

NEWSLETTER – March 2021

SPRING BREAKS INTO ACTION – AND WE FOLLOW ON

Our outdoor activities leap into life

Days are getting longer, the end of lockdown a little closer, and our groups are raring to go. We're keeping to the rules of course, with our croquet, cycling and walking groups planning to restart in the next few weeks. And for our photographers, the Walking with your Camera group is on the move as well.

Although we still can't go on our excursions and holidays together, planning is well under way for later in the year, and bookings are coming in thick and fast. It's good to have things like this to look forward to again.

Indoor groups are getting ready too

Email and Facebook have kept lots of us in touch with each other through recent months, and many groups have transferred their regular meetings to Zoom for the time being. Amongst these, our Literature Group is currently reading *The Enchanted April*, our Historians are learning about Ukraine's past, and the Environment Group is looking at the changing climate.

Needles and Pins members have started a new project for a wildlife centre in Cornwall and are making woollen nests for the small birds and animals there. And to our delight, our bridge players have won a *nationwide* tournament. More about both of these activities later in the newsletter!

But there are many more pursuits waiting in the wings to restart too. Groups like Line Dancing, Badminton and Table Tennis are looking forward to leading the way again as soon as restrictions are lifted sufficiently, and we're working hard to try to set up new groups like Walking Football or Walking Netball. Have a look at the full range of activities on our website, and if you're interested in something that isn't there – let us know.

Your committee

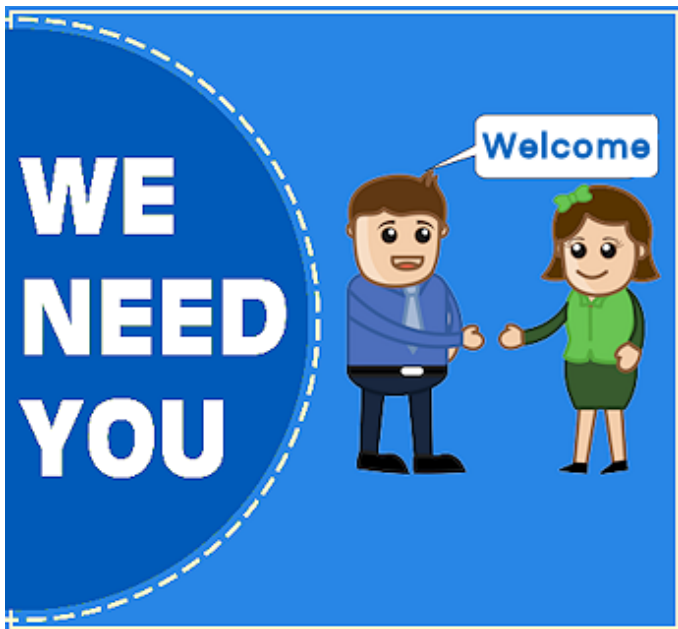
Rod Marshall	Chairman	drmarshall1956@gmail.com
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Margaret Hayes	Groups Facilitator	basingstokeoldbasingu3agroups@gmail.com
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Liz Horner	Systems Manager	liz.horner@btinternet.com
Madeline Hussey	Marketing	madeline.hussey@btinternet.com
Ian Stimpson	Committee member	
Marie White	Co-opted member	

Supported by:

Brenda Austin Minutes secretary

Please send any general enquiries to:

basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com



We are delighted by the high proportion of members who have renewed their membership with effect from the start of this year. Thank you for the vote of confidence in what we are doing in such difficult circumstances.

Each u3a is a self-help charity: we would not exist without the help and support of our members. We now have nearly 90 group convenors, which is wonderful, but we need more members to join the committee. **Please consider whether this is something you are able and willing to do.** Some committee members are currently having to cover more than one role, and while they are doing this ably and with good grace, it is not feasible for this to continue indefinitely.

If you are prepared to help, or would like further information before making a decision, please contact any committee member. One option for a potential member would be to shadow an existing committee member until the next annual renewal, with a view to taking over the role for our 2021/22 year.

Please don't think there is no hurry. We want people waiting in the wings, rather than there being nobody to step in when a committee member stands down. It promises to be an interesting time as we emerge from the restrictions promoted by Covid, so why not take this opportunity to help influence our future?

Thank you.

Rod Marshall

We are a self-help charity
– join the team and get
involved!

Influence the future of
our u3a as we emerge
from Covid

Sit in on a committee
meeting – “try before
you buy”

Shadow an existing
committee member

Re-use your skills and
talents to help us improve

Join six meetings a year,
as part of the team

Monthly meetings

We are pleased to offer 'two for the price of one' next month.

On Wednesday, 14 April we have a live talk over Zoom with Roy Norton, on his professional career linked to TV production. As usual, this will start at 2 p.m.

We are also able to offer the opportunity to catch another Mirthy talk, starting at the unusual time for us of 11 a.m., on Wednesday, 21 April. This is a talk that the Overton u3a has kindly offered to share with us. The title of the talk is *Cascade Gardens – Jungle to Paradise*.



It may be of particular interest to members of our Meditation Group.

After that, our next monthly meeting will be a Mirthy talk on the *Life of Grace Kelly*, starting at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 12 May.

Then on 9 June we'll have another live talk over Zoom entitled *Pop on the Box* – the fascinating story of 60 years of music on television.

Short mat bowls

This popular group is looking for a new leader. Ian Stimpson, who has led the group for a number of years, is having to step down and so needs someone to take over from him. If you are happy to volunteer, or would like further information before making a decision, please contact Ian.

Needles and Pins

Needles are Pins have started a new project knitting (or crocheting) woollen nests for small birds and animals, for a wildlife centre in Cornwall. We are meeting via Zoom twice a month for a chat and to share ideas and projects. If you would like to make some nests too, please contact the Group Leader Sue Richards for the patterns – she might even be able to supply you with wool if you need it!

Helen Worgan



Forthcoming group meetings on Zoom

Some of our Group Convenors have announced topics for upcoming Zoom meetings. This information has been added to their pages on [our website](#) but a summary of the topics is also shown below in case any are of interest.

If you would like to attend a Zoom meeting for a particular topic but you're not a member of that group, just [send us an email](#) saying which meeting you would like to attend. We will forward your email to the Group Convenor concerned and you will receive an invitation.

Group	Topic	Date	Time
Environment and Us	Climate migration	7 April	14:00 – 16:00
Literature	<i>Stay with Me</i> – Ayobarin Adebayo	25 March	15:30 – 16:45
	<i>The Enchanted April</i> – Elizabeth Von Arnun	22 April	15:30 – 16:45
	<i>The Children Act</i> – Ian McEwan	27 May	15:30 – 16:45
	<i>Where Angels Fear to Tread</i> – E.M. Forster	24 June	15:30 – 16:45
	<i>The Fall</i> – Albert Camus	22 July	15:30 – 16:45
Science and technology	Stellarium – a road map to the stars	6 April	10:00 – 12:00
	How to arrange your life effectively	4 May	10:00 – 12:00
	Why IT data projects fail	1 June	10:00 – 12:00

Congratulations to our Bridge group

Last month, our Bridge players entered a nationwide online tournament. We were delighted when we learned that one of them won the event – and by quite some distance too!

Our three teams came 1st, 5th and 11th out of 24, as shown below. Well done to all concerned.

Position	Team	Score
1	Basingstoke A	96
2	Barnet A	83
3	Milton Keynes B	78
4	Radlett A	74
5	{ Basingstoke C	70
	{ Radcliffe A	70
7	{ Mill Hill	69
	{ Settle District B	69
9	Milton Keynes A	68
10	London A	67
	{ Basingstoke B	59
11	{ Radcliffe B	59
	{ Radlett C	59
14	Sutton Coldfield A	58
15	Bury St Edmunds B	55
16	Bury St Edmunds A	53
17	Barnet B	52
18	Inverness & Blackisle	51
19	Barnet C	47
20	Radlett B	44
21	London B	43
22	{ Bury St Edmunds C	40
	{ Sutton Coldfield B	40
24	Settle District A	36

Free helpline

u3a has partnered with Independent Age Helpline for confidential guidance on care and support, money, benefits and health. Their **Freephone** number is 0800 319 6789.

The organisation also has a website at www.independentage.org

Croquet Group

A reminder to our Croquet Group members that the season commences on 29 March.

The sessions will continue as per end of last year, with members requesting their session leaders to add their names to the morning or afternoon session within which they play which is entered in the online booking system.

There will be a maximum of six players per session in accordance with current Government and Croquet Association guidance.

We still have space available for a few more players from within the u3a. No experience is necessary as tuition and equipment is provided by the Basingstoke Croquet Club.

In the meantime you could get back up to speed by watching the Golf Croquet video coaching modules available at www.basingstokecroquet.co.uk

These are great value if you have not played before or you wish to improve your game.

Alex Ball

Raising our profile

It is widely recognised within the u3a movement that most people first hear of us by word of mouth. We are trying to raise our profile in other ways however, and are pleased to say we now have a blog on the Love Basingstoke website at www.lovebasingstoke.co.uk/good-to-know/articles/basingstoke-old-basing-u3a-third-age-trust



Arts Society, Basingstoke

The Arts Society, Basingstoke has invited our members to join their lectures, which are on Zoom until large group meetings are allowed again. Here is the link to their website:

theartsocietybasingstoke.org.uk/Home.aspx

The lectures take place on the third Wednesday of the month at 10.45 a.m. Please note there is a fee of £5.

17 March Art and Culture of Fin-de-Siegel, Vienna

Lecture given by Gavin Plumley

21 April Chantal Brotherton-Ratcliffe: "Artemisia Gentileschi – Daughter of Rome, Painter of Europe"

What skills did it take for a woman to become a painter in 17th century Europe?

19 May "Dame Zaha Hadid – Architectural Superstar"

Although she was born in Iraq and her reputation was global, she made Britain her home. This lecture by Colin Davies tells the story of her remarkable career.

16 June Alexandra Epps: "Gallery on the Street – Public Art in the City of London"

Discover the wealth of modern and contemporary public art in the unique square mile of the City of London.

14 July A.G.M. (10.15 start) Timothy Walker: "The subtle science and exact art of colour in English Garden design"

Referring to Turner, Monet, Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Hockney, we discover how creating a garden is like painting a picture.

Shopping online

We are pleased to report that Amazon has donated £15.27 to our u3a as a result of AmazonSmile programme activity during the final quarter of last year.

If you shop online using Amazon, please consider doing so via AmazonSmile at

<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/1086263-0>

and **Amazon will donate to us at no cost to you.**

AmazonSmile is also available in the Amazon Shopping app to all AmazonSmile customers using an iPhone or Android phone. Once you have activated AmazonSmile in the app, every eligible purchase will automatically generate a donation for us. Go to "Programmes and Features" in your app's menu to activate AmazonSmile.

Thank you for your support.

For group convenors

Please remember you can use our Facebook page to promote your group to potential members. If you are not on Facebook yourself, draft what you want to say, attach a picture or two if you so wish, and email it to:

basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

We will take care of the rest.

Scam alert

A number of telephone scams are currently circulating, often purporting to be from Amazon or HMRC. Just hang up on any numbers you do not recognise and **do not press any keys or give any bank details.**

Any doctor's or hospital calls will often come up as Private or Unknown calls. Scammers usually show numbers which might look genuine. Please **BE AWARE and stay safe.**

DON'T FORGET!

You can stay in touch by emailing basingstokeu3aenquiries@gmail.com

checking on our website at

www.basingstokeu3a.org

joining in with us on Facebook at

www.facebook.com/Basingstokeu3a

or, if you're not online, ring 07787 520281