



Odiham District U3A Newsletter September 2020

Dear Members,

A very long Newsletter this month, so straight to business!

A message from Gill Harden, our Membership Secretary;

Renewals

Firstly a huge thank you to so many of you who have stuck with us in these very strange times. We introduced our new electronic payment system at the beginning of this month. This was a major change and we were obviously concerned about how it would be received. Amazingly and thankfully in equal measure, we can now report that 100 per cent of those of you who have renewed have done so online! A big Thank You from your Committee!

An email went out on Friday to those of you who have not renewed as yet. If it has not hit your Inbox or you want to raise any issues or concerns please do email Gill Harden on gillharden@gmail.com or call her on 07740 088077.

Since groups are restarting and, as detailed below, our first monthly meeting is on Wednesday 2nd September, now seems a good time to get online here and renew.

[Click here to renew](#)

Lifelong Membership Cards

The membership cards have now all been delivered. Please note these are lifelong cards and have gone automatically to all existing members and **are not** an indicator of payment received, you should have received an email confirming that you had successfully renewed your membership.

If you have not received yours yet , please do contact Gill Harden on 07740 088077 or email her at gillhardenu3a@gmail.com

Monthly Meetings are back albeit online!

John Charlewood has put together a programme of speakers who are able to deliver their presentation online and take questions at the end of their talk! Although we will miss the social aspect of meeting face-to-face over a cup of tea and a biscuit, it does mean we do not have to restrict numbers and you can have the volume as loud as you want it. Chris Clarke will be emailing you all this week with a Zoom invitation and some advice on how to get into the meeting and asking questions etc. Check on the website for the full programme. ([click here](#))

Wednesday 2nd September: Towse Harrison - Before the Zip

Nowadays we tend to take clothing for granted, regarding what we wear as easily available, cheap and disposable. This talk re-introduces the 'invisible history' of cloth and weaving, using a practical exercise*, samples and images to explain why cloth can show us so much about the past and how important it has been to world history.



(*The practical exercise and samples have been modified for online use).

Groups News

So, as we move into our U3A new year, we find ourselves in rather different circumstances to previous ones! However, our Group Leaders are working very hard and very inventively to run as full a programme of activities as possible. For the groups of which you are already a member, your Group Leader will have already been in touch regarding present arrangements. However, here is a quick thumbnail of what we have running as of September;

- ✓ groups that meet outside e.g. Nordic Walking, Walking for Pleasure, Bowls and Tennis are now functioning albeit in a restructured format
- ✓ groups such as Ballet, Line Dancing and Pilates are exploring larger venues to allow for social distancing or are considering meeting in smaller groups. They plan to re-start face to face from October but classes are taking place on Zoom for now.
- ✓ many 'sitting down' groups e.g. History of Philosophy, MOTO, Science & Tech and Recorders have established a format using e.g. Zoom and will continue with this for the foreseeable future



Recorder Group playing on Zoom

- ✓ the Painting Group is meeting face to face from September and other sitting down groups e.g. Wine Appreciation are working towards meeting socially within the confines of government regulations/guidance
- ✓ sadly, some groups e.g. Scrabble and Mah-jong simply don't lend themselves to anything other than members being sat around a table which is not possible for the time being.

This is just a brief overview; for more detailed information about how each group is meeting please go to our website ([click here](#)). On the Groups page, Marion Sharp who looks after our website, has added the meeting format to the group name where applicable.

And, straight from the horse's mouth

Nordic Walking Group

We restarted the Nordic Walking group as soon as the guidelines for outdoor exercise for multiple people allowed and have been enjoying a whole new set of walks across and through Odiham Common and the associated wooded areas. Our warm ups, walks and cool downs are all undertaken adhering to 2 metre social distancing guidelines and we only walk in group of 6. And we keep registers of all attendees for track and trace purposes. Everyone seems to be enjoying the opportunity to safely "socialise" and we always try to finish the walks with a tea/coffee either at Galleon Marina or well spread out in our garden.

Gary and Liz Glazerman

Walking for Pleasure

Unlike a lot of groups Walking for Pleasure was unable to take advantage of technology and continue throughout lockdown. However, with the easing of government guidelines, I am pleased to say that we are now up and running, oops sorry, walking. On 18 August, 16 members set out from Rotherwick on a lovely route that took us through woods and fields past West Green House where we were able to admire the facade, which is not normally seen when visiting the gardens. For a time, the route took us along the River Whitewater, past Borough Court with its Hampton Court-like chimneys and Hook Mill before returning to Rotherwick. *(a map of the walk can be found on the Walking for Pleasure page of the website)* For many of us it was the first time we had met in person for five months and despite the fact that we have all been living very similar, restricted lives, judging from the amount of chatting and laughing it was still possible to find plenty to talk about. I think it proved the point that walking is good for you both physically and mentally.

Lynda Hampton

Pilates

Zoom Pilates is on Tuesday & Wednesday mornings until the end of September when Judy will stop Wednesday & keep Tuesday going.

Any U3A members are welcome to join/continue with Judy on Tuesdays. The face to face classes will be fortnightly so they might want to do the alternate weeks with Judy on Zoom.

MOTO

As a Group we are not able to enjoy our usual social (not distanced) gatherings in local restaurants or pubs, so our weekly Friday evening Zoom chats are a good way to stay in touch

and exchange topical information.

To mark the Bank Holiday, Sally Martin has kindly organised a Fun Crypt Quiz, which could test a few brain cells, but really has emphasis on Fun!

Our members are venturing out and enjoying many different things but especially seeing friends and family when possible.

Susan Gilchrist

Exploring Towns & Villages

What sets Exploring Towns and Villages apart from a walk is our use of local guides and the fascinating facts and stories they share about the area we are visiting. Unfortunately, it is the use of guides that is proving to be a stumbling block in restarting our programme of visits. Understandably, they have to keep themselves safe and talking becomes shouting when addressing even a small group which is socially distanced! We have contacted some guides for visits to be made for mid-2021 and are awaiting confirmation from them.

But to keep your appetite whetted we have added a DIY Explore Towns & Villages visit at the end of this Newsletter. We have provided a route (as piloted last Newsletter) plus several links so you can read up on the history before you set off and spot the various places of interest as you amble along at your own speed. As always, it begins and ends at a pub if you are interested, and the route can be adapted to various lengths and terrains.

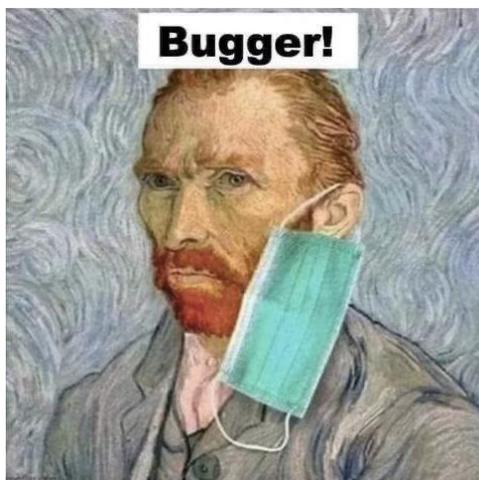
Viv Needham, Pippa Peatman and Sue Sharman

Trips & Events

For those of you who are missing a trip to see Bletchley Park

[Bletchley Park 360 tour: How Britain cracked Nazi Enigma](#)

Light relief





[Nessun Dorma...alla Corona](#) *this month's U3A singalong?*

[What if animals were round?](#)

[H.M.S Pinafore | Guy Noble and WASO](#) *a parody spotted by Susan Gilchrist*

[I've Got a Problem with my Apple! | The One Ronnie - BBC](#) *IT terminology explained!*

Getting to grips with new Technology....

I was visiting my son and daughter-in-law last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

'This is the 21st century, old man,' he said. 'We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, you can borrow my iPad.'

I can tell you, that bloody fly never knew what hit it

Coffee Time

[More from the lexophile](#)

[The Rock and Roll Piano Police](#)

[Wales - A Jewel of Nature](#) *more ideas for those choosing a staycation location!*

Don't forget to keep an eye on You Tube U3A's own channel. It's probably not most people's cup of tea but there is a 42 minute video 'Using video conferencing to run large meetings'.

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

Quizzes;

[Flowers, Herbs or Trees](#)

[Answers](#)

[Guess the Song: 60s!](#) *answers included, use the pause button if you need longer thinking/recall time*

The Barley Mow - Circular Walk (map and links at the end)



Barley Mow Bridge



Having turned left, walk along towpath

1. Starting from the car park opposite The Barley Mow make your way up to the towpath; turn left down the towpath skirting the inlet from where kayaks etc. can be launched. Continue to stroll along the towpath passing the 'milestone' - a tree trunk depicting Odiham 5 miles/Fleet 7 miles and the pill box until you see Blacksmith's Bridge where you will cross the canal.



Blacksmith's Bridge



Crossing Blacksmith's Bridge

2. Once across the bridge you will see tank defences down to your right and directly head white gates; go through the right hand gate and into Dogmersfield Park. The path leads down to Tundry Pond and the black metal railings on the right hand side mark the boundary of the Dower House Estate. As you walk along the edge of the pond you can see the former Dogmersfield manor house, now the Four Seasons Hotel, on your left and to the right, across the water, you can just see the Dower House.



Tundry Pond



Two bridges - when you reach them, turn left

If you want a short leisurely stroll, take pleasure in a relaxing sit by the pond perhaps enjoying a small picnic if you have brought one, before returning the way you came, about 2 miles by the time you get back to the Barley Mow.

3. To continue the longer circular walk, follow the path along the south side of Tundry Pond towards the two bridges at the far end of the water. *N.B. this route will include a steep step down of nearly 2 feet.* When you arrive, don't cross the bridges but leave through the left corner via a metal kissing gate; you are now on a long straight gravel track with the Four Seasons Hotel in the distance. However, only walk along it as far as the cattle grid (about 100 yards) and turn right along another gravel path indicated by a foot path sign post; there is also a sign to Keepers and Canal Cottages.



Turn right onto a second gravel track

Turn right at cattle grid as indicated by sign post

4. Follow the gravel path along until you get to large double gates closed across it and turn slightly right along a grass and woodchip path towards the cottages in the distance. This path has wooden sleepers set across it at intervals acting as 'mini-steps'. At the end of the path is a kissing gate and a steep step down (approx 2 feet and can't be avoided) to a tarmac lane. Although the lane goes to the right, turn to the left to continue, onto a bridle way. This then sweeps around to the right and takes you down a gently sloping grass path to the canal. (The lane does take you back to the car park if you would prefer an easier return route)
5. Cross Sprat's Hatch bridge, and immediately turn right down a steep path to the tow path. You now follow the tow path back to the Barley Mow passing under two more bridges, Baseley's and Stacey's, before finally arriving back at the Barley Mow Bridge and car park.



When we did this walk on 11th August, The Barley Mow public house was open but check their website for opening hours to avoid

Sprat's Hatch Bridge - cross and turn right

[Map](#)

[History of Dogmersfield & King John's Hunting Lodge - Park & Gardens](#)

[History of the Basingstoke Canal - The Basingstoke Canal Society](#)

[13 Circular Rambles on the Basingstoke Canal - The Basingstoke Canal Society](#)