



COVID-19

You may remember that Marilyn Gibbon was to due to step down as Chairman of our U3A at the AGM convened for the beginning of last April but, unfortunately, the meeting had to be cancelled because of COVID-19. She continued to act as Chairman on a temporary basis but at a recent meeting of the Committee held by Zoom asked to be allowed to stand aside.

The Committee agreed to her wish and since he was proposed to be elected to the position at the cancelled AGM asked Michael Vann to take up the role until normal U3A meetings can be resumed. He agreed. Marilyn was thanked for all her hard work as Chairman and the Committee was delighted to note that her talents will not be entirely lost to the U3A as she will be part of the editorial team for the Newsletters and Bulletins.

A sub group of the Committee consisting of the New Chairman, the Hall Manager, the Group Coordinator and the Secretary was tasked with keeping a watching brief on the impact of COVID-19 and the Government's restrictions and advice designed to combat the disease.

The COVID-19 Subcommittee has been monitoring developments in the approach in England to combatting COVID-19 and keeps under review the (often conflicting) advice and guidance and their impact upon U3A activities. For the moment their strong recommendation is that apart from meetings conducted by Zoom, Skype or some similar technology there should be no U3A meetings, whether indoors or outdoors. The major factor influencing this decision is that most members are over 70 and therefore have a higher risk of severe consequences if infected with COVID-19. This is consistent with the current advice from both the Government and the NHS that if you are at moderate risk from coronavirus, you can go out for things like getting food or exercising. But you should try to stay at home as much as possible. It is very important you follow the general advice on [social distancing](#). This includes trying to stay at least 2 metres (3 steps) away from anyone you do not live with or anyone not in your support bubble.

We understand that the members are keen to restart activity groups as soon as it is safe to do so, although main monthly meetings are likely to be suspended until the end of this year. The COVID sub committee will continue to monitor the government advice as it develops and inform the committee when it is felt appropriate to move forwards. However, when we restart any meetings we need our members to exercise caution and not attend meetings if they have developed any symptoms. As a reminder the main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- a high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- a new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different from normal

Most people with coronavirus have at least 1 of these symptoms. Of course you should not attend a U3A group meeting if in the fourteen days before the meeting either Track and Trace have told you that you have had contact with a COVID-19 sufferer, or if you have tested positive for COVID-19 or are waiting for the result of a test.

Peter Hewes

Websites

This is the last bulletin which will be loaded to the old Fairford U3A website, as the website is retiring at the end of this month – July.

Future Bulletins and Newsletters will only be available in the Members area on the new website. To access the members area, you will need to register your username and password. This process is moderated by the webmaster and your submission will be checked against information stored in Beacon, so please use the same address details!

Following on from a decision made at the 'virtual' July Committee Meeting, the Committee pages and Minutes are being made available to the Fairford and District U3A members. Here again this information is available in the Members area on the new website.

The domain name for the new website is www.fairfordu3a.uk

If you have any queries or suggestions for improvements to the new website, please contact the webmaster via the 'Contact Us' Menu on the new website.

For your information:

Barbara Cobbett has moved to a nursing home to recover from a fall and is expected to stay for at least six weeks. After transferring from hospital, she had to undergo quarantine which she did not enjoy!

Her address is now: Great Western Court Nursing Home, 33a Millbrook Street, Gloucester GL1 4BP and her telephone number 01452 423495. If you telephone Don he will give you her mobile number. She will be very pleased to hear from you!

Solos June meet up social distancing



Six of us met up on a lovely Monday afternoon for drinks and cakes (all homemade) and a natter, being aware of social distancing. We all agreed it was good to meet and catch up with news, talk and see different people, some had not seen any one for the best part of 12 weeks. Thanks go to Gill for hosting it and making a delicious apple cake and my tea loaf.

Mike Johnson

I was also pleased to hear that Judith hosted an outdoor event entertaining 5 people from our solos group to tea and freshly made scones. I think it is great we are beginning to meet up again all be it in small groups.