



Odiham District U3A Newsletter October 2020

Dear Members,

A message from Gill Harden, our Membership Secretary;

We are very pleased to report that we have 552 members who have renewed their membership. We also welcome on board the following 6 new members who have joined us this year;

- Monica Cheeseman
- Roberta Davenport
- Rita Moczulski
- Richard Needham
- Rosie Quintaba
- Angela Shaw

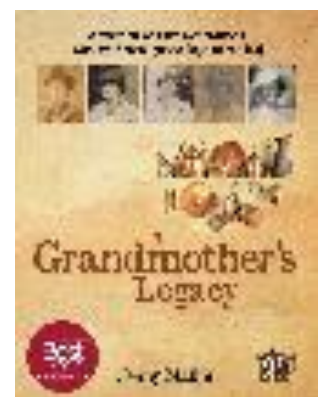
Thank you so much for all your support during these unprecedented times. For those who haven't tried Zoom yet. We are here to help if you would like to give it a go. Please contact Gill Harden on 07740 088077 or email her on gillhardenu3a@gmail.com if you would like help or have any membership questions

Monthly Meeting - all via Zoom

Our first meeting via Zoom was very successful! An estimated audience of 100 plus members tuned in to hear Towse Harrison's presentation, Before the Zip. A survey, carried out by Chris Clark after the meeting, suggested that this number is destined to rise and some members saying they will want to continue to watching online even after normal meetings return.

Wednesday 7th October: Jenny Mallin - Five Generations of my Anglo Indian Family during the British Raj (via Zoom)

Jenny has recently self-published her award winning book which gives a unique insight into a family who were living in India, of British ancestry, during the British Raj. Her book appeals to a cross section of both male and female readers as it covers the Railway, Telegraph, Schools and other British institutions set up in India as well as domestic family life. Her talk covers the challenges and eventual success in writing and getting the book published and it comes highly recommended.



Groups News

Climate Change Group (NEW)

The alarm bells are ringing –the earth’s climate is rapidly changing, and it is because of US. That was the clear message from Prof Ian Candy of Royal Holloway University in his talk to the Science and Technology Group and also from Sir David Attenborough in his recent BBC programme *Extinction – The Facts*.

Global heating is a concern for everyone, and a new Group is being formed to discuss, investigate and inform members of its probable implications and outcomes.

We welcome all members to join in or listen to the Group meetings which will be held monthly. Subject introductions will be welcomed from both members and guest speakers.

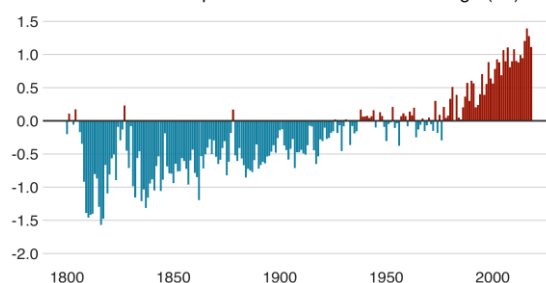
Please follow the link

<https://u3asites.org.uk/odiham/page/107883>

to find out more and to join us

The world has been getting warmer

Annual mean land temperature above or below average (°C)



Note: Average is calculated from 1951-1980 land surface temperature data

Source: University of California Berkeley



At the time of going to press ...

Nordic Walking, Bowls, Tennis, Walking for Pleasure are now fully active and operating within the guidance.

Pilates; to be split into smaller groups to allow for appropriate distancing. Judy is also continuing some Zoom sessions.

Ballet; to be held at the North Warnborough Village Hall as it is large enough to accommodate the whole group. However, for the moment no new members can be accepted while the current restrictions are in place

Line Dancing; Nicki has limited the numbers to 6 at present so the group can continue to meet at The Ridley Hall.

Painting and Considering Art 1 have had larger venues confirmed, Long Sutton and the Cross Barn respectively.

Wine Group 1 have held a hybrid style meeting with 3 sub-groups meeting in separate outdoor locations while drinking the same wine and connected by zoom.

Zoom Groups: all activity groups using Zoom have restarted! Please check the Groups page on our website to stay up to date with how all our groups are operating.

Wine Group 2

Wine Group 2 met for the first time in six months in the Cross Barn in September, all socially distanced of course.

By using the new projection technology in the Barn, we were able to have a fun evening, the “Antiques Wine Show”, deciding on the Good, Better & Best wines on offer from Waitrose this month. To celebrate our return, we had to start with three Sparkling Wines of course!



Ian & Margaret Green

Creative Writing 2

Creative Writing 2 has been meeting on Zoom and Pam Howard has been persuaded to offer her recent piece for inclusion in our newsletter. Find out about Kathy and Operation LUCIE as our Coffee Time Story!

Trips

Do you remember Pathé News? Step back in time with [This Is London Reel 1 \(1950\)](#).

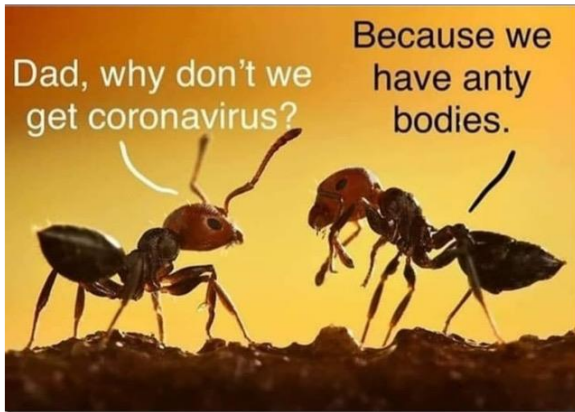
Or perhaps a visit to the circus! A 60 minute special from Cirque du Soleil featuring Alegria, Kooza and KÅ. [Cirque du Soleil](#)

Events

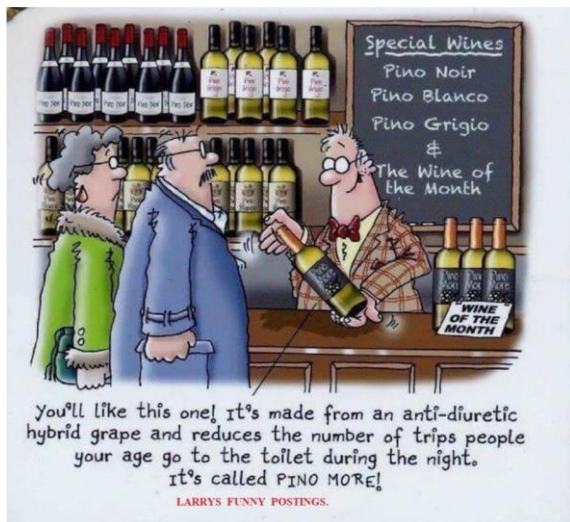
The Events team do still exist, they have just gone into a lengthy hibernation and are dreaming of all the things they can do when it is safe to emerge. At which point they will spring into action and prepare some social activities for fellow U3A members to enjoy once again.

Best wishes from the Events Team, Liz and Pauline

Light Relief



Wildlife finally returning to Thames. Nature is healing 🌱



My plans for this weekend



<p><i>The privilege of drinking with friends is that you can talk nonsense all the time and the best thing is; Nonsense is Understood, Discussed and Respected</i></p>	<p><i>If you had to choose between drinking wine everyday or being skinny, which would you choose ...</i> <i>... red or white?</i></p>
<p><i>Exercise makes you look better naked!</i> <i>So does alcohol ...</i> <i>Your choice!</i></p>	<p><i>I may have a small drinking problem. My husband asked me to toast some bread for him. I raised my glass and said, "Here's to bread"</i></p>

Coffee Time

[Northumberland](#) *another idea for a staycation location! Plus, a virtual tour of* [Alnwick Castle](#)

Quizzes;

[Hampshire Anagrams](#) [Answers](#)

[General Knowledge](#) [Answers](#)

A musical interlude;

[Grieg: In the Hall of the Mountain King](#)

[Silent Monks Sing the Hallelujah Chorus](#)

For those of you who haven't had a go at Pilates yet, here is a couple of clips for you to look at in the privacy of your own home! I have tried the 'NHS Introduction to Pilates' and it is very straightforward, however it does involve being able to do exercises on the floor. The second clip is aimed at 'seniors' (who knows how old they are!) and all the exercises are done sitting in a chair.

[NHS Introduction to Pilates](#)

[15 Minute Senior Pilates Chair Class](#)

For the finale, a coffee time story from a member of Creative Writing 2;

CO-OPERATION

Pam Howard: September 2020 (517 words)

Kathy had shouted at the television when the announcement was made. “Back to only six people allowed to meet up! I’ve just spent days trying to arrange a meeting after months without being able to get together!” This did not seem fair when she and her friends from the Ladies Unity Circle had been so careful in observing the guidelines and restrictions.

Never one to take things calmly, Kathy had telephoned her committee to express her annoyance. “We have to do something! After all, it is not older people who have been holding raves, parties and drinking irresponsibly, without any social distancing. I realise it is impossible to drink wearing a mask, but they don’t appear to have bothered in the first place. Can’t we organise some kind of protest, like Extinction Rebellion?” The others were lukewarm in their reaction to this suggestion, to say the least, and urged caution. Betty pointed out that the Circle certainly could not afford any fines they might be faced with if they went against the new regulation. After a stiff drink or two Kathy went to bed in disgust, muttering about the half-hearted responses she had received, and spent the night tossing and turning.

The telephone rang just after 8 a.m. the next morning as she was finishing breakfast. “Kathy, it’s Judy here. I have been thinking about your protest idea. Why don’t we withdraw

our co-operation to the restriction? Surely the police would not wish to get involved if we had a sort of Flash Mob gathering. Everyone could meet up in groups of six and begin taking over the local park; we would look like gentle old ladies out for a stroll. How about some placards? "FRIENDS, NOT FINES". WE WANT TO RELATE, NOT CO-OPERATE". I'm 86 now and don't want to spend any longer on my own with only the television and the telephone for company. We had to fight to get the vote, let's fight for the right to a life of our choosing."

Operation LUCIE was launched. Plans were drawn up, telephone calls made, placards painted. On Wednesday 7th October they swung into action and began to gather in the park. They formed their socially distanced groups around the bandstand. Kathy had borrowed an outdoor sound system and began her announcement. "Let's all remember that we are here to make our feelings known. What we need, what everybody needs, is an opportunity to be allowed to make sensible decisions for ourselves." She switched on the music, and the groups set off in a determined fashion, waving their placards. The noise of the sirens as the patrol cars approached drowned out the music but the march continued.

Let off with a strict warning, they made a different plan for November. LUC Invitational Events would arrange a funeral to mark the demise of LUC with 30 in attendance. Next month they would stage a wedding, again with the permitted number attending, to celebrate the formation of a new union. Kathy was so proud of the co-operation shown by her ladies.