



The University of the Third Age
Learn Laugh Live
Hastings & Rother Branch
Registered Charity No. 1097214

6th April 2020

Cheerfulness in the face of Covid-19

Dear Fellow Member

I am writing to you with an update about some of the things we are doing, at what may be a trying time for many of us.

- Let me begin by reminding you that all Speaker Meetings and Coffee Mornings are cancelled until further notice. Some Group Meetings – those which do not involve face-to-face contact – are taking place electronically.
- I am grateful to a number of people on the committee, and other members, who have set up Facebook, WhatsApp etc as a means of staying in touch with their various Interest Groups. Thank you for taking this initiative. Please be aware of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) requirements and take the necessary precautions to protect your own and other people's data. Where circulating emails to large groups, make sure that you use 'blind copies'.
- By signing up to the regular Third Age Trust Newsletter, you can access much helpful information and advice. The link is: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>
- There is a new page on the Hastings & Rother U3A website under the title Covid-19. The subtitle is 'Cheerfulness in the face of Covid-19'. Members – all members – are invited to submit items for inclusion. The tremendous benefit of having a membership of older age people is that all of us have interesting tales to tell. These may be from our working lives or our special interests. Now we have plenty of time to think about them and to sit at the keyboard and compose our articles, poems and stories. Please give some thought to contributing and send your contributions to me at chair.hru3a@gmail.com. At present there are two items for you to view: Dr Norman Berdichevsky has written an article, published in 'The New English Review' about the origins and history of Bexhill-on-Sea: and I have written a short appreciation of the work of Ralph Vaughan Williams.
- Lastly, a request to members without email. It is increasingly difficult, time-consuming and costly to contact you if you don't have access to email. Please investigate the possibility of getting an 'Email Buddy' who can pass messages to you. If you are successful in your search please let me know, as this will reduce the administrative burden on committee members – and also make life easier for you!

Finally: do stay safe and keep well.

With best wishes
Robert Hadland
Branch Chair