



DECEMBER 2020 Bulletin

ZOOM MONTHLY MEETING

Tuesday 8TH December

Log in 1.40 onwards

Starts at 2pm

If you were to find yourself on a spot of time travel this could be really helpful.....

THE POLITENESS OF PRINCES

With Isabel Corrigan

Punctuality being the politeness of princes, this lecture examines the reality of manners and etiquette in later the Medieval period. A far cry from the popular image of appalling table manners, Medieval dining was a minefield of do's and don'ts, many of which were recorded in courtesie books (a sort of "Teach Yourself How To Be A Gentleman").

A rich vein of artistic evidence, drawings, sculpture, paintings etc also survives, bearing out what is written and adding colour and interest. This talk deals with the structure of formal banquets and the food eaten as well as how young gentlemen were trained and more everyday advice to women about hygiene and how to conduct themselves.

Join Mu3a Zoom Meeting:

If you click on the link you should be taken to the talk.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85722062483?pwd=UmVvaVV3UHZSY3A5VTM2bStlNVZ6Zz09>

If not you may need to use:

Meeting ID: 857 2206 2483

Pass code: 422927

Carry On Zooming....

Hi everyone - I hope you are keeping well and looking forward to an unusual Christmas but hopefully a healthier and more open 2021. I know I am!

We used our own Zoom licence to hold the last monthly meeting (10 Nov). We came quite close to the licence limit (100 participants) as we had 90+ and quite a few computers had more than one of our members viewing, so perhaps 120 in the audience. I'm looking forward to the December meeting - especially as the speaker is hosting it and not me!

We have 14 groups meeting each month via our two Zoom licences. The most popular day is definitely Wednesday but Tuesday is pretty full too. So far it has worked out well and no groups have clashed. Approximately 36 meetings were held in November for 300+ members.

Lesley Reid has been marvellous sorting out the dates and keeping track of all the licensed Zoom meetings. When we eventually get to meet at St John's, I hope you will join me in thanking her for her outstanding work on this.

Keep meeting and keep cheerful. Good luck and good wishes to you all.

Regards, Lynda Bolton
Vice Chair
mu3abol19@gmail.com

Still unsure about zoom You may be missing a trick here and many of your u3a friends have overcome their initial reluctance and found it's really easy to take part in an on line session. Make an early new year's resolution and plan to give it a go.

If you would like some support help is at hands.

Email crdcu3a@gmail.com to arrange for some 1:1 guidance.



It's been a challenging year but it's time to wish a Merry Christmas and a happy new year to all our members.

Looking forward, with everything crossed, to a brighter 2021 for everyone.

Your Committee

NEWS FROM OUR GROUPS

The **Painting and Drawing** group are sending hand painted Christmas cards to the residents of Holywell Park care home. They have chosen Holywell Park as it is almost next door to Hodsoll Street Village hall where the group meet in non lockdown times. The group's support of the care home residents, with cards, back in May during the first lockdown was much appreciated and it was felt that such support over Christmas would also be valuable.

Book Club1 really appreciate having the extra time with the U3A Zoom, it enables our meetings to last as long as we like without having to clock-watch, or come out and go in again which often disrupts the flow. Basically, we've all been meeting monthly on zoom for about an hour, and getting to know each other better including our taste in books. We have good discussions with everyone contributing something. We managed to meet in our garden in September and have formed a whatsapp group for immediate thoughts and possible Covid humour. We are even aiming to wear festive tops for our next meeting on December 10th! Our reading matter has included Lockdown by Peter May and Rosa's Gold by Ray Kingfisher. Recommended reads are Birdcage Walk by Helen Dunmore, A single thread by Tracy Chevalier, Circling the Sun by Paula McLain and Orlando King by Isabel Colegate.

Beryl

London Visits 1 and 2 If you can't go to London then can London come to you?most definitely it can in the capable hands of Caroline Piper, a Blue Badge guide and via Zoom. Our two London visits groups have amalgamated for the time being and have been able to include some honorary members too.

Fifty members recently enjoyed a talk about the History of Covent Garden and in the spring are looking forward to a tour of the Royal Parks in January and of Rotherhithe in February. One day we will join Caroline in person for a tour but until then some new talks have been added to the programme Hidden Gardens of the City of London in March and Spitalfields in April.

A SCHOOLGIRL'S WAR

You may remember (although it is a long time ago!) that Mary Smith came to give a talk entitled "A Schoolgirl's War" to Meopham U3A, in March 2018. Some of you may be interested in her book -

"A Schoolgirl's War" -the story of school life during WW2 in Kent is told in this book through a unique combination of the testimonies of wartime pupils and a fascinating set of contemporary artworks. Helen Keen, a wartime art teacher in Maidstone, documented the lives of schoolgirls and their teachers in paint and pencil as the war unfolded. The record provided by her exquisite paintings and drawings is enhanced by the memories and anecdotes of those at school at the time. The book would be of interest to anyone, of any age and from any part of the country, who is interested in life on the WW2 home front. Copies are available through the website of Maidstone Girls' Grammar School, <https://www.mggs.org/war>, at a cost of £10 each plus p&p. The sale of the books is helping to fund the exploration of a second air-raid shelter uncovered at the school, and the development of a dedicated wartime classroom for educational visits.

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