

STILL LOCKED IN BUT DEFINITELY NOT LOCKED OUT

Despite another lockdown, Basingstoke's U3A will not be beaten! We're continuing to use Zoom, e-mail and other online software - to play bridge, for example. So we still have a wide range of groups and activities on offer. Members without online access are kept in touch too, with a monthly newsletter delivery.

Our discussion and learning groups are finding it the easiest to carry on, with more than 30 activities for members to enjoy. The 'emailers' include a weekly quiz group, music and words, cooking for men - and our circle dancers are continuing to practise their steps at home too, with the help of You Tube trainers. 'Zoomers' are getting together, including art appreciation, biography, the environment, needles and pin and patchwork.

Creative Writing Group

The former librarian at Chineham started the Creative Writing group last September. Members now Zoom twice a month (see picture), to discuss their writing and work on various schemes together, including Halloween and Christmas projects. The focus of the group is writing for fun and includes all levels of ability, from those who occasionally write the odd short piece to those who take it quite seriously. Some have submitted work to the Bramley and Basingstoke writing competitions. One member writes mostly poetry and another has self-published three novels on Amazon, with a fourth one ready for launch.

Monthly webinars

We are running a series of live webinars using Zoom. In February, we will see Heroes and villains of the Basingstoke canal, a talk about the history of the canal and some of the people involved with it. In March, Tony Harris, dressed as Henry VIII, talks about his life and his wives!

As always, there are further details on <https://www.basingstokeu3a.org/> or alternatively give us a ring on 07787 520281 to speak to a member of the committee. Membership is £15 from now until end August, with unlimited access to all our activities, so do give us a try. We're on Facebook now too! Find us at <https://www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a> and let us know if there are activities you're interested in.