

#### Notice Board

#### All Members

***If any member wishes to contribute an article, thought, photograph or whatever then please feel free to do so.***

#### Membership Cards

A big "thank you" to all who have renewed their membership for this coming academic year - your loyalty is very much appreciated, and it is hoped that we can start meeting together again as soon as permitted.

I have had a number of members contact me with regard to the membership cards for this coming year. For those of you who paid via the on-line facility, you will have received your membership 'card' by return email via our Beacon database system - just scroll down to the bottom of your acknowledgement, and you will find the card.

We were unable to have our usual membership cards printed in time for the start of this year's annual renewal process, hence the paper copies.

For those of you who renewed via cheque or BACS, you will have received your paper copy via email if you have an email address registered on our database, or via the Royal Mail if you do not.

It is hoped that we will be able to revert to our 'normal' cards for the next renewal period.

Once again, thank you for your support.

***Fiona Godfrey Membership Secretary***

#### Cancelled Visits

By the 24th July all monies due to members for the following visits, that had to be cancelled due to COVID19, should be in your bank account.

Hatfield

Edinburgh

Greenwich

Each visit has been refunded independently, so if you were due to go on more than one visit you will see separate entries on your bank statement. All emails or letters containing your bank details have been shredded.

***Neil Morley, Treasurer***

#### Paddy's Piece

Thank you to the 1404 of you who have showed your support for Fleet U3A by paying your £14 and renewing your membership despite Covid-19. This figure represents only 71% of last year's total membership so we do have a way to go to meet last year's total of nearly 2,000 members.

I realise that some members may feel that it's not worth renewing because not much is going on at the moment even though our Group Leaders and the committee are doing all we can to keep you informed and in touch with each other in numerous inventive ways.

Some other U3As have extended their membership year because they have much higher annual fees which include all their venue costs and of course, not having paid any venues since early March, they have a surplus of funds and can continue to pay their expenses from this excess. As chairperson of our local network of more than twenty U3As in NE Hampshire and SW Surrey I also know that several U3As have made a very different decision from us in Fleet and have suspended all activity since early March. Please show your support for all that we do to enhance the well-being of the retired and semi-retired in Fleet and district by renewing your membership if you haven't yet done so. There is a copy of the membership form attached to this newsletter to make it easy for you.

Please remember that if you are not a member of Fleet U3A for the 2020/2021 academic year Group Leaders will not be able to enrol you into their groups, even groups that you may have been attending for some time. Although we cannot hold our usual enrolment morning, on August 21<sup>st</sup>, Group Leaders will still be enrolling existing and new members into their groups from that date ready for a September start.

We still have little idea of exactly when we can begin to meet again in person so most groups will be continuing to meet in the virtual world or outdoors if appropriate. I know I will be running my Bridge group through Zoom at the start of next term. Like many of us, I had not heard of Zoom in March and now I can manipulate it with confidence (although with a few comical mistakes).



www.shutterstock.com \*507820210

Cont. page 1

Encouragingly, some of our venues have been in touch with us detailing the steps they will be taking to keep us all safe and well in the future. They will be sharing their risk assessments with us and expecting us to have something similar in place showing how we will manage our activities safely for our members and any other users of the venue. We will, of course, comply with any such requests. Nevertheless, it will be up to you to decide if and when you feel comfortable returning to your groups in person. No one should feel pressured into doing anything that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Thank you again to all who have renewed their membership. There's still plenty of time for those who have forgotten. Please join us for another great year of learning, laughing and living.

Keep safe and well.

**Paddy**

**The membership form is reproduced on page 8**

### Mike K Brown is again testing us

#### Fractured Drinks

Here are the names of 10 drinks that have been split into thirty two 2 or 3 letter fragments and then sorted alphabetically.

Can you put them back together?

For example a Bloody Mary might appear as -

BLO MA ODY RY

BOU BU BUC CA DTO ER EWD GI HIS INE  
IZZ KEY KSF MA NAN NAV NIC ONW OU RB  
RIA RIV SAM SCR SKY TEW TIA UM WHI  
WHI YR ZO

#### Maths & Logic 4

##### **Solutions**

- a) CODE + WORD = CLOAK --> 1976 + 8947 = 10923
- b) SPOT - THE - MOLE = NOW --> 4037 - 786 - 2316 = 935

##### **New Puzzles**

Each letter represents a different number between 0 & 9.

- 1) ADD + THE + SUM --> THIS where E=0, H=5 & S=6
- 2) CHANGE + CODING = RECODED where there are no hints

### Creative Writing 1

We have continued to play the 'build a story' game and here are two more of our completed stories.

**Margaret Garrod**

#### The Wild Swimmer

MK: It was a dark and stormy evening and Ian began to regret his decision to go wild swimming. CR: It had looked great in the films he had seen, but the reality had not matched his expectations. Here he was in a deep, freezing cold lake, aching in every bone.

MAG: And it didn't help that he'd caught his *Speed-os* on a jagged rock.

LW: In the far distance a speedboat was heading in his direction, its lights dipping and flashing as it bounced its way across the choppy water. Thanking his lucky stars Ian began waving and shouting in the direction of the closing vessel.

MG: 'Just look at this skinny-dipping nerd flailing around ahead of us!' said Tom to his accomplices. 'If we stop for him now, the whole scheme will be scuppered!'

MK: Ian watched despairingly as the boat sped past him without stopping. He trod water and watched as it headed for the small jetty by the boathouse. He could feel his legs beginning to cramp. Several figures climbed aboard, and the boat turned and sped directly towards him.

JS: Ian's spirits soared as the boat closed in, its searchlight illuminating his frantic efforts to keep treading water. 'Hey, here I am' he shouted, waving his arms around. Suddenly terror gripped him as he realised that rather than slowing down, the speedboat had increased speed and was heading straight for him. With superhuman effort he drove his body beneath the surface, willing his cramping muscles to project him far enough to escape the churning propeller blades.

CR: Ian surfaced about 100 metres from the boathouse jetty. This was on the edge of a leafy copse where he had hidden his waterproof bag containing a large towel, his clothing, and shoes. His telephone was in his trousers pocket. From the jetty he could see the speedboat approaching the Ennerdale bridge end of the lake. He was as certain as he could be that Whitehaven would be their ultimate destination on the mainland, most probably, he thought, using the River Ehen to disembark near Cleator or possibly Egremont. It was very quiet, and they could cross the moor easily, undisturbed. He rubbed himself down, got dressed and felt for his mobile.

## Gin and It

JS: 'Come on Mum. Put your coat on. I'll take you for a spin. We can visit that newly opened garden centre and try out their café.' Vera crossed her arms across her ample bosom and fixed her daughter with a steely stare. Tracy knew that look. She'd been on its receiving end for nearly 50 years.

CR: 'My friends Doris and Hetty went there and hated it. They said it was very crowded, nowhere to take the weight off your feet except the cafe and that was chock-a-block. It took them half an hour before they got a wedged in seat. The tea was made with a teabag and was totally overpriced, and you had to queue for a sandwich or a cake, all at West End prices. The trees, shrubs, plants and flowers were lovely, but the prices were horrendous.'

LW: 'Well, I guess that's a no then. So where would you like to go?' 'How about a seat on the next SpaceX flight?' 'Mum, I have to pick the twins up at 3 o'clock. I don't think we can get to Mars and back in that time, maybe somewhere a bit closer to home.' 'All right dear, let's visit the new gin distillery, they do a fascinating tour, and I hear they make a mean bloody iced tea.'

MK: 'I thought we were trying to get on top of your gin habit - and I know perfectly well you're talking about a Bloody Mary.' 'They're made with vodka, not gin.' 'Well you're the expert. We really do need to deal with this you know. Rob was furious last time you got arrested.' 'You're such a kill-joy these days. I just want some fun.'

MG: 'Ok Mum, I have a proposition to put to you. How about I drop you off at the distillery and you can join the next group on a tour. I'll make my way over to the twins' school, pick them up then come and collect you afterwards?' Vera's eyes lit up. 'Now you're talking! That's what I call a bit of fun.' Tracy wasn't too sure about that, but by now she was at her wits' end and felt it was either a kill or cure solution.

RB: "You will behave, Mum?" said Tracy doubtfully as Vera scrambled out of the car, her big black handbag in her arms. 'Bye dear!' was her only reply as she scurried across the car park to join the queue for the next tour. Vera's eyes were gleaming with mischief as she thought about what she had hidden in her stocking tops!

JS: Vera's eyes scoured the queue and it wasn't long before she spotted Doris and Hetty near the entrance. Without a thought she moved up the line and unceremoniously pushed in beside them. 'Well done Vera. Glad you could make it,' they chuckled. 'Have you got the you know what?' Vera patted her thighs and gave her friends a conspiratorial wink.

MAG: As soon as they'd paid for their tickets, Vera said, 'Right ladies, let's nip to the loo.' 'But I don't need to go,' said Doris. 'Yes, you do,' insisted Vera, giving her a meaningful look, and shoving her towards the entrance. Once inside, Vera checked the coast was clear and hitched up her skirt to remove a small sachet from her stocking top. 'If we take one of these beauties, we're guaranteed a memorable experience.' 'Are you sure?' asked Hetty, 'they look awfully like my Senna tablets.' 'Don't be daft,' said Vera, 'I paid good money for these. Now take one and let the fun begin.'

CR: The cocktail of tablets and gin started to take effect quite quickly and after about an hour, shot after shot, the three of them were legless. Vera was asleep with her head on the table and Hetty, barely able to walk was helped into the toilet by two of the staff, where she locked herself in. Doris was in a better state than the two others, but only marginally. She couldn't quite make the pan and vomited over the floor. They were all in a right state when Tracy arrived in the car park, the twins strapped into the back seat.

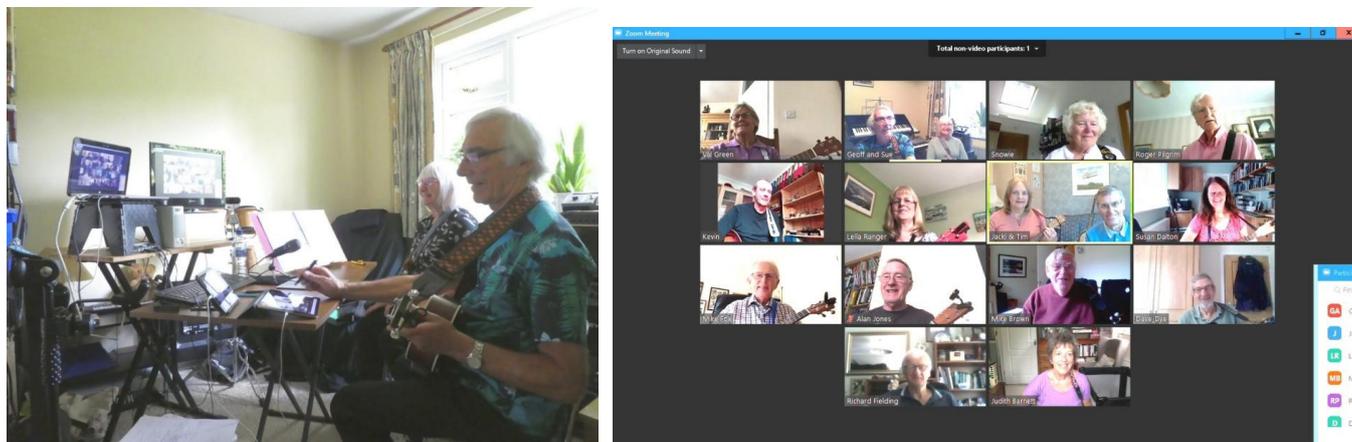
MG: By the time Tracy had made her way to the customer exit area of the distillery, the manager was stood with his arms folded looking absolutely furious. Tracy feared the worst and was not surprised with the response she received, after asking where her mother and her two friends were. 'In the recovery room being attended to by our first responders,' Frank Clark replied tartly. 'We very occasionally get a customer who has one too many here, but we've never had it happen to three septuagenarians before! We also suspect they are under the influence of drugs by the state they've left the toilets in. I'm afraid we'll have no alternative, but to call the police and let them investigate the circumstances.' Tracy felt totally traumatised and by now the twins were shouting at the tops of their little voices, 'Where's Granny, Mummy? Has she got drunk again?' She quickly collected her thoughts and with a pleading look at Frank Clark said, 'Will you please let me call my brother before you get the police involved, I know he'll be able to sort all this out?'

LW: 'Well unless your brother is related to the Chief Constable, madam, I doubt it will make any difference,' he smirked sarcastically. 'Actually, my brother *is* the Chief Constable' Tracy replied. 'Very well madam, perhaps we can make an exception on this one occasion.' His manner had changed considerably and was almost deferential. On the car journey home, a much humbled and very hung-over Vera whimpered to her daughter, 'I really have learned my lesson dear, only the tea-room at the garden centre for me from now on.' Tracy shook her head and sighed. If she had a pound for every time her mother had promised that, she'd be a rich woman.

## Ukulele Group

The Beginners and Improvers Zoom sessions are continuing weekly. The success of these sessions is down to Geoff and Sue Dee's enthusiasm, which we all greatly appreciate. Some of the Beginners have even advanced to Improvers now which is really satisfying to see.

The Zoom set up that Geoff has put together allows him to also show new chord diagrams, playback songs and use other teaching aids. It all looks very professional.



Kevin Fox in the meantime is continuing to develop the Songbooks by adding new songs to stretch our capabilities, he has even found time to learn the mandolin. For my benefit these Zoom sessions have been invaluable as they are helping me keep my bass playing up to scratch in readiness for the big return to the new normal !

The Players Fingerstyle Group, led by Brian Anthony, is also continuing with Zoom sessions weekly. At the beginning I think everyone found it very hard work, but as the weeks go on the techniques demonstrated by Brian on Zoom, plus his Facebook exercises and video lessons, it's all starting to make sense. Even reading music and tab scores are not so scary anymore.....

## Malaguenas

low & hi G

Phrase 1, 2, 3

1      Phrase 1 lo G  
p i m p i m p i m p p p

6      Phrase 2 lo G  
p m p m p m p m p m p m p m p m p m p m p m p m

Carole Camberlain is adding new instrumentals and harmonies to enhance our future performance arrangements. Also, due to her extensive musical theory knowledge, she is helping Brian with Fingerstyle music arrangements especially for multiple instruments.

The music and techniques we are learning cover a wide range from modern to classical with a view to being able to play some pieces at concerts that one day will surely be possible again.

In the meantime we will carry on playing, singing and learning with our virtual friends - but more importantly still having fun.

**Richard Fielding**

## *Can I Canoe You .....*

In 76 years I have had many varied experiences, but only once have I been cajoled into undertaking canoeing. Here is how it transpired:

I started teaching in 1975 at a large comprehensive in Bletchley. This newly built school took in pupils from the local secondary school in central Bletchley and also from some of the surrounding villages. Its main purpose however, was to house the large number of children who had moved from London to the purpose built London overspill estate opposite our new school.

Getting these children into the countryside on adventure holidays was high on the agenda, and so staff were encouraged to participate in training sessions to prepare them to undertake these extra curricular activities.

Much as I endeavoured to shirk these responsibilities, two male colleagues whom I worked closely with, the Head of Sociology, and the Head of Geography, both big fans of gung ho Geography field trips, had other ideas. There was a shortage of female volunteers, so they twisted my arm, and I reluctantly agreed to go on the first course, which was canoeing.

Quite sensibly, the other man I worked closely with, the Head of English, wasn't such a wimp as I was. He also was not sporty, and had the guts to refuse. We had a few preliminary training sessions in the school swimming pool before being let out into the big wide world of waterways and rivers. My good natured husband, Mike, was sporty and gallantly offered to join us, as volunteer numbers were woefully low.

He was always late to the lesson, as he finished work later than we did, and also had to drive to get there. That wasn't a problem, as he took to it like a duck to water. However, on one crucial session his late arrival proved to be a problem. We were being taught how to capsize the canoe, do a complete turn under water and resurface, still sitting in the canoe and, more importantly, still breathing!

Having missed the preliminaries, he was taken aback when ordered to upturn and go under water. However, as an ex submariner, he was used to coping with escape tanks operations, so he coped magnificently.

However, this was a dreadful ordeal for me and had I had any inkling this would happen, I definitely would have refused to participate. When I was nine, I nearly drowned in the shallow end of the swimming pool when on holiday. I was given the customary resuscitation and then carted off dramatically to hospital. I was taken back to the pool to thank the staff who had saved me, and they sensibly took me into the pool, to help restore my confidence, but after that I was never a fan of putting my head under water.

But, it was like passing one's driving test. After the half term break we were to venture to the river Ouse to show off our newly acquired skills. Trouble was, it was the October break. The nights were drawing in and it was cold and murky.

I had coped in a crowded pool, as there wasn't far for any canoe to go. It was a very different matter on the river. Unbeknown to me, and least of all to my colleagues, I had a left sided weakness, which became apparent a few years later, once my brain tumour had become more developed. However, at this stage, it was imperceptible - until you started canoeing.

Looks easy, doesn't it? Paddle with alternate blades and maintain a straight course. Use one arm more than the other if you need to veer. Of course, if one arm is strong and the other is weak, you just go round in circles.

Trevor, the leader, realised there was a problem and so did Mike, but the rest had set off. It was getting quite dark; Trevor realised I was a no hoper, and his responsibility lay with supervising the group, so he told me to stay where I was, ( as if I had an option!) He and Mike set off at a rate of knots after the pack.

After what seemed like ages, canoes started appearing out of the darkness. I like to think the first ones back thought I was the winner, but I doubt it!!

All that remained to be done was to get out and haul the canoe up the bank. This is when I discovered I also had a weakness in the left leg. Oh, the indignity - in disembarking, I fell. The water was shallow, but very cold and filthy with slime and weeds. Mike dragged me, sopping wet, into the car.

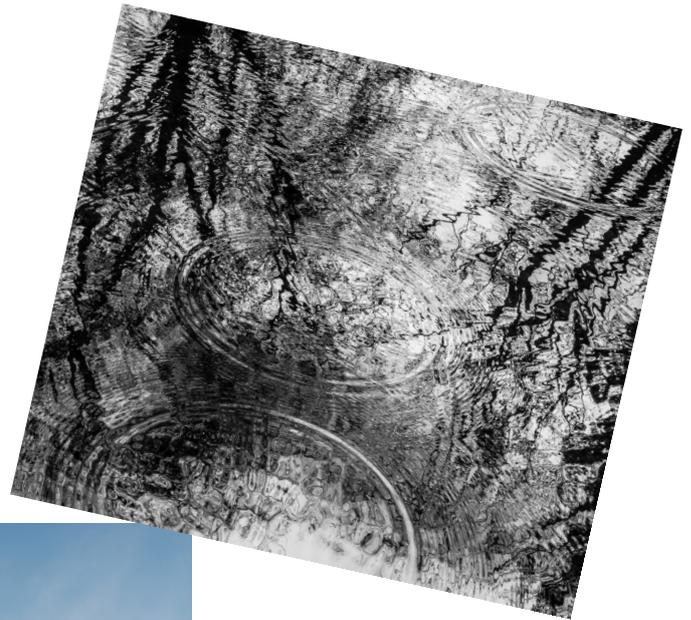
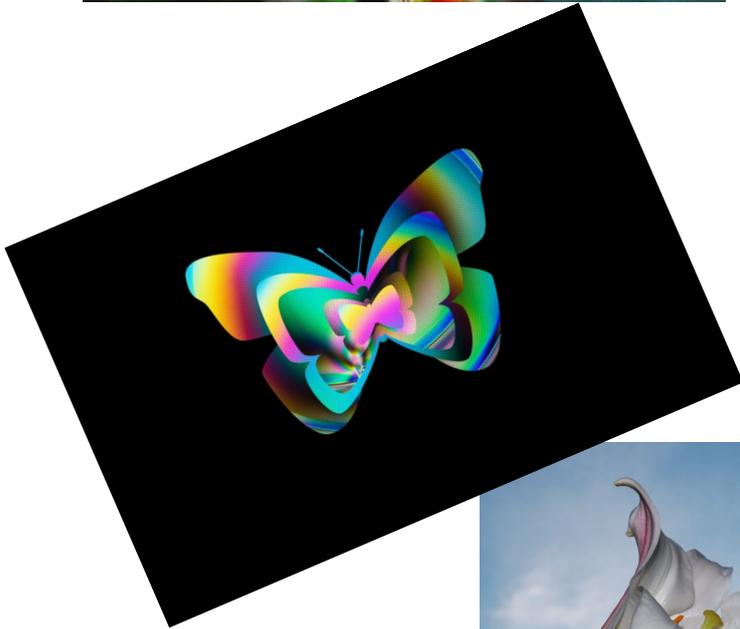
I won't repeat what I said on arriving home to be met by three lively dogs wanting their walk, and two hungry teenagers wanting their dinner. " Stuff that" is a mild version of what springs to mind. A hot bath was the first priority, producing another shock to discover my soaking wet knickers were green with slime and weeds.

***Sylvia Brown***

## Photography Group

This will be the last article from the Photography group as it's disbanding at the end of this academic year. We have however continued to have members' galleries and quizzes even during the lock-down. This month's gallery theme was either still life or abstract. We received many images some using either camera movement or post processing manipulation while others were standard images which created an abstract presentation. As usual we ran a members' vote to determine the favourite. There was a clear winner from Roger Bennett with the next four having equal votes ...

- No1 Abstract - Roger Bennett
- Sky lights - Chris Allen
- The beat of the butterflies wings - Russell Hunt
- Circles - Jo Wrigley
- Lily the white - Robert Rowley



This month, we had several members entered the "Eye project" as advertised in the national U3A newsletter. The theme was circles. Angela Stephens is to be congratulated as her image was selected for the final gallery of fifteen images. It can be viewed at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-eye>  
In the last newsletter we offered some quizzes in the last article, if you want the answers please contact myself - [micheal\\_carrington@sky.com](mailto:micheal_carrington@sky.com)

**Mike Carrington**

**Hart Voluntary Action (HVA) — Do You Need Help?**

\*\*\*Coronavirus (COVID-19) – helping Hart residents most in need\*

A helpline is now available to provide information and advice, as well as practical support, to frail or vulnerable Hampshire residents during the coronavirus outbreak.

**\*The Coronavirus Hampshire Helpline is 0333 370 4000\***

The helpline is available 7 days a week, from 9am to 5pm, and is for vulnerable people who do not have support from families, friends or their local community, and who need urgent assistance with practical issues such as essential food/household supplies or collection of medication, or who are at risk of loneliness.

Hart residents who contact the helpline will be directed to appropriate support within the local community, including services and support being provided through the newly formed Hart Response Hub. The Hub is jointly managed by Hart District Council and Hart Voluntary Action, working in partnership with established voluntary groups such as Fleet & Hart Lions, Churches Together in Fleet and Hart Foodbank, and local volunteers.

\*If you wish to volunteer your help (opportunities include shopping, picking up prescriptions, but also offering a daily reassuring call to those who need it), please go to:  
[www.fleetlions.org.uk/\\_contact.html](http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/_contact.html) **or**  
[<http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/\\_contact.html>](http://www.fleetlions.org.uk/_contact.html)

**Doctors finally find a cure for Noddy's Tinnitus**



**COMMITTEE**  
**EMAILS**



<b>Chair</b>	Paddy Powell	chairman@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Secretary</b>	Alan Jones	secretary@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Treasurer</b>	Neil Morley	treasurer@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Membership Sec</b>	Fiona Godfrey	memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Group Leaders' Liaison Sec</b>	Stephen Grosvenor	groups@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Events Sec</b>	Carol Howlett	events@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Webmaster</b>	Chris Porter	webmaster@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Monthly Meetings Sec</b>	John Gawthorpe	meetings@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Newsletter</b>	Sandy Redman	news@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Enquiries</b>	Jan Glasscock	enquiries@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Programme Sec</b>	Fiona Godfrey	programme@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Minutes Sec</b>	Barbara Jones	minsec@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Venues Sec</b>	Barbara Jones	venues@fleetu3a.org.uk
<b>Outreach Sec</b>	Jenny Teagle	outreach@fleetu3a.org.uk
	Andy Kirk	

**PLEASE AVOID TELEPHONING MEMBERS BEFORE 9 a.m. OR AFTER 5 p.m.**

**Find us on Facebook**

Fleet U3A has its own Facebook page Our page on Facebook can be found by entering "Fleet U3A" in the search box at the top of a Facebook page. You will need your membership number to see it and join in.

# FLEET & DISTRICT University of the Third Age

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVITATION - ACADEMIC YEAR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 2020

The subscription for the coming academic year has been retained at £14 per member. Three options for membership renewal and payment are set out below.

In 2019 Fleet & District U3A introduced a new web-based membership renewal system (Option 1). Those members who made use of the scheme last year will receive their renewal invitations via email. This paper invitation is being posted to those members who do not have an email address recorded on our database.

Whichever option you choose this year, **PLEASE HAVE YOUR COMPLETED RENEWAL RETURNED BY 8<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

### Renewal and Payment Options

**Option 1** On-line go to the 'Members' section of our website [www.fleetu3a.org.uk](http://www.fleetu3a.org.uk) and select 'Renew your Membership' (this remains the Committee's preferred renewal process). The link quoted above will then take you to a web-page to process your payment –YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH PAYPAL.

**Option 2** By arranging an electronic transfer to the Fleet U3A CAF Bank account quoting :

**Sort code : 40-52-40 Account Number : 00006405 Your membership number as reference**

**Option 3** By cheque made payable to 'Fleet U3A' in the sum of £14 per member (one cheque per person please).

**PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH THROUGH THE POST.**

**If paying by Options 2 or 3 please complete the form below** (ticking the appropriate boxes) and post it to Membership Secretary, Fleet & District U3A, 39A Court Farm Road, Longwell Green, Bristol S30 9AD

<input type="checkbox"/>	I am renewing my membership	<input type="checkbox"/>	My membership number is :	<input type="text"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Payment method :	<input type="checkbox"/>	Option 2 : Bank Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Option 3 : By the enclosed cheque

### PERSONAL DETAILS **Please use BLOCK CAPITALS**

Title : ..... Forename : ..... Surname : .....

Address : .....

Postal Town : ..... County : ..... Post Code : .....

Telephone Number : ..... Email address : .....

**Gift Aid** (As a registered charity, Fleet U3A is able to treat your subscription as a Gift Aid Donation.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	I have made a Gift Aid declaration in the past and wish it to remain in force
<input type="checkbox"/>	Please let me have the papers to set up a new donation
<input type="checkbox"/>	I wish to cancel a previous declaration / I am no longer a tax payer

### THIRD AID TRUST MAGAZINE (TAM)

<input type="checkbox"/>	I consent to my postal address information only, given above, being shared with the company that oversees the distribution of the Third Age Trust Magazines, if I have previously requested
--------------------------	---

### A General Reminder

Please notify the Membership Secretary ([memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk](mailto:memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk)) or update your details on line if you change your name, home, email address, or telephone number at any future stage.

**Thank you.**