

## Odiham District U3A Newsletter August 2020

**Dear Members,**

So, in retrospect, in 2015 not a single person got the answer right to the question 'Where do you see yourself five years from now?' However, as the warm weather continues we don't have to worry about our shorts becoming too tight, we can just chop the legs off our pyjamas!

A message from Gill Harden, our Membership Secretary;

### **Renewal**

We would like to thank everybody who has already renewed their U3A membership via our new electronic system, your support is very much appreciated.

For those of you who have not, as yet, renewed - and maybe feeling a bit wary of trying the new electronic system. Please do contact Gill Harden on 07740 088077 or email her at [gillhardenu3a@gmail.com](mailto:gillhardenu3a@gmail.com)

These are difficult times and we are all having to change to ways and habits that are new and unfamiliar, so please do ask for help and advice on this new journey.

### **Membership Cards**

The new lifelong cards are making their way to you. The original plan was to get Group Leaders to distribute them by the end of March but, of course, the pandemic made that impossible to complete the task. So, instead we are delivering them by hand where we can to Odiham, North Warnborough, Hook and Greywell and posting to other areas. Please note that these lifelong cards have been sent to all current members of our U3A and are not indication that you have renewed for the forthcoming year.

Our thanks go to Mary Turrell, Jenny Smith and Pat Jones for helping the Committee in distribution.

If you haven't received your new card by mid-August please contact Gill Harden - details above.

Remember your membership number can be found under the bar code.



## **Monthly Meetings**

Our new programme of Monthly Meetings commences in September, however, in the meantime John Charlewood has suggested a Mirthy presentation as an alternative. Gill Harden has been our guinea pig for this and she says;

' Mirthy run a series of free online talks on a wide range of subjects usually on a Thursday at 11.00. At the end of each talk there is an opportunity to ask questions. Last week's topic was on the architecture of the Palace of Westminster focusing on Big Ben. It is easy to use and there is a lovely reconnect button if the signal drops!'

<https://mirthy.co.uk>

## **Groups News**

From Nicki Baker and Hugh Thomas, Groups Coordinators;

We have tried incredibly hard to keep as many groups going as possible in the very difficult circumstance we all find ourselves in. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes. Thank you to all group leaders for being creative and resilient in exploring new ways to keep your members involved and active.

Naturally it has been more difficult for some groups and we hope you will be patient and bear with us, in the hope that all groups will re-start as soon as the guidance permits. We are closely following the government and U3A head office guidance in all respects.

To give you an idea of the range of activities that have been able to continue regularly in some form, here is a sample of those groups: Book Groups, Bridge, Briefer History of Time, Creative Writing, Current Affairs, Family History, Gentle Yoga, History of Civilisations, History of Philosophy, MOTO, Music For All, Poetry Too, Recorder Playing, Science and Technology, Shakespeare, T'ai Chi and Wine Groups. A crash course in French also took place. Other groups have been keeping in touch via email and also circulating material of interest to the group members. Bowls and Nordic Walking have re-started.

### **Signing up for a group**

As we are unable to hold our annual enrolment morning, if you are interested in joining a group, please contact the group leader via the contact number or email address displayed on the group's page in the new booklet or on the website. We regret that the Groups Coordinators are not in a position to do that on your behalf.

If you are an existing group member, we have asked group leaders to roll their membership registrations forward into the new year but obviously they will need to know if a member does not wish to remain in the group.

During these unusual times where groups have not been able to meet in person, one advantage of virtual meetings has emerged in that there is usually no physical limit to numbers that can participate.

Given the uncertainties we will continue to face in the coming year, other groups are actively looking at alternative possibilities to allow them to meet regularly. So, if you are interested in an activity, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Group Leader. They will welcome your interest.

### **Website**

We are constantly adding information about groups as new guidance is received. Please do check the groups' pages on our Odiham District U3A website as it is being kept up to date and information may differ from the new booklet.

### **Wings and Wheels**

Sadly, owing to the ongoing restrictions due to Coronavirus, it is unlikely that the Wings and Wheels Group will be able to start as planned in September. Jim Osgerby, the group leader has deferred the start to January and says "If in January it's still not possible to meet, some form of interim online presentations will be offered".

You can still register your interest in this group via the contact on the group page in the new booklet. Registrations can take place from August.

### **Book Group 1**

Jan Mabbott's telephone number was wrongly recorded in the new booklet. It has been corrected on the group's page on the website and is 01256 701737. Many apologies to Jan for the error.

### **Wildlife Group**

Please note that the group description has changed since the booklet was produced and the up to date version is on the Odiham District U3A website. The Group Leaders are hoping that the exciting programme of talks and visits can be re-started in October.

### **And from Members On Their Own (MOTO);**

It's that time of year for U3A membership renewal and signing up to new/different Groups, but this year it's all different.....

However, U3A members old and new can join MOTO at anytime during the year. There is no minimum or maximum requirement to attend meetings. In usual times we hold a monthly social meeting at the weekend – usually involving a meal or trip out but these are obviously suspended until?? During lockdown and continuing, we are holding weekly Zoom get-togethers on Friday evenings and also our members are beginning to 'venture out' and passing on ideas and suggestions to others.

If you are interested in finding out more about this Group, do contact me.

Susan Gilchrist      01256 704496

## Trips & Events

For those of you who are missing a trip to see Mathew Bourne's interpretations of traditional ballet - and those of you who wonder if it is your cup of tea - here is a short clip from Swan Lake and the full-length version of the Nutcracker.

### [Matthew Bourne's Ballet Clips- "Swan Lake"](#)

### [Matthew Bourne's Nutcracker!](#)

## Light relief

Breaking news: The Government in Egypt has asked the city's taxi drivers to drive around Cairo sounding their car horns.

It is hoped that the familiar sounds of the city will induce a return to tranquillity and normality following the recent pandemic.

Operation Toot 'n Calm 'Em will last for the rest of the week.

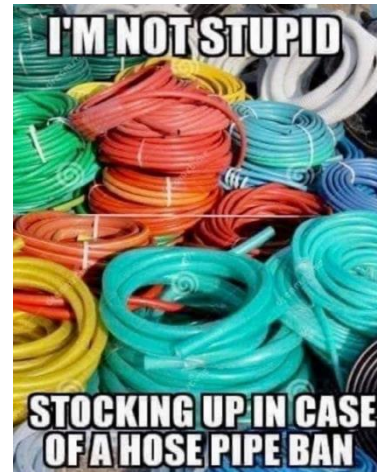


A moment of tension in Vatican. If the bishop moves forward the queen can take him.



*Not much on the supermarket shelves yesterday, so I decided to improvise. Dinner last night was a risotto I made with some mushrooms I found locally.*

*Not only was it delicious, but soon after a Welsh male voice choir of purple elephants turned up and sang the whole of Meatloaf's Bat Out of Hell, accompanied by a light show.*



[Opera Singer Parrot](#) Margaret Green's (Simply Singing) suggestion for a U3A singalong!

[For the Birds](#)

[Bugs rules](#) Do you remember this!

[Coffee Time](#)

[What's a lexophile?](#)

[A 10-minute trip around Scotland](#) especially for those choosing a staycation location!

Susan Gilchrist, Group Leader for MOTO has found the You Tube U3A's own channel very useful. There are lots of helpful videos and she found the Mindfulness range of clips to be of a high standard.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheU3a>

[Mindfulness](#) 6 sessions

[Mr Motivator fitness for U3A](#) 6 sessions

Quizzes;

[Hampshire!](#)

[Answers](#)

[Killer Ditloid](#)

[Answers](#)

(continue to scroll down for a North Warnborough walk)

## Out and About in North Warnborough - a gentle stroll

The photo at the beginning of the Newsletter is of the ford in North Warnborough and makes for a good beginning for a gentle stroll. [\(map\)](#)

1. Leaving the ford at the railings takes you onto a lane towards the swing bridge, past the houses shown here.



2. Crossing the bridge, the stroll continues along the far side of the canal.



3. There is always someone using the canal!

The path next to the canal turns into a footpath taking you through a field towards Greywell.



4. As you cross the field, to your right, you can just see King John's Castle peeking through the trees.

At the end of the field turn left and follow the track around and then left through the hedge archway. Then follow the diagonal path through the field sown with corn on the cob.

Enter cob field here



5. The path continues along the edge of the cob field ending back at the swing bridge in the bottom left hand corner

You can now retrace your steps to the ford and journey's end could be The Mill for a nice cup of tea!

*Viv Needham*

Swing bridge behind photographer