

September newsletter

Surprise - Monthly Meetings coming back!: Although not quite the same as before, we hope you will look forward to joining us at 2pm on 14 October. We are waiting for final setting up details, but it will be online and a fascinating history of the life of Queen Victoria told by an actress impersonating the Royal lady. The story is told in a truly realistic way, talked through as though the events were happening today. Do join this presentation and you won't be disappointed! One initial warning is that you will need at least Google Chrome as your browser, which is free to upload. Full instructions will follow to load the webinar and it's all very simple. Watch this space!

Thank you to Group Leaders: We are grateful to the considerable number of Group Leaders who have kept their groups going during these difficult times. We are very fortunate to have technology to help and support us. Flexibility and adaptability have come to the fore and it's amazing how we can still keep in touch through this medium.

Our Excursions & Holidays Group is no exception to this by Joyce Cook keeping her Group going. Despite COVID-19 Joyce always looks forward to beating any obstacle in her way! Seeing a window in early September, a Mystery Coach Tour was arranged. A 48-seater coach was booked enabling 27 members to join the outing, allowing social distancing. Members were so pleased to see each other face to face again and a great day was spent in Arundel. Well done to Joyce, who is now away with members on the planned holiday to Greece. She emailed to say clearance to enter Greece had been received, so all good to go! Our message to Joyce and her group is to take care, stay safe and enjoy the time away.

Outdoor Activities: The members enjoying the outdoor activities have been more fortunate to keep going in as normal a way as possible, but being very careful to follow the COVID-19 rules keeping to six in a group principle. Thank you for making this possible.

Inside Sports: Members of the table tennis and badminton groups couldn't wait to return to the Everest School on 4 September, delighted to be back playing again. In badminton, doubles can be played, but in table tennis only singles. To overcome this, we split the full membership into two groups, giving each group one hour each. Since the recent announcement with tighter controls on indoor sports, we will be down to 6 only at any one time. We can again split our time into smaller groups. The norm now seems to adapt and continue as best we can, following the rules!

Inactive Groups: We still have a few groups that have been unable to connect and return to their activity, but please do look at other groups managing to meet and you may find there is another interest group you could join. Just give the group leader a call to see if you can be added to their numbers. Remember the current information is updated regularly if changes have been made. Go to the link below to find out:

[Group Activities during Covid19 pandemic](#)

New Philosophy Group: Two, and possibly three members, have expressed an interest in setting up a philosophy group to run from October to Christmas. A date for a first meeting, and the frequency of meetings, have yet to be agreed, but if you'd be interested in participating please let the chairman know. It will be up to the participants to decide amongst themselves whether to keep the group going into 2021.

Ideas from the National Office: There are activities that have been arranged on the [national website](#) so please have a look there to see what is on offer that might appeal.

Recruitment Campaign: The U3A National Office is about to start this campaign, which is scheduled to last until the end of this year. There will then be a pilot exercise from January to Easter and, if all goes well, the campaign will then be rolled out across the country. In the meantime, we are doing our best to attract the recently retired or semi-retired or those who are still unaware that the U3A exists!

New Members: Amazingly we have 9 new members join since August, so some of our promotion is working. We welcome you all. You may have seen recent articles in your local magazines to try and gain interest from potential members. If you do receive a local publication not containing an article, please let one of our committee members know with contact details of the editor. Either the editor has been approached and we have been unable to insert an article or we have missed the publication date, or we have missed knowing about the magazine. We do need to promote our U3A as much as we can.

Your help: You will spot also, we hope, some bright posters up around the different areas; supermarkets, community halls, libraries, GP and Dental surgeries and so on. If you think there is somewhere that would be a good spot to use which we have missed, then do let us know please.

Word of Mouth: Another way for you to help would be to encourage others to join us. You may know somebody who might be lonely and benefit by joining, as well as those who could just develop an old or a new interest. Please put on your thinking caps!

We do hope that you are doing your best to stay well, active and have some contact with families and friends. Although we don't have a crystal ball and can't forecast the way ahead, we need to stay strong and keep going!!

With best wishes from the Committee