

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 March 2021 Newsletter

Well, as Spring marches forward it looks like that little light at the end of the tunnel is finally getting bigger! As from **this month** we can now meet one friend outside for a coffee or a picnic! And at the end of the month up to six of us can meet outside, including in private gardens.

Into **April** and beer gardens and restaurants can serve meals in the open air – rule of six still applies though. Come **May** and we can meet in pubs and restaurants inside, albeit with the same limits. Then in **June**, all being well, all legal limits on social contact will be removed – probably with guidance on social distancing still in place.

Sadly, this does mean we are still restricted for the next few months in respect of many of our groups and our General Meetings. It is also probable that public confidence in large gatherings will take some time to recover. We will therefore continue to hold whatever we can on Zoom for as long as we need to. We are investigating the possibility of holding our larger meetings as hybrid events – some meeting at St Luke's whilst others join in via Zoom. As always, we will continue to keep you informed as to what is happening.

In the meantime, there are several opportunities for new experiences coming our way. Southampton Network is putting together a programme of events to share across our u3as, in lockdown and beyond – for example:

- A Talk on the Tribes of Kenya
- A themed event 'Everything Spanish'
- An inter u3a Quiz
- A Wildlife Study Day



Look out for notification of these!

Our **Social Team** have been investigating **Entertainment Evening** possibilities. You will have received notification of the next one a few days ago. This was a recommendation from one of our own members. Please support these events – the Team are working hard to find a range of experiences for you.

The **coffee mornings** appear to be taking off. We have had some groups getting together for a chat and a catch up. Some people have joined in our 'open' ones and enjoyed a chat with different people. I am pleased that so many of you are now able to use Zoom to join in more events. I may now have to suggest Afternoon Tea sessions as well as the Coffee Mornings! If you would like to join in sometime just drop me an email or give me a call.

Our **website** is constantly being reviewed and updated. Why not take a look - there is lots of new information available, plus help sheets, copies of the newsletter, information on groups etc. Work is also continuing on our **Facebook** page– try out the various tabs on there. You may be surprised to see what is there!

Stay safe and keep positive

Michele

NEWS from GROUPS

I would like to give a big thank you to all the Group Contacts who have responded to my email with updates of membership and 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. In the meantime, there is a lot happening via technology. Our website is a useful source of information for members and prospective members so it is important that details of your group's activities are up to date. Please have a look at your Group page:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley/welcome>

These groups are actively looking for new members:

Book Club (Zoom)
Quiz (Zoom)

Gentle Exercise (Zoom)
Philosophy (Zoom)

Online Backgammon

Computers and Home Technology Online (Zoom) – is now welcoming visitors. If you are not a member of the group and wish to join in a meeting then email me for a visitor's invitation. We meet third Tuesday at 2pm. Topics for March 16th includes '*Housekeeping for your device - phone/tablet etc, updates, back ups, security*' as well the opportunity to ask your questions.

Photography Group - we meet on the second Thursday at 10am to discuss our work, learning from each other and enjoying a range of images. We have a wide variety of photographic backgrounds and use a range of devices to take photos (iPhone, iPad, Compacts, SLRs). We hope to be back in a member's home soon, as well as having some practical photography outings.

New Group Lists

I am collating lists of members who have expressed an interest in: **Collaborative Writing and Art Group/ Amateur Painters.**

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

Alison Baker

TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

hvu3a Website

As you may know, we have been updating the Hamble Valley u3a website, as it is one of the main ways of providing information to our membership and the outside world about what we are doing, particularly at this difficult time. It contains details of all our groups and a list of forthcoming speakers and social events, amongst other things. The new speaker programme for our next year will be shown on the website as soon as it is available.

It is important that we keep the website up-to-date and one of the areas that needs regular updates is the information on our groups. So please do keep up the information about any changes to times or membership to our Groups Coordinator, Alison Baker at groups.hvu3a@gmail.com.

We are always looking for new pictures to go on the website. If you wish to add pictures of anything relevant for a group or any u3a activity, please make sure that anyone included in any photograph is aware and is agreeable to it being loaded onto the website.

Photographs sent for the website have to have two main requirements:

1. Each picture must be a .jpg .gif or .png file of no more than 1.5Mb. Most modern digital photographs require more than this and, if so, the image will need to be compressed before uploading. If you are unable to compress your pictures to a suitable size, don't be put off, you can submit what you have and it will be compressed before uploading, or you can ask for help from the Photography group, who are used to doing this.
2. Each picture needs a title which we can show under the picture. The title can be in the file name or provided separately.

Please submit any pictures for uploading to the website to either of the contacts below:-

Alex Ross
 Neal Goulborn

SOCIAL COMMITTEE NEWS



This month we welcome back the Social Committee, which is working on providing a series of entertainment evenings on Zoom. The first one on 18 March promises to be a hilarious evening in the company of Miss Crystal P Enigma, drag star extraordinaire. Look forward to a humorous take on the world of drag, as seen from the quirky point of view of Ms Enigma. The evening will cost a mere £3 per member/guest. Please email [Lesley Hobbs](mailto:Lesley.Hobbs@u3a.org.uk) to book or respond to the email circulated earlier this week with the internet bank details.

Meanwhile, the Social Committee is looking forward to restrictions lifting. If you are interested in helping shape the events/trips for a liberated u3A, please contact [Lesley](mailto:Lesley.Hobbs@u3a.org.uk) by email.

MEMBERS' SECTION

URGENTLY WANTED:

Any members who have a background in or experience / knowledge of publicity and/or recruitment to brainstorm some ideas.

Please contact me (Michele Doran – see front page) if you can offer some support.

TV/FILM CLUB

Members' recommendations this month:

Series

Bridgerton	
The Serpent	BBC iplayer
Designated Survivor	
White House Farm	
The Fall	Netflix/BBC iplayer
Banished	
Peaky Blinders	Netflix/BBC iplayer
Grace and Frankie	
Finding Alice	ITV Hub
Lupin	
Queen's Gambit	
Forsyth Saga	Britbox

Films

The Dig	
Dark Waters	Amazon Prime
White Tiger	
News of the World	
Rebecca (2020 version)	
Misery	
The Red Dot	
Two Popes	
Red Joan	
The Drowning	

All can be found on Netflix unless otherwise stated.

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 – 1

Podcasts: Below are two podcasts series which I have enjoyed lately, and I hope some of you may also – but we all have different tastes, so it would be great to hear what has caught your ear, drop me a line at my address below. There is so much listed that it helps both spread our listening pleasure and make it easier to choose a podcast if we can swap our own finds.

- **Queen Bees with Jane Horrocks & Esther Coles:**
Bee-keeping and a good old catch up, as Jane Horrocks (*you may remember her from Absolutely Fabulous*) calls up her friend Esther Coles; actress, writer and bee-keeper, to have a weekly chat checking in on Esther's bees as well as each other. Sometimes they might even allow a guest to join the fun! Episodes run from around 30 mins to 50 mins.
- **Normal/Not normal;**
James and Oliver Phelps (*aka the twins Fred and George Weasley from Harry Potter*) talk to a star-studded selection of friends, colleagues and personal heroes who stepped into the limelight at a young age, and find out what "normal" means to them. Each episode lasts about an hour.

If you'd like to have a listen to podcasts, but don't know how, there is a "how to access and listen to Podcasts" guide now available to save/print on the [hvu3a](https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley) website at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley>. Look in the "Tech Help" section.

Bob Baker - Business Secretary

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST From our Treasurer

A big THANK YOU to all our members who took the time to consider the issue of Gift Aid on subscriptions. We had 115 for and 53 against, with many interesting comments on *both sides*. In order to take this forward, [hvu3a](https://u3asites.org.uk/hamblevalley) will have to become a charity with a total income over £5,000. Currently we are unable to reach this income due to the pandemic but hopefully, as we return to normal, this level will be achieved and we will be able to apply for charitable status. **Diane**

MONTHLY GROUP MEETING TALKS

Delivered via Zoom, these monthly talks are becoming more and more popular with our membership. If you have not joined us yet, how about putting the following in your calendar. If using Zoom is the barrier, email Jo Fennell (Membership Secretary) and a member of the Committee will give you a call to talk you through it, or just answer your queries.

Tuesday, 9 March 2021

Simon Morgan - Saxophones and Clarinets Showcase

Simon's musical career in the Royal Marines took him all over the world. He will show us some of his musical instruments and will explain and demonstrate their different styles and genres of music, with a few anecdotes along the way!

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