

## **Hello and Welcome to Our Second Fortnightly Newsletter**

Once a fortnight one of the Committee members will update you on the latest news from the thriving Basingstoke – Old Basing U3A. Here is issue 2. I'm Sue Seamour, your Treasurer, and I have volunteered to write this second newsletter.

### **New Website**

**New website** Here's a link to the new website: <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/> I hope by now you have had a chance to look at it. We aim to update it weekly and use it as a way to keep you in touch with happenings. Don't forget to send any comments or changes you would like to [jrfield1975@gmail.com](mailto:jrfield1975@gmail.com).

### **Treasurer's Tribulations**

**Membership fees** As our only source of income, membership fees loom large in a treasurer's life. As you know your current membership will be rolled forward until the end of 2020. If we had not had the Coronavirus crisis the fee from August would have been £43. The savings because of the virus and our reserves will be used to cover some of the costs until December. We are hoping to resume normal operations in full by the start of 2021 and in December there will be a fee for membership until August 2021. When it is clearer what our costs will be, we will be able to decide what the reduced membership fee will be. New members are being charged a small fee until December when they will also pay the fee until August.

**New members** As Treasurer, I know that financially the future of our U3A depends on attracting new members and as a member myself, I know that we offer a great experience and excellent value for money. Our marketing group are working on ways to bring in new members but we all know the best marketing is by word of mouth so make sure your friends and neighbours know what we offer. The more members we have the lower our fees can be held.

### **Marketing our U3A**

For those of you in the Beggarwood, Hatch Warren and Kempshott areas watch out for articles from Richard Field, our Webmaster, in the Rabbiter magazine. Linda Wain, our Membership secretary, is going to do the same for the Chineham Chat, so look out for those. If there is a local magazine that you think would be good for us to use, please let Richard know at [jrfield1975@gmail.com](mailto:jrfield1975@gmail.com).

### **Share your Memories**

Neil Norfolk had produced a fantastic Memories Newsletter for History group members. He invited members of the group to send in memories of their first 10 years of life in just 100 words. He has very kindly offered to do the same for our full membership so please

would you share memories from your first ten years and we will collate them and share them with our members. Send your memories to [neil@nnorfolk.plus.com](mailto:neil@nnorfolk.plus.com)

To open Neil's full Newsletter, click [here](#). Here are just two examples:

*Most vivid memory was the afternoon when President Kennedy's shooting was announced. I did not fully understand as I was only 7 at the time, but could sense the frisson of tension, shock and I felt very alarmed at this. We had just formed a crocodile line after lunch break play.*

*After the war we went to Swansea to stay with my grandparents. On our first day we had to walk to the food office to change our ration books. It was my birthday and I can still remember how annoyed I was to have to celebrate my birthday like that. At four you don't appreciate that no ration books meant no food.*

### **Visit to the Houses of Parliament**

Mel McMahon has had an email from her contact at the Palace of Westminster to say that North East Hampshire MP, Mr Jayawardena, will be welcoming constituents at some time in the future but it is too early to begin to suggest dates. However he has invited people to view the following link to give a virtual tour:

[bit.ly/ParliamentVirtualTour](http://bit.ly/ParliamentVirtualTour)

Mel has kept a record of those members who expressed an interest in attending and she will contact them in the first instance as and when a new date becomes available. If any of you no longer wish to retain a place please let Mel know. In addition if anyone is interested in the visit subject to a suitable date becoming available please let Mel know and she will put your name on a waiting list. Mel McMahon

[melinsolitaryman@btinternet.com](mailto:melinsolitaryman@btinternet.com)

### **Quiz Taster**

Many thanks to Mel McMahon and the Quiz Group for this.

**What's the link?** The answers share a link.

1. What term was first coined by the ancient Greek playwright Aristophanes to describe a place where everything was perfect?
2. Which is the largest species of native butterfly, found mainly in the Fens?
3. Which famous English architect helped to perfect the barometer?
4. What term has been coined in Australia for the very brief swimming trunks worn by some men?
5. Which famous train was designed by Herbert Nigel Gresley?

(Answers below)

## **Groups are Running!**

We are running an ever-increasing number of groups. All held subject to Government guidelines. Examples of these are:

**Environment and Us, Literature, Biography** will be holding monthly Zoom meetings, from September.

**Ladies who lunch** have been meeting up on the third Thursday of each month in one or two members' gardens depending on the numbers and taking their own picnic and utensils.

**Line dancing** restarted on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July and are splitting the group into one hour sessions.

**The Quiz group** isn't meeting at the moment, but is doing weekly quizzes set by various members of the group.

**Croquet** are now operating as normal.

**Cycling group** are running a weekly cycling treasure hunt and a Zoom meeting to give the answers to the clues.

**Walkers** are operating again.

**Needles & Pins** are holding 2 hour Zoom meetings twice a month.

**History** are holding full length monthly Zoom meetings.

**Poetry Appreciation** – has a monthly email sharing session with some members then concluding with a more in-depth full length Zoom meeting.

**Science & Technology** are holding 2 hour meetings on Zoom, every two weeks.

**Simply Sewing** will be running a Zoom meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> August for an hour, having a catch up and sharing members latest sewing projects.

**Strings and Things** 6 members now meet and play in the Group Leader's garden.

**Art and Craft group** have a WhatsApp group to share work they are doing, news etc and they have had a couple of informal Zoom meetings, again sharing on going work, courses undertaken in lockdown and generally keeping in touch.

To find out more details of our current activities go to:

<https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/covid-19>

If you are a Group Leader and would like your group to have a Zoom meeting, then please send an email to [jffield1975@gmail.com](mailto:jffield1975@gmail.com) .

### **Online AGM in August via Zoom**

The rearranged AGM is on 12th August, 2020 at 2pm via ZOOM. All members have been sent the relevant paperwork and invited to attend. There are still some places to be allocated.

### **National U3A Links**

Take time to look at what The National U3A office are providing for you now. Please click on the links below to see what is available:

**Quizzes:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/tags/tag/quizzes>

**Keep Learning:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/component/tags/tag/keep-learning>

**Covid advice links:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/covid-advice-links>

**U3A Newsletter:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

**U3A Plus:** <https://plus.u3a.org.uk/>

**Answers to Quiz Taster What's the Link** 1. Cloud Cuckoo Land 2. Swallowtail  
3. Christopher Wren 4. Budgie smugglers 5. Mallard The link is Birds  
found in Britain.