

Milford & District U3A Monthly E-Newsletter: March 2021

Dear members,

Well, what a difference 4 weeks makes! Suddenly the sun is shining, covid cases are going down at last and a third of the adult population has had at least one vaccination: there is much to encourage and lift our spirits after the winter of our discontent.

Of course, changes will still come slowly but there is definitely light at the end of the lockdown tunnel and we can certainly look forward to holidays again and, yes, meeting up in person indoors!

We held our U3A committee meeting last night and we will be making plans to return to proper group meetings at our usual venues from September. All group leaders will be contacted shortly by David Murrell, our venue and programme coordinator, to confirm plans and dates for the autumn.

As you know some of our interest groups have continued successfully online this year and we are wondering if some might prefer to continue to meet in this way. This is something that the U3A head office would like to encourage as it gives those with mobility issues, and the housebound, the opportunity to access these groups and participate.

Interestingly a look at our membership now shows that of the current 530 members, only 25 would seem to be lacking an email or internet connection.

However, for the remainder of this current U3A year we will continue to meet only via Zoom, though do note that some of our groups plan to extend their year to include the months of May and June as well. Please check with your group leaders for the remaining term dates.

Our Monthly Talk this Friday March 12th is at 2pm via Zoom and is entitled: **“A Grandmother’s Legacy – The 170 years old recipe book”** by Jenny Mallin.

“As a public speaker, Jenny delivers a fascinating insight into five generations of her family who lived during the days of the British Raj in India. Seen through the eyes of their granddaughter, Jenny captures a period of British history through her presentations with an extensive collection of family sepia photographs, and manages to bring her stories to life: her grandmothers' lives as memsahibs and the "legacy" that Jenny has been given, a 170 year old cookbook penned by Jenny's great 4 x grandmother in 1844 when she was aged just 15 and a newlywed bride, married to an English schoolmaster. Jenny also describes the lives of her relatives who served in the British Army as early as 1798; in the Royal Indian Navy, and a great uncle who rose up through the ranks of the ICS to become Postmaster General in the telegraph industry.”

Bob will email out the zoom link the day before. Please note that unfortunately if you miss the talk we cannot send you a recording afterwards. This is because the talks are copyright to each speaker and they are naturally reluctant to share their material online.

Surrey U3A Network

During lockdown the various U3A branches in Surrey have come together to share online resources and this includes their monthly talks. If you are interested in finding out what other groups are organising then you can click on the link below and explore what is available.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/surreyu3anetwork/page/54678>

Reigate have a direct link to click on to register for their talks but for the others you will have to find the link for the group talks organiser and email them direct. Just state that you are a member of Milford & District U3A.

The next “**History of Godalming**” group meets online on Wednesday March 17th and will be looking at Georgian influences on the town and taking a second virtual walk around Farncombe. If you would like to join then contact Ian on Honeysett@btinternet.com and he will send you the Zoom link.

New groups:

Cycling: there are now a dozen potential members champing at their handlebars waiting for restrictions to be lifted to allow them to pedal off down the national cycling routes of Surrey. If you fancy joining in contact the co-ordinator: Gertrud Sollars:

Gertrud.sollars@btinternet.com

Walking Football

Sadly three interested members doth not a football game make so we must accept that this form of exercise does not appeal at present.

New Book Group

Similarly there is minimal interest in a biography reading group. We might try again come September.

Dates for your diary:

- **AGM Friday May 7th 2pm.** It will be online again as this method worked extremely well last August when 76 people attended virtually and another 43 submitted proxy votes. We are returning to the usual month this year and hope we get an equally good attendance before travel restrictions are lifted and you all dust off your suitcases and head off on holiday! We need to vote in some minor adjustments to our constitution, details of which will be sent out nearer the time.
- **National U3A Day June 4th.** This was supposed to take place last year for the first time and we all know what put the kybosh on that! The idea is to raise the profile of U3A with each individual U3A putting on some sort of local publicity. We plan to do something drawing people’s attention to our website to

highlight some of our activities. If you have any ideas we could use please contact Alan Day, our webmaster.

Our Milford & District website.

Don't forget to check out our Milford & District website here:

<https://wp.milford-u3a.org.uk/>

Vacancies

Following last month's appeal for committee members I'm delighted to say that two people have stepped forward and will be voted in at the AGM: Lisa Seeley and Glenn Palmer (thanks guys). Hopefully they will be getting involved with publicity and the annual programme.

I will be stepping down as secretary after the AGM so here is the big ask: who is willing to volunteer to take over and serve the next 3year term of office? Contact me for more information, I'm willing to mentor you for the first year!

Stay careful, even if you have had both vaccinations.

Jan Honeysett

(Tel. 01483 429615 secretary@milford-u3a.org.uk)