

Chair: Michele Doran  
Vice-Chair: Neal Goulborn

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

## NEWS from the COMMITTEE

### Welcome to your June Newsletter

As we move into June brighter days are coming. The weather is improving and more opportunities to meet with family and friends are opening up. Many are beginning to venture a little further afield, albeit with some caution, and looking to the future. Groups are beginning to meet, social events are being planned. Onward and upward!



I would like to say a big “thank you” to all of you who responded to my appeals for help with **National u3a Day** on the 2 June and the sourcing of a pop-up gazebo. It meant we were able to go ahead and publicise Hamble Valley in the community. Thank you as well to those of you who took the time to let me know that you were aware but unable to help at this time. As we move forward there will be a need for support from members to enable **Hamble Valley** to flourish and grow, so please feel free to offer help and suggestions whenever you can!

Talking about volunteers.....Our AGM is coming up in July and we have already circulated documentation asking for nominations and contributions to our **u3a**. Sadly, we have received no reply from any of you to date.

It is built into the **u3a** constitution that Committee members can only serve on the Committee for a specific period of time. This is to help share the time commitment of members, but also keeps new ideas and approaches coming into individual **u3as**. At least three of our committee members will be stepping down this year and if other members do not come forward to fill these vacancies, then we are in **danger** of not having a committee – and that means **not having a u3a**.

We have run on a reduced Committee previously, in ‘normal’ times, and it is expecting too much of people. As we come out of the current situation and attempt to rebuild and move forward it is unrealistic to expect a small number of people, who have already given freely of their efforts to keep things going and support the membership as far as possible, to do even more. Having come this far I do not want to see Hamble Valley close, but it is possible that this will become a reality if we do not find new Committee members.

All the Committee members are ordinary members, just like you. We all aim to help each other and the workload is shared: nobody need fear they will be landed with more than they want to cope with. **If you value being a member of Hamble Valley u3a and want us to continue please seriously think about stepping up.** It is a team effort – no-one is expected to work unsupported – and it can actually be fun and informative. And any Committee member will be pleased to have a chat with you if you want to know more before putting your name forward.

**Michele**



## NEWS about GROUPS

The good news is that many groups are now beginning to (or have plans to) meet up in person - outdoors on walks, in gardens and small groups indoors. Unfortunately, some (particularly those who share equipment) are still waiting - hopefully this will improve soon. All this is done safely by completing a Risk Assessment (general for the Group, and individual by each Member).

### Nature Walks



We resumed meetings on 12/04/2021 at River Hamble Country Park (walking in two groups of six). As restrictions eased further the next walk was on 17/05/2021 at Lakeside Country Park when 19 members attended and were able to walk together with social distancing. We had a good morning seeing 17 bird species and 16 flowers. Highlights were a large number of greylag geese and goslings. Afterwards 8 members adjourned to a nearby hostelry for lunch (on two tables of 4).

The next walk is on 14/06/2021 at Magdalen Hill Down where we are hoping for good weather and butterflies.

### u3a Technology and Home Computing Online (from May meeting)

The *Information is Beautiful* site shows data and information distilled into beautiful, useful graphics & diagrams. <https://informationisbeautiful.net/>

**Walking Group:** This Group is now active and would welcome a few new members. The group aims to walk approx. 5 miles on the fourth Wednesday morning of the month.

**Does your Group need New Members?** Why not write a short article advertising your activities for the next Newsletter? If you are not keen on writing, just jot down some notes or arrange a telephone call with our Newsletter editor for a chat:

You will be given a chance to see and comment on the proposed Newsletter article.

**New Groups:** Interest has been expressed in an Amateur Radio or Radio Ham Group. If you would like to join in please let me know.

**Would you like to join another Group?** Use our Website to find out more about a Group's activity <https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley/groups> Email me and I will forward your details to the Group Contact.

**Alison Baker**

## NEWS from the Membership Secretary

A big "thank you" to the 265 of you who have renewed your membership as you are helping to maintain Hamble Valley as an active u3a group. We would also like to welcome 10 new members. We hope that we are able to welcome you in person in the not too distant future as well as seeing old friends face-to-face again.

Also, a big "thank you" to those who accompanied their renewal forms with a note of appreciation for what has been arranged during the pandemic. They have been much appreciated by members of the Committee. Jo Fennell.

## NEWS from the Business Secretary

### U3A National Trust's new Click & Save scheme

You may have seen in the Trust's April 2021 National Newsletter the initial mention of a scheme that will provide discounts when you spend money with certain retailers and suppliers. Mention was made of Sainsbury's and M&S. Similar details were included in an article in the Spring 2021 issue of the Third Age Matters (TAM) magazine.

From information shared with local u3a chairmen, it seems that each u3a has an option to register interest in the scheme now, on behalf of its members. A roll out, on an u3a-by-u3a basis, of sets of unique batches of personal numbers to share amongst those who want to register will follow, plus a list of participating retailers and suppliers. Members will use their unique number to set up an account with the scheme provider, Parliament Hill Ltd. This will, undoubtedly, be a staggered process, as not all local u3a's can be administered to at the same time.

Our regional Trustee has said further information will be forthcoming in the near future, but may well involve a pre-paid credit card arrangement and involve shopping online "click". I'm thinking this is something along the lines of the "Topcashback.co.uk" scheme that's regularly advertised on TV. You pay a fee to be a member of that, whereas your membership of the u3a alone would entitle you to join this Click & Save scheme without further payment.

A slight complication that's been mentioned is that our u3a may need to consider its position on possibly registering for Gift Aid with HMRC as any benefits (discounts) realised by our members could have a bearing on the amount of gift aid we'd be able to claim under that registration.

I'm expecting the June 2021 issue of TAM and/or the National Newsletter to provide the detail our regional trustee mentioned. Your committee will then gauge whether there is sufficient interest within Hamble Valley u3a for us to see a benefit for you as members. I'll come back to you with a further article on the Click & Save scheme when I've seen, and understood, that further information.

**Bob Baker**

## MONTHLY GROUP MEETING TALKS

Delivered via Zoom. If you do not come because you have not used Zoom before, just email Jo Fennell and she will arrange help downloading the app. It is very quick to do. After that, all you will have to do is click on the link sent out by Michele by email and it will automatically connect with the app.

June's talk by the Army was a fascinating insight into a modern organisation responding to changing political and social environments. July's talk is also not one to miss! In 2009 Ashley Jones of Avon and Somerset Police founded the Senior Citizen Liaison Team. Now retired from the police force, Ashley continues to work with A&S police as a civilian giving talks on Financial Senior Safety. His talk before the AGM on 13 July will be an easy to understand guide on how to avoid falling victim to fraud.

Please do plan to attend the meeting on 13 July – the above talk could not be more relevant to today and your support for the business of the AGM that will follow it is a small return for all that HVu3a does

## MEMBERS' SECTION

Michele would like to bring to your attention the Barclays Digital Wings (<https://digital.wings.uk.barclays>) site. This gives you free access to some really useful and helpful information on digital basics, digital safety, digital communication, digital devices, digital entertainment and much more. Although it has been devised by Barclays you do not have to have an account with them, and they do not try and get you to sign up with them. It has been worked with the Third Age

Trust and they are running sessions to get you started with it during June. If you would like to hear more, please get in touch with me.

This looks interesting – closing date is Wednesday, 23 June 2021.



## **Black Holes and the Transient Universe**

**Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 10.30 on Zoom**

Prof Phil Charles will touch on matters such as black holes, white dwarfs, X-ray binaries in our Galaxy, high energy gamma rays and other mysteries of the Universe.

You will not need a degree in physics to understand these mysteries, Phil will explain.



Phil Charles was based at Oxford University from 1980 - 2000 and worked as Head of Astronomy at the Anglo/Spanish/Dutch observatory on La Palma. He was Head of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Southampton. Phil also spent seven years in Cape Town as Director of the South African Astronomical Observatory.

Cost for the talk is £1 per device. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk) This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link a few days before the event.

Meanwhile, back on Planet Earth, do join us at our picnic in July – real people, no screens .....

A poster for a picnic event. The background is a light blue, textured surface. At the top left, the 'u3a Hamble Valley' logo is displayed. To the right of the logo, the text 'Come and join us for a' is written in a yellow, sans-serif font. Below this, the words 'PICNIC IN THE PARK' are written in large, bold, yellow letters with a red outline. Underneath, '(ROYAL VICTORIA COUNTRY PARK)' is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. The central image shows a large, brick building with a prominent tower and dome, set against a clear blue sky. In the foreground, a group of people is sitting on a green lawn, enjoying a picnic. At the bottom of the poster, the text 'as we celebrate our first chance to get together after pandemic lockdown!' is written in a yellow, sans-serif font. Below this, the date and time '15th July 2021 from 12 Noon' are written in large, bold, red letters. At the very bottom, there are two lines of text in a smaller, black, sans-serif font: 'There is plenty of (paid) parking and toilets, plus 2 cafes on site. We will base ourselves in front of the Chapel and will make ourselves visible.' and 'Members should bring or purchase their own food &amp; a chair/rug &amp; a gazebo if they wish.'