



SEPTEMBER 2020 Bulletin

VIRTUAL MONTHLY MEETINGS

Via Zoom

Starting at 2pm

8th September 2020 Fools Gold

Carol and Steve Robson will launch our virtual meetings by playing and singing for us as well as telling the stories behind their songs. Further details about the group is attached to this email. It promises to be a very entertaining meeting.

Coming soon

13/10/20: AGM and Roger Cheetham, A true story of Resilience.

10/11/20: Jane King "Foundling Museum".

8/12/2020: Imogen Corrigan "The politeness of Princes".

Please feel free to share this bulletin with friends, especially at this time with coronavirus and isolation. We are still open for enquiries and new members are very welcome.

GROUPS AND MEETINGS UPDATE

As a committee we are all thinking and trying to plan for an unknown U3A future, especially when the dark nights start drawing in.

Some groups are happy to accept guest members until such times as we can meet face to face again. Send a message to the group contact, via our website, if you would like to become an honorary member of another group and the contact will let you know if it is possible or not.

Having problems with technology? Don't worry.. six months ago none of us had even heard of Zoom. Contact us..... we will do our best to help you get started.

Our 3R's meeting 2020 style

For obvious reasons it wasn't possible to hold our annual 3R's meeting this year when you would have been able to re-join in person and then sign up for the groups you wished to belong to during 2020-21. Neither was it possible to produce our annual booklet detailing the programme for the year and the groups on offer.

Most groups are still operating in some way shape or form and many are flourishing. Attached to this bulletin is a printable digest of our groups and the most up to date information about them. Please check the website for any changes as the Covid guidance or local circumstances may affect how and where groups are running at short notice.

The groups in italics are seeking new group contacts and, if no one is forthcoming, those groups will be furloughed until it is possible to hold a face to face planning meeting. Thank you to Andrew Morgan who has agreed to be the contact for How Things Work, Pauline Llewellyn who has taken on guitar and Linda Rush who is the new contact for London Visits 2. If you would be prepared to act as contact in order to keep one of your groups going then please contact Heather via the website who will be pleased to help you.

If you no longer wish to be part of a group please do let the contact know as others may like to take your place.

If you have decided not to re-join MU3A for 2020-21 then you will not be able to take part in any of our activities and this is the last bulletin you will receive. We hope you have enjoyed your membership and you would be very welcome to return if and when you felt the time was right.

A membership form is included with this mailing in case you need one.

CURRENT AFFAIRS EVENING

This group considered the 10 things that they could do to help the environment and slow the march of climate change. Whilst agreeing that the actions of one or two will not result in dramatic changes overnight they felt it was well worth trying and better than doing nothing.

I will

1. Walk and cycle more. Only fly when no practical option.
my next car electric or dual-fuelled
2. Buy locally produced food whenever possible - supplement with frozen when necessary
3. Minimise buying plastic packaging - buy loose products and always carry reusable shopping bag
4. Plan menus to reduce food waste
5. Change fuel suppliers to one using only renewables and consider fitting solar panels
6. Turn down central heating and hot water – and wear a jumper
7. Save water - maximise use of rain water butts in garden, never use running tap when brushing teeth
8. Plant at least one small tree. Encourage wildlife into the garden and on to the allotment - excluding slugs!
9. Think carefully before buying new clothes
10. Recycle everything that is recyclable. Be prepared to buy/use second hand goods.

Bulletins

A number of members have asked for more frequent bulletins and for the return of the quizzes and puzzles.

This is perfectly possible but will rely on your help.

Please send me any quizzes or puzzles you think could be of interest to members. You will find another of the very popular food quizzes from Ann included with this bulletin.

There are articles in this bulletin about a couple of our groups. Could your group send in a short account of what you have been doing since March? What have the book groups been reading, the music groups enjoying or the games groups playing?

Have you any ideas for ways we can keep ourselves amused over the winter months? Word games, courses, walks ...please send them so others can consider them too.

U3A Guitar Group

The U3A guitar group is a very friendly group and has been running for approximately four years, up until Lockdown meeting at the Railway Tavern, Sole Street, on alternate Monday afternoons. Due to the need for social distancing we've agreed to change the venue when we start meeting again to the Hartley Pavilion, where there is ample parking and a good sized hall to spread out.

There are approximately 12 members of varying degrees of ability. Some are very good and are extremely generous and patient in sharing advice on how to improve playing techniques with those members who are not quite so experienced. We play songs from a variety of genres to accommodate everyone's taste, and it does make it more interesting.

Neil Fairweather has been the co-ordinator for this group up until very recently and Pauline Llewellyn has kindly agreed to take over the reins. During lockdown Neil set up a WhatsApp group to stay in touch and hosted Zoom meetings on the Mondays we would normally have met. The WhatsApp group has been useful to inform about various YouTube clips and to recommend artists who are a must to watch and listen to.

Recently, since restrictions have been lifted somewhat, some members have had very small gatherings (5, but no more than 6) in their gardens on Monday evenings, just to get together to play and sing a few songs. These have proved very successful and guidelines have always been adhered to. We are all looking forward to being able to play together again.

Great British September Clean

Be part of the pick

11-27 September 2020

Earlier this year Keep Britain Tidy were blown away by the support from everyone – volunteers, local authorities, charities and businesses – for the Great British Spring Clean, which was due to take place from 20 March - 13 April 2020. Then because of Covid it had to be postponed until September.

Please show support for the Great British September Clean by joining with neighbours, family or friends –in groups of up to 6- and tackling some of the litter in and around Meopham.

You might also like to adopt all or part of your road and volunteer to keep it litter free all year round.

For more details or to request sacks, litter pickers, gloves etc email Kirsty.gaunt@gravesham.gov.uk who will be delighted to help.