

Newsletter No.77 March 2021

Editor's Update

A warm welcome to the March edition and we have many things to celebrate this month. Thinking back to this time last year, how little we knew or were prepared for the massive change to our lives and how much we have learnt about ourselves and others and how through often small gestures we have all made a difference perhaps unknowingly to our fellow humans. I believe many friendships particularly through the u3a have been cemented as we have had more time to listen and talk. There has also been Zoom, none of us had heard of it but now look at us 'baby zoomers'! We are now very adept at joining the multitude of events that are being offered encouraging us to have fun while continuing to learn.

The committee has just been notified of the resignation of David Morgan. As many of you will know David was the 'man in charge' of sourcing the speakers for our monthly meetings and what a superb job he has done. He will certainly be a hard act to follow. He was also one of the table tennis convenors and we will certainly miss his expertise at the table! We wish you both 'Bon Voyage' in your new life and hope you find a u3a to join though I am sure it won't be as good as this one!!

The vaccination programme which is now moving down or up depending on where you are in the age scale is so encouraging as is the falling rate of cases and of course the news that more social opportunities are on the horizon. My only thought is once we are free to holiday we won't see our friends because they will



all be rushing away!

I expect the 2021 Census Form has dropped through your door so don't forget to complete. 100 years' from now someone will be fascinated by the findings, perhaps one of our relatives will be researching their family tree and will no doubt be intrigued by what they find!

A reminder also to those of you who haven't already done this. Covid 19 monitoring is being carried out by King's College, Guys and St Thomas 'Hospitals in partnership with ZOE Global Ltd a health science company. Download the Ask Zoe/Covid-19 app and report daily, any symptoms including 'none' will help them track the path of the disease particularly among the elderly. It now has **4.620 million** subscribers so please be one of them and help the researchers. They have provided some very interesting webinars that you can log into.

Thames Valley Network continue to provide us with some interesting study sessions so don't miss out and their website is updated regularly events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk. Please book electronically by clicking on the 'TICKETSOURCE' icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk. This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link a few days before the event.

Thank you again for all the lovely musings they will cheer us up. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy Easter. I know we don't need any more chocolate but

Chalfonts U3A Facebook Group . Our group has now 115 members. Do consider joining us.

Our members do a great job keeping us posted on events in their locality and giving suggestions for us to consider eg cultural activities, places to visit etc though at the moment due to lockdown rather curtailed. There is a link on the Website's home page to the following page: <https://chalfontsu3a.org.uk/cu3a>



[facebook-group/](#) There you will find a link to the PDF with instructions on how to join Facebook and the CU3A group. Gary Tomlin our webmaster can help where there are any questions or issues you may have in creating a Facebook account or joining the group. facebook@chalfontsu3a.org.uk. **Computer Issue?** If you are having any problems with your computer please email support@chalfontsu3a.org.uk You can also post your questions on the Chalfonts U3a Facebook page

U3A Interest Groups -Update from Lesley Bedford

I am delighted to report that many of our existing groups have managed to keep going on Zoom, such as book club, discovering art, most of the language groups, computing, cryptic crosswords, family history, flower arranging, Mahjong, Philosophy, Poetry and Literature, Wine Appreciation, these groups meet either weekly, fortnightly, or monthly and I am sure have been a wonderful focus during difficult times. Where groups need to meet up in person, such as strollers and crochet, members have kept in touch via zoom. Also please let Lesley also know if you are interested in joining any language group.

Once restrictions are gradually lifted we will keep everyone informed of other groups re-starting. I know we are all looking forward to getting together when we can and it is safe to do so. Please do contact me if you need specific information about joining a group or are keen to start a new group either now or in the near future at groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Birdwatching .

The visit to Norfolk which should have happened in April has now been rearranged for the end of May so binoculars can now be cleaned and ready for action!

Computing

The next meeting will be via Zoom on the 25 March at 2:00 pm. If you are interested in joining the group then email computing@chalfontsu3a.org.uk. In the next meeting will continue looking at all things digital photography.

Cryptic Crosswords

Convenor Bob Leven says the group are at a good optimum number of 10. If there were enough enquiries, (say 3), he would consider starting a new group.
crypticcrosswords@chalfontsu3a.org.uk

Intermediate French.

Barry Hodge is hoping to give a talk on Montmartre, Paris at the next meeting.

Lawn Bowls

Update from Mike Alderton who says they hope to start lawn bowls this summer but all depends on Bowls England!

Old Time Music Hall

Bob Leven would like to make a plea for another male voice for his Old Time Music Hall group.

'Elderly Gentleman required for an interesting pastime, visiting Care homes, and singing Old Time Music Hall songs. The successful candidate will have a sense of humour and the ability to sing in tune from time to time' We are a friendly, relaxed group and don't bite!

Please contact Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk who will forward enquiries to Bob.

Singing For Pleasure

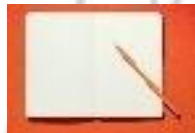
To the members of the U3A Thursday choir who meet at 10.30 am in St Peter's church. Hopefully, we will resume our rehearsals in the summer and it would be nice if, sometime soon, we could get together and discuss past performances and what we are hoping to do in future. I have new music that was ordered before lockdown which I will distribute. It would be nice if we met for coffee or lunch in the village or thereabouts. If you are keen on the idea will you please email or telephone me – Brenda O'Gorman with any suggestions you may have. Singing4pleasure@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Tai Chi

Update from John Bradley. In collaboration with Chiltern U3A, weekly Tai Chi events continue on Zoom at 12 noon each Tuesday. A total of 29 members from both U3A Chiltern and U3A Chalfont are registered – split 50/50. The Group continue with familiar forms and also explore new forms for variety. Beginners are very welcome. Contact Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk who will forward your inquiry to John at Chiltern U3a.

Weekend Walking Group Everything is in order for our September Dovedale trip, we have sole use of the house but can take a few more people if there is interest. Further to the email with details for 2022, the favourite two places were St Ives, top by one vote and Freshwater, which was well ahead of third. We are still looking for a new convenor to take over the running of the group. Please let Lesley Bedford and either of us know if you can take this on, we of course will provide support. We have asked for confirmation of dates and prices and hopefully the new convenor will share these with you. We are sure that like us you are joyously anticipating Dovedale. Further information from Lesley Bedford groupcoordinator@chalfontsu3a.org.uk or Mike Lawson vicechairman@chalfontsu3a.org.uk



Now over to Members' Musings.

Well I was very impressed with the contributors romantic recollections of meeting their partners and I thought about when and where I met my husband. It was at a Boxing Day dance at Egham Town football club, I was invited by a work colleague at B.E.A. Heathrow airport to a Boxing Day social/dance. Her husband was Captain at the time and they gave me a lift to the Clubhouse where I socialised and danced mainly with Peter. The evening drew to an end and I wondered if I would be taken home by Peter. "I can't give you a lift home as I came on my mother's bike" says he so I caught up with Jan and Bill who took me home. I married him dear reader 2 years later 49 years ago on the 25th of March, a lovely Spring day, some guests wore summer dresses and hats it was so warm. On our return from honeymoon we were told it snowed the following weekend! -**Sue Shaw**

Linda Liston

Spring - after winter and before summer. So where were we in Spring 2020? Lockdown was due to start on 24th March, but nobody knew what it really meant. There's a lot of cancel signs in my calendar but then there was a rush to the hairdresser, nail salon and don't forget the chiropodist! When I look back I can see there, tucked in to the 26th of March 2020 entry is my first ever Zoom meeting!

David Liston

Spring 2020, I was anticipating a busy year of golf. As the designated captain of the Association of Buckinghamshire Golf Captains, I was ready. My new blazer with its prized badge hung proudly in the cupboard, just waiting to be worn. But, alas, it is still there. Only, now, I am eagerly anticipating the coming year. My captaincy has been extended to 2021 and I am hopeful that the majority of matches will be played. Spring is a giver of promise for the year ahead, like the daffodils are the harbinger of summer. Let it be a good one.

Ann Mackenzie sent this in and I love the sentiment. I did an embroidery depicting flowers, birds and bees and the wording 'Life is a garden, love makes it grow'.



February Moments- Howard Dell

- 1.Delight- Having a flock of around 20 Redwings visiting my ornamental Crab-Apple tree on each of the snowy days to gorge on the now frost-softened fruits of last Autumn.
- 2.Pleasure-. Looking down from a bridge over the River Chess and seeing it bubbling and gurgling in full winter's flow, crystal clear – just like a chalk stream should be.
- 3.Rage- Only a few minutes after watching the river, seeing a notice headed Environment Agency pinned to a post: 'We have been informed by Thames Water who operate Chesham Sewage Works that they have been discharging untreated sewage into the River Chess...'
- 4.Satisfaction- Working with Photoshop on a pleasant iPhone photograph of a friend's little four- year-old grand-daughter and transforming it into a stunning portrait.
- 5.Relief- Escaping from the dentist not having had to face the procedure I had been expecting and fearing.
- 6.Gratitude- To Science and the NHS on receiving an appointment for my second covid jab.
- 7.Amusement- Watching 'Some Like It Hot' for the umpteenth time.
- 8.Surprise - Ordering an item on Amazon at 11pm and having it delivered at 10.30 the following morning.
- 9.Concern- On seeing a single large-size hiking boot stuck in the middle of a huge morass of mud on a country footpath and worrying about the whereabouts of a hopping hiker.
- 10.Calamity.. Er none, thankfully

The Spring in 2021 Sheila Ross

The snowdrops, struggling through the cold, cold earth
Remind us there's a glimmer of White hope
Only a very few short weeks later
They return soundless to the still cold ground
Yellow hope emerges with the crocus
And the fearless, courageous daffodil
Life is relentless; always there is Hope. Isn't there?

JUST IN CASE – by Charlotte Mitchell . This was sent in by Linda Storey and so appropriate as we start to think about planning our holidays and all the decisions packing our suitcases involves! Certainly for us ladies!!

I'm going to the sea for the weekend, in a couple of days I'll be back,
so I'll just take my little brown suit and a blouse and a beret and carry my mac.
But what if the house is a cold one, the house where I'm going to stay,
no fires after April, no hot drinks at night and the windows wide open all day?
I'd better take one – no, two cardies and my long tartan scarf for my head,
and my chaste new pyjamas in case they decide to bring me my breakfast in bed,
and what about church on Sunday?



I could wear my beret and suit, but if it were sunny, it would be a chance
to wear my straw hat with the fruit. I can't wear my little brown suit,
though not with the straw and the fruit,
so I'll just take a silk dress to go with the straw
and a silk scarf to go with the suit.
I'll just take my jeans and that jumper

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I'll just take my jeans and that jumper
in case we go out in the car, and my Guernsey in case we go out in a boat
and d'you know where my swimming things are?
D'you think I should take that black velvet in case they've booked seats for a play?
And is it still usual to take your own towel when you go somewhere to stay?
I had thought of just taking slippers, but they do look disgustingly old,

I'd better take best shoes and sandals and boots for the church and the heat and the cold.
I daren't go without my umbrella in case I'm dressed up and it rains;
I'm bound to need socks and my wellies for walking down long muddy lanes.
I'd rather not take my old dressing gown, it is such a business to pack, but s'pose they have breakfast
before they get dressed I'd have to have mine in my mac.

I'm going away for the weekend, in a couple of days I'll be back,
so I'll just take my little brown suit and a blouse, two cardies, my long tartan scarf,
my chaste new pyjamas, my straw hat with the fruit, my silk dress, my silk scarf, my jeans, that jumper,
my Guernsey, my swimming things, my black velvet, my towel, my slippers (no one need see them) my
sandals, my boots, my umbrella, my socks, my wellies, my dressing gown, no, not my dressing gown,
Ok my dressing gown, and a beret and carry my mac.





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