

Well – a fortnight ago when we sent out the first **Groups News** I didn't expect that this second issue would be in such circumstances ! With a virtual shut-down of our activities you might think that you wouldn't hear from us for a couple of months, but there is so much going on that we want you to know about it so you can join in to keep the grey matter active.

We've had the flood and the pestilence this year already – I guess we'll have to wait awhile for the plague of frogs !!

While you have been sitting back relaxing your Committee and several Group Leaders have been hard at it thinking of ways of keeping you occupied, and here are just some of them. More details will follow about each particular activity as it is available, but if you would like to volunteer to help there are **contact details on Page 2 of the Diary**.

The Creative Writing Group will be organising a **Writing Competition for all U3A Members** – more details to follow, so sharpen your pencils.

*We have thoughts of a **Big Jigsaw Swap**. Perhaps a weekly exchange in the car park on the King George V Playing Field once we are allowed out again? We need an organiser for this – just to be there to oversee operations – please contact me.*

The Art Groups are setting up an **Art Project** so that they can work at home during the summer. We'll look forward to seeing the results later in the year. Perhaps you might like to have a go too? You can contact Tigger at tiggermm23@yahoo.co.uk to see how to join in.

*How about a **Beard Growing Competition** – ladies welcome of course ! We need an organiser for this too, so please contact me. Just a few emails is all this should take.*

As the weather improves and restrictions lift there are a few bright ideas for outdoor activities. **Croquet and Petanque** could be played with limited numbers and plenty of space. Maybe some **Picnics on the Moor**, well spaced out? Bring your own chair and food.

*A **Model Making Competition** could be fun – any material, lego, balsa, plastic kit, or just whittle a stick! I'm sure one of you budding modellers would like to organise this – please get in touch.*

Some Interest Groups are setting up **Facebook, WhatsApp or Zoom** accounts to keep contact with their Group Members. If you need to know more about this for your Group please contact me. Is there anyone out there who can help to set up these links please?

Perhaps each Group could set up a project for themselves. You could all work on a theme, set a quiz (as Gentlemen Songsters have) or do some research and share the findings with the whole U3A.

We have **4 new Interest Groups** which are just waiting to get going, but we have put them on hold until better times. They are **French Improvers, Wine Appreciation 2, Microsoft Office – Word and Excel, and Cryptic Crossword Solvers**. There is already an interest in all these Groups, but if you would like to add your name to the lists please contact Margaret, our Groups Coordinator, at margaretlangridge@hotmail.co.uk

A Living History project has been set up through the National U3A website www.u3a.org.uk and our own Local History and Creative Writing Groups are looking at how we could best join in with this.

There are also links on this website to many other points of interest – it's full of information and ideas. Do spend some time browsing and discover a whole world of U3A.

Around the village there are other things that you might like to know about.

A **Community Support group** is currently being set up to support the vulnerable through the next few months. Harvey and Tina Cobbold will be co-ordinating this for the U3A (thank you H&T) – more details to follow as they develop.

Take-away meals are available from **The Royal Oak, The 8 Bells and the Great House**, as well as all the usual take-aways in the village.

The situation in the country is constantly changing, and we will need to adapt accordingly. Each of us has a part to play in supporting our neighbours and helping our friends to make the next few weeks as comfortable, enjoyable and healthy as possible. Why not phone a different person each day for a chat, just to cheer them, and you, up?

If you have any ideas that could help to keep us thinking please let us know.

How can your Group carry on functioning in these restrictive times?

What can we do to ease our frustrations and fill our time until this is all over?

What can we do now that will leave us with a sense of achievement and satisfaction that we have played our part through these difficult months?

You'll be receiving various updates on all these events as time goes by, but in the meantime have a healthy and relaxing spring.

Regards from John Read, Chairman, and the Committee of Hawkhurst U3A

Here's some tips from the Police about Fraud which we discussed at our last Monthly Meeting.

Top tips – What can you do to protect yourself and/or others?

1 Never disclose security details

2 Don't assume everyone is genuine

3 Don't be rushed

4 Listen to your instincts

5 Stay in control

TO STOP FRAUD™

NatWest

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