



Learn, laugh, live

Dorking & District U3A

Newsletter

May 2020



EAST BEACH AT LITTLEHAMPTON

(Brenda Charlton, Painting for Pleasure Group 1)



Welcome to your U3A!



One month on, and life in lockdown is making us reflect on the little pleasures that we took for granted. When not reconnecting with family and friends, those of us with gardens are appreciating the fine weather and the emerging plant life. And members of the **Plant Lovers** group have been busy exchanging tips.

Wildlife is adapting to changing circumstances with deer venturing into fields and gardens for a tempting nibble; even the local horses seem to be observing government guidelines and social distancing!



According to statistics there has been a 30 per cent increase in alcohol sales and judging by the lack of eggs and flour in the shops, people are baking more. Many are rediscovering cooking, exercising and just being creative. There has been an emergence of scarecrows in Capel Village as locals celebrate the work being done by key workers.

The U3A Committee appreciates that the lack of contact with others makes isolation difficult to manage and applauds the efforts that individual groups are making to maintain contact with each other.

While not everyone has access to the internet, it is gratifying that some groups have embraced new technology with gusto. The Buckland Club has set up Bridge Base Online (BBO) enabling members to play **Bridge** without leaving their home.

The **Astronomy** group circulated details from the U3A National Adviser and with the pollution free skies there has been plenty of opportunities to constellation spot.

Photography: **Group 1** is uploading photos onto a specially designed website to share and discuss at online meetings. **Group 2** members joined in a challenge taking photos of common objects from strange angles. So photography is still in business!

The **Shakespeare Group** have kept in touch and are watching Shakespeare plays on the TV and the **Art Appreciation Group 2** joined in a virtual visit of the Titian exhibition at the National Gallery which they then discussed at a Zoom meeting. Each week the Art Society posts talks on painters or paintings for members to view.

The **Wine Appreciation** group is hosting a '*Stay at Home*' wine tasting event also on Zoom! Could this account for the increased sales in alcohol in Dorking?

For many groups virtual meetings and access to the internet are impractical but this might be a time to try something different and contact other groups to find out what they are doing. For example, we are trying to set up a **Chinese Language and Culture** group. In May, we plan to hold a virtual meeting but more members would be welcome. The **Online Philosophy** group are also inviting new members to sign up for a new course starting soon.

Scribblers are working on a community project and are inviting people to write about their lockdown experiences. Thank you to group leader Pat Smith who has set a challenge to U3A members.

- ♦ What do you most miss about life before lockdown? What will you do first when restrictions are lifted? We would be interested in reading your answers and printing the best ones in our next Newsletter, along with stories or poems you might have written.
- ♦ And how about coming up with captions for photos or pictures of your own for our next issue?

Chairman Bob Brown has put a big selection of weblinks to many activities and learning opportunities on the D&D U3A website. Finally, Geoff Saunders will be giving a short presentation *To a Mountain in Tibet* on 13th May using Zoom and the Committee will be sending out links to members the week before to enable as many people to join as possible.

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CAPEL VILLAGE PAYS TRIBUTE TO KEY WORKERS
(photographs Beryl Sinclair)

