

Notices

U3A Summer Holiday 2021 BOOKED!

On April 24th, MOTTS informed Julie that our Holiday in June 2020 was cancelled. We would all be getting a full refund. The editor's cheque arrived last week. At the same time, Julie suggested to Motts that we do the same holiday in June 2021. On May 6th, MOTTS informed Julie that Holiday 2021 to Avon and Cardiff from Thursday June 3rd until Monday June 7th had been booked at the same Aztec Hotel in Bristol as this year. Itinerary as before – Bourton-on-the-Water, S.S. Great Britain, Dyrham Park, Cardiff Castle & City, Berkeley Castle, Bristol, Cirencester & Chedworth Roman Villa. Booking Forms available in the Autumn hopefully.

Julie Leach Tel 01296 488282

Phonepals

From Area Liaison – PHONEPALS is for anyone starting to feel fed up or lonely and would like to make some new friends with a phone chat about how you are spending your days, please give me a call on 0129 6612787 or email blackbrook2018@gmail.com and I will contact you - I should say that only phone numbers will be passed on after checking that everyone is a member of Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) U3A. I hope that you are all keeping well and that it isn't too long before we are able to meet up again.

Val Blackburn Tel 01296 612787

News & Views

Simon Reeks – Chairman

Another month and we still have no real feel for when we might see light at the end of the tunnel and return to normal - U3A activity will remain on hold until government advice allows us to plan for the future. On a cheerier note, as we can see from the much-appreciated contributions below, it's good to see that members are still active and carrying on with their lives. The Membership Secretary and I make sure that we get out for a decent walk every day, with the highlight of our lives being the food shopping expedition on Wednesdays. There was a VE Day street party around us until the early hours of the morning and it was good to see people enjoying themselves (subject to social distancing). As ever, don't forget to keep in touch with national U3A on <https://www.u3a.org.uk>

Many thanks to Dave Rogers for continuing to produce these monthly newsletters and to everyone else involved with keeping the spirit of our U3A alive. Should you want to get in contact with me, I'm always available via phone (01296 482735) or email chairman@u3a.co

Take care and look after yourselves.

Dave Rogers - Editor

We are the Survivors - born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ballpoint pens; before dishwashers, tumble driers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes – and before man walked on the moon. We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be). We thought fast food was what you ate in Lent; a ‘Big Mac’ was an oversized raincoat, and ‘crumpet’ we had for tea. We existed before househusbands, computer dating and sheltered accommodation was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of F. M. Radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors or young men wearing earrings. For us, ‘time-sharing’ meant togetherness, a ‘chip’ was a piece of wood or fried potato, ‘hardware’ meant nuts and bolts, and ‘software’ was not a word. Before 1940, ‘Made in Japan’ meant junk, the term ‘making out’ referred to how you did in your examinations, ‘stud’ was something that fastened your collar to a shirt, and ‘going all the way’ meant staying on a bus to the terminus. In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, ‘grass’ was mown, ‘coke’ was kept in the coalhouse, a ‘joint’ was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and ‘pot’ was something in which you cooked, ‘Rock Music’ was a fond mother’s lullaby, ‘Eldorado’ was an ice-cream, a ‘gay person’ was the life and soul of a party, while ‘Aids’ just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We, who were born during the WWII years, must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make in the ebb and flow of life,

BUT WE HAVE SURVIVED!

Jasmine Reeks – Membership Secretary



U3A Coffee Mornings

Well, I am sure we are all still drinking our tea and coffee but maybe not so much eating of biscuits and cake. Was there a VE Day celebration in your street? A neighbour delivered handmade red, white and blue paperchains for us to decorate our houses. This spurred us on to do more. We won't mention the house with the Union Flag upside down. They meant well. It was too hot for me to sit outside for long but I did manage to quaff a glass of prosecco before I retreated inside. It brought back memories of my mother who was in the army in WWII and working in Combined Ops in London.

She took shorthand notes and typed many interesting documents and orders. How I wish I had written down all her memories. She used to say that she was the only one in barracks on VE Day and the only one out celebrating on VJ Day. Why, I don't think I ever knew?

Our editor joined 3 neighbours plus 3 U3A members sitting on the large corner block-paved driveway at the top of our T-shaped street. We kept our socialising distance; shaded from the sun by garden umbrellas; listening to music on a battery radio; eating nibbles and sipping glasses of alcohol. After a few sips, the editor was able to perform his version of the Twist. The rest of the street was very sedate, completely ignoring your ex-chairman **making a fool of himself again!**

Membership Secretary

As of the first week in May, we have received 77 renewals. Positive thinking and optimism, I like your style. Everything is on hold and safely stored. Please don't worry as I have silenced my nag mode.

Local History

We have watched two online talks via Zoom. The first from the Inland Waterways Association on the history of the Tring Reservoirs. The second given by Julian Hunt on the history of Hedgerley, a village near Beaconsfield. Julian Hunt is a great speaker and researcher. On a more national scale we have watched Museums in Quarantine. We have viewed two episodes so far with Andy Warhol at the Tate and Young Rembrandt at the Ashmolean. I had been to the Young Rembrandt for a Christmas present from our older daughter and it was interesting to hear an expert's interpretation. Helen and I enjoyed it very much, with a visit to the Bodleian Library as a starter. Judith took me to Troy at the British Museum. Usually our "presents" come much later in the year due to diary clashes so whilst I have had both my Christmas presents from the girls, Simon has had neither of his Christmas presents nor his birthday ones either. Luck of the draw! Many museums and galleries are publishing on-line tours so check them out. We mentioned the Smithsonian Channel last month, which is full of repeats but there are hidden gems worth watching.

Buckinghamshire Council's archives team in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies is asking local people if they would like to keep a diary of daily life during this time. The idea is that people log their feelings and experiences and, once we begin a return to more 'normal' life, that the diaries are submitted to their archives team. They will store these logs safely for use in the future by researchers. Do check Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies site and the Library site too. Expanded e-services are available from home and more e-books.

If you live in a pre-1911 house, there are many searches you can do online to unwrap the history of your home. Check the resources at Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies. See also the National Library Scotland site <https://maps.nls.uk/os>, which has uploaded Ordnance Survey Maps of most of Britain. Such fun!

Yarn Crafters

How many people have started new projects? I sewed for the second W.I. appeal. I think the sewing machine was quite happy to return to its cupboard under the stairs afterwards. I tried my hand at masks for personal use, not as easy as it looks - we used the results today when we went shopping. Back to knitting prem-baby blankets whilst listening to the radio or watching television, much to Simon's bafflement. I draw the line at foreign language programmes with subtitles so for that I down needles.

Jane Elliston – Committee Member

The Photography group are keeping in touch via all users' emails. Jane sets a weekly challenge that can be done in home and garden. If you want to join us please contact Jane on 07788 494380. Jane is also posting a photo on the **Mid-Bucks (Aylesbury) Facebook group** and asks for your thoughts. This is open to anyone and everyone is invited to post up a picture for comment.

April Smart – Webmaster

Life goes on! Even during lockdown people are still visiting our site. It looks as if Rupert's photos are viewed regularly, by people interested in the villages featured. In total 70 people visited us – 64 from UK; 4 from Australia and 2 from France.

David Mummery – Secretary

Since the beginning of March, I have visited many art galleries and museums throughout the world, marvelling at new exhibitions and re-acquainting with those that are so familiar to me. Also, I have watched opera and ballet at the Garnier Opera, seen rehearsals for Swan Lake at the Royal Opera House and last evening enjoyed their La Traviata. All these at a fraction of the cost that would normally be a chunk out of my budget. Additionally, I have enjoyed gourmet meals at Chez Jean, instead of travelling to seek new dining experiences.

Meanwhile I have put together a programme of travel from Croatia to Austria and Italy and am preparing a similar task of our journey throughout New Zealand. All this in preparation for the **Geography Group** later this year. And I have yet to prepare a programme for the **Pétanque** season.

What have I not done? The holiday in the Scilly Isles went by the board in May and the tour of the Baltic States has been put on hold. I am just hoping that my boating down the Canal du Midi in September is still on. However, I do wish I could get a haircut.....!!!

Simon Reeks – Gadget Group

I have been able to spend much spare time on my hobby of computers. It's been good to chat to some of you who have contacted me with queries over the last few weeks, please don't hesitate to contact me with any gadget related queries, even if I can't immediately dash around to offer a personal house call.

A couple of issues spring to mind. Try and resist the convenience of auto renewing any antivirus software – as with car and house insurance, prices tend to be a lot lower if you take the opportunity to shop around. For example, McAfee quoted £60 for auto renewal yet Amazon currently offer the same package for £10 (other products and suppliers are, of course, available). Also, I'm still receiving queries about upgrading from Windows 7 or 8 up to the "new" Windows 10. Many PCs / laptops are capable of upgrading and Windows 10 is now far more stable than in the early days and I would recommend that you strongly think about upgrading, particularly from Windows 7 which is now out of support with a (small as yet) increasing risk to security. The licence upgrade is currently free but it is not known for how much longer.

For when we are allowed out to play, I have a couple of Dell C1760NW colour laser printers available (free of charge to good homes) with spare toner (replacements available far cheaper than buying originals) – have a look here if you want any further detail <https://tinyurl.com/ycabxwkb>



Next Contribution Date 12th June
Contributions Welcome from ALL Members