companies are those like Tax Advisers, Educators and World Traders. This subject was followed by English Counties, Cambridge Colleges and English Dioceses. Scottish Heraldry is a separate subject in its own right.

Our current challenge is Coats of Arms of the Commonwealth and we have just started in Africa by covering Eswatini, Lesotho, Ghana, Gambia, Kenya, Botswana and Cameroons. An interesting topic but did I mention we each have homework every month?!

Barbara McFall - the Heraldry Group

NEWS from OUR BUSINESS SECRETARY and New Groups Co-ordinator

What's happening on the New Groups front?

Pétanque: The French equivalent of Bowls. Following our November general meeting, there was enough interest to start this group. We discovered there is a Pétanque "terrain", as it's known, within the River Hamble Country Park, and we have now booked an initial taster with some coaching for later in February. Regular sessions will be in the afternoon of the 3rd Monday in month. The individual's share of the hire fees is reasonable, and we get free parking too, but the terrain can accommodate almost double our present number of members. SO that would spread the fees even further! If you are interested in joining for fun and exercise, nothing too strenuous, what's stopping you?

British Sign Language & Music Appreciation: These lists commenced in November and December and have already secured enough interest to meet in February to discuss start up details. If you're tempted by either, please get in touch.

New Gardening Group

A new list for an active gardening group will be available at St Luke's on the 8 Feb, and discussions are underway with a number of members eager to restart a garden visits group. More details to follow.

Bob Baker

Updates to Policies now available on our website

The committee has recently approved updated versions of the Hamble Valley u3a Finance and Privacy Policies, copies of which are now on our website. Briefly, the changes are summarised below.

The **Finance Policy** update is generally a tidy up, recognising that online banking is now our preferred way of receiving income and paying for things and that groups that require income will need to have a treasury function for ongoing liaison with the HV Treasurer. We've also formalised an unwritten group member refund policy and the position on venue hire payments, plus the source of funding for venue deposits. The amount a group can hold as a float for tea and biscuits, has also been increased.

The **Privacy Policy** update is a complete re-write I'm afraid and is a far more detailed and lengthier read than its forerunner. The Information Commissioner's Office (a government department that monitors data breaches) has basically decreed that full disclosure of why, how and for what purposes the personal data gathered from our members needs to be spelt out in a very clear and granular format.

We also need to inform you of the legal basis for each use we make of your data. One of those bases is known as "Legitimate Interest" and the Committee has decided that one reason we contact our members (by using your data) requires us to issue an additional "**Legitimate Interest Assessment**" (LIA) for the gathering of views and ideas that help us develop new and improved activities and services for our members.

We also need to let you know you have a right to see the information we hold about you and, amongst other rights, to forget you in a reasonably short time, should you decide to leave us, subject to some expressed exceptions.

Be assured that we'll protect your data and not use it for any purpose other than keeping you informed of what the u3a is doing, wants to do and generally has to offer you.

We'll also be looking at all of our other policies over the next few months, so look out for further updates.

If you have any questions, or queries, please get in touch

MARCH GENERAL MEETING

Alan Saunders: The Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard.

Alan served in the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeomen of the Guard for 16 years. Today he will share with us what those duties involved.



Diversity and Inclusion – Jo Fennell

Trish Reynard and I have taken on responsibility for Diversity and Inclusion within Hamble Valley u3a on behalf of the Committee and we are wondering if we can help to improve any members' participation and enjoyment of our activities. While we aim to consider any and all requests, please be aware we cannot guarantee to make any requested change as we are a self-help organisation with very limited financial resources and must consider the whole membership as well as individual needs. This may include work around solutions that benefit all.

Please contact Jo or Trish if there is something you would like to request.