



Notice Board

Newsletter deadline : 5 p.m. on
Tuesday 23rd June 2020

Next issue date : Monday 6th July 2020

All Members

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

Membership Renewal

Please Read Page Five to see how to renew your membership for this year

New Committee Member

Adrian Van Klaveren

As the newest member of the Fleet U3A Committee, I would like to take this chance to introduce myself. My wife and I have lived in Fleet and Church Crookham for almost 25 years and my two children grew up here. I retired last year and so I am a fairly recent U3A member, still discovering everything the organisation has to offer. I have already taken the chance to be part of a number of groups from Photography to Jazz, from Pilates to History. I am also using my 35 years experience as a journalist as a member of the Editorial Advisory Board for the U3A's national Third Age Matters magazine which you hopefully enjoy reading. I can already see how important U3A is to so many people in different ways and I am keen to get more involved. My role on the committee will be to look after publicity, something which will be crucial over the next few months as we emerge from lockdown and try to grow our membership. If you have ideas for the best ways of doing this, please do let me know.

Adrian Van Klaveren

Chat from the Chair

As we regain some freedom to travel and visit friends and family I have been looking back on the last weeks and considering the positives that I hope we will all take into the uncertain future.

Local communities appear to have strengthened. People have discovered that kindness gives them pleasure and others have gained immensely from all the help that is on offer. I know many of our members have volunteered to support others, not least with our own telephone-buddy system, and others have been very appreciative of local volunteers to do their shopping and collect medication.

It will be up to all of us to develop this newfound neighbourliness into a permanent way of behaving in our own localities. My view, as I tentatively venture into town once more, is that people are kinder, more appreciative of those who help us and more open to greeting and thanking others. Long may that last.

Last time I wrote about membership renewal and I want to thank all those who have renewed already. It is very heartening to witness your commitment to our organisation. We still have no guidance on when it will be safe for us to meet again in our groups indoors so we are asking you to pay your subscription and trust us to start up again as soon as we can. Your committee are grappling with the knotty problem of how to manage group enrolment this year.

A related quandary for the committee is what to do if our venues invite us to sign new contracts while groups are not yet ready to meet. We cannot pay for venues from the reserves for very long without your £1 attendance fees coming in but could risk losing our venues to other organisations if we don't sign new contracts. Suggestions to resolve this conundrum would be very welcome.

We have a new member of our committee Adrian Van Klaveren and he has volunteered to develop the new role of Publicity Secretary, where he will be concentrating on raising awareness of our U3A in the local community. His appointment as a trustee is effective now but he must be elected, like every committee member, at the next AGM.

This brings me nicely to yet another discussion item for your committee; when and how to hold our next AGM? In our constitution it states that we must hold an AGM within 15 months of the last which gives us until February 2021 so I suspect we will be taking advantage of this leeway in the hope that the situation will be clearer by then.

Haven't we been lucky with the weather recently? Lockdown in the sunshine has been almost enjoyable! Stay safe and well everyone.

Paddy

Stop Press: Can 'Zoom' revive our monthly meetings?

A major frustration for many of us in the U3A is that lockdown and social distancing effectively rule out our normal monthly meetings for the time being. The lack of a chance to meet up and chat over coffee ('networking' we called it in the world of work) and then attend an illustrated presentation is keenly felt. For many of us the monthly meeting morning was worth the annual membership fee.

Many of our groups have experimented with 'Zoom' in the last two months, and once participants have become familiar with the format and its joining, viewing and participating protocols, most have enjoyed the experience.

Jerry Ward, whose talk on Al Bowlly was an early casualty of the lockdown, has been working with Maurice Kent of Fleet Film to create a *virtual monthly meeting experience* for **June 17th**. The talk will draw on Maurice's extensive experience of cinema locally.

At this stage it is anticipated that joining the audience will be after receipt of an emailed invitation, and, for this first attempt, you will understand if numbers are limited: 200+ is beyond our wildest dreams at this stage.

Please keep an eye on your inbox for the invitation, and your fingers crossed for a successful experiment.

John Gawthorpe

Practical Support For Our Community

This is a personal recommendation from Jan based on her own experience in lockdown?

In these uncertain times, speedy, practical help has proved invaluable to my husband and me. Fiercely independent and not wishing to be a nuisance, we cannot be alone in feeling somewhat lost. I really miss volunteering at Frimley Park due to being in the elderly vulnerable group and all the social activities we were enjoying are on hold. Problems such as getting shopping and prescriptions became a really huge worry until I found a local group, initially only contactable online or by leaflets delivered locally, but very rapidly they developed into a major support group, called Fleet Aid and Relief covering Hart. They are now managed by a group of Trustees with volunteers that are DBS checked and have appropriate procedures in place to ensure safety of all involved. They operate in conjunction with Fleet Phoenix to provide very comprehensive and practical support to all who need it, via Facebook, the web or, most important to many of us, by a quick phone call to a human being! I can still remember the total relief I felt when I first tentatively called their number and within a very few minutes and no red tape, the collection of a prescription was arranged, in a very friendly manner. The group can arrange: prescription collections; shopping trips; gas, electric or phone top ups; post and parcel collections; phone buddies; advice and guidance to other services available to help; emergency food parcels; and as shops are now getting busier, local click and collect grocery orders.

Their objective is that they exist to "help and support all those that need it that may be isolating, shielding, unable to get out or just in need of a helping hand." They can be contacted on their phone line, which is open 24/7, **01252 309840** and they even provide a phone number that identifies any necessary call back to ease any concerns of scamming. The knowledge that this support is so readily available has been a great comfort to many, even if only occasionally needed. Additionally, the support can be booked online via live chat or at www.fleetaidrelief.org.uk. There are also opportunities to volunteer or support both the group and Fleet Phoenix if one wishes.

Another very useful local service is being provided by Morrisons, who have Doorstep Deliveries, a dedicated phone line **0345 6116111 Option 5**, for elderly and vulnerable customers, who can speak with an operator and order from an essential shopping list of some forty-five items for delivery the following day. The operators are selected to engage with the customers as they are aware that many may have limited social interface at present.

As Enquiries Secretary I do not have many U3A enquiries to keep me busy, but I do feel that both services have significantly contributed to relieving the stresses of "staying safe and staying at home" for us and I would be happy to answer any queries you may have.

Jan Glasscock, Enquiries Secretary

It is possible other supermarkets offer this extra service . Ed



Cupid Is In The Air

We are looking at the winter of 1962. I was a student nurse at the Leeds General Infirmary. I started training at the Preliminary training school in February 1961. My intake was a group of about twenty. You did three months at the school, eventually being let loose on the poor patients once a week.

As a group, we became incredibly close. At the end of the three months, we did spells of three months on the wards, interspersed with the odd short holiday period, mainly at unseasonal times when nobody in their right minds would want to go.

Thus it transpired that "my set" had a two week holiday slot in December that year. A group of us had already holidayed a couple of times in a cottage in Polperro in Cornwall and had booked to go again.

However that year my mother had developed breast cancer, which was pretty advanced, as it had been there two years and she had not told anyone. We were told the prognosis was two months. Following the operation she did not want to go into the convalescent home and she was very reluctant to have the district nurse in to dress her wound, so I decided to stay at home and look after her.

My set was just about to embark on a spell of night duty, so I asked permission to live at home instead of in the Nurses home. I suppose, quite rightly, Matron was not happy with this. However, I stuck to my guns and said I would resign if I wasn't allowed. Permission was granted, but I still had my board and lodging deducted from my salary.

Mum made a good recovery, but as the holiday loomed up at the end of the night duty spell, I was very low and decided I couldn't face the "jollity" of a holiday. My friends and parents "leaned" on me and so I reluctantly set forth on the eleven hour journey from Leeds.

This is where the "Darts" come in. Going to The Three Pilchards just a couple of doors from our cottage was the highlight of our holidays. All the local knew us, and often actors used to drop in, as quite a few lived there, and many had filmed there.

Eric Porter and John Gregson are a few names I can drop.

This particular evening Rita Tushingham (Dr Zhivago and Room at the Top fame) was in the bar with her new husband, a camera man. It was decided to have a darts match between the local ladies and the visitors. Even though I wasn't feeling particularly sociable, a game of darts with Rita Tushingham roused me from my apathy.

I was not a good darts player. We knew all the local lads in the bar, but there was a new one, sitting quietly by the bar on his own. He was right next to the dart board, and each time I threw my dart it landed on his jumper (a green, thick ribbed one.)

By the third throw, it was getting a bit embarrassing, as one has to engage in conversation when removing darts from chests! ("Crickey," I said, "He'll think I fancy him!")

So, that is how I came to meet Mike. He was on leave from the navy where he was in submarines and he was staying with his mother, which is why we had not met him before. The holiday ended a few days later.

Dad was a bit non-committal when I told him I had met a sailor on holiday, but he was probably pretty horrified. However, when a gold bracelet arrived in the post, he said, ("I think we had better have here to have a look at him.") The rest, folks, is history!

Sylvia Brown

Mathematics and Logic 2

My first effort in giving you all a puzzle to solve, turned out to be a damp squib. As several of you have pointed out, there were many solutions to fit the puzzle. Many thanks to Tony Gillespie for calculating that in fact there were 144 possible solutions. I have therefore fallen back on some puzzles found in a book bought on a visit to Bletchley Park. These come with solutions which if the editor allows, I'll put in the next newsletter. The first is relatively easy, the second is more difficult. As before the letters represent numbers 0 to 9 and each letter represents a different number.

Puzzle 1

GET + THE = KEY

where G=1 and Y=5

Puzzle 2

SHIFT + ONLY = NOTES

where O=4 and L=8

The answer will be given in the next edition.

Mike K Brown

Always Read The Packaging

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity, here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods.

On a Sears hairdryer:

"Do not use while sleeping."

(Gee, that's the only time I have to work on my hair.)

On a bag of Fritos:

"You could be a winner! No purchase necessary. Details inside."

(The shoplifter special)

On a bar of Dial soap:

"Directions: Use like regular soap."

(And that would be how ...?)

On some Swanson frozen dinners:

"Serving suggestion: Defrost."

(But its "just" a suggestion)

On Tesco's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom):

"Do not turn upside down."

(Too late!)

On Marks & Spencer Bread Pudding:

"Product will be hot after heating."

(As night follows day . . .)

On packaging for a Rowenta iron:

"Do not iron clothes on body."

(But wouldn't this save me more time?)

On Boot's Children Cough Medicine:

"Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication."

(We could do a lot to reduce the rate of construction accidents if we could just get those 5-year-olds with head-colds off those forklifts.)

On Nytol Sleep Aid:

"Warning: May cause drowsiness."

(One would hope.)

On most brands of Christmas lights:

"For indoor or outdoor use only."

(As opposed to what?)

On a Japanese food processor:

"Not to be used for the other use."

(I have got to admit, I'm curious.)

On Sainsbury's peanuts:

"Warning: contains nuts."

(Talk about a news flash.)

On an American Airlines packet of nuts:

"Instructions: Open packet, eat nuts."

(Step 3: Fly Delta.)

On a child's superman costume:

"Wearing of this garment does not enable you to fly."

(I don't blame the company. I blame parents for this one.)

On a Swedish chainsaw:

"Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands or genitals."

(Was there a lot of this happening somewhere? My God!)

Caroline Noad

Vaccines

In 1796 a dairy maid Sarah Nelmes went to see a rural Gloucester doctor Edward Jenner with a rash on her right hand. He diagnosed cow pox rather than the deadly smallpox which at the time killed as many as 10-20% of the population. Sarah told the Dr that one of her milkers a docile cow called "Blossom" had become infected and had transferred to her right hand whilst milking. Jenner was keen to test the age-old theory that dairymaids were protected against smallpox due to exposure to cowpox. He took some pus from Sarah's pock marked hand and scratched into the arm of James Phipps the 8-year-old son of his gardener. The boy become mildly ill but recovered; he then exposed James by scratching his arm with scab material from someone suffering mild smallpox. Much to Jenner's undoubted relief the boy survived and it became the first scientific validation of what we know today as vaccination- a name taken from the Latin word *vacca* meaning a cow.

Smallpox was globally eradicated in 1980 and today Dr Jenner would have been struck off the medical register, however he is known as the father of vaccination and a giant in immunology. PS The preserved horns of "Blossom" can be seen on display at the Dr Jenner's house museum and garden in Berkeley, Gloucestershire.



Stuart Williams

Continued.

Science Correspondent

Important – Fleet U3A Membership Renewal online using our Membership system (Beacon)

We encourage all members to renew their U3A membership online using our Beacon Membership system. You can renew from 1st June onwards by debit card, credit card or by using a PayPal account if you have one. Please note you **do not** need to register for a PayPal account if you want to use a debit or credit card to pay for your membership, just use the 'guest' facility on the PayPal site.

If you renew your membership online using the Beacon membership system, you **do not** need to complete and post back a membership renewal form. If you wish to pay by Bank Transfer or Cheque you cannot renew via Beacon and you **do** need to complete and post back a membership renewal form, updating any of your contact details as necessary.

(see page 7 for renewal form)

You can log into your Beacon Membership account using the following information to identify yourself: Membership Number, Forename, Surname, Postcode and Email address. Please note the Forename and Surname must have leading capitals. The postcode must be in upper case and the email address in lower case. If any of the data you enter does not agree with the details in the Membership system then for security reasons all fields are blanked for you to try again. A link to our Beacon membership system can be found in the Fleet U3A website at www.fleetu3a.org.uk in the 'Members' section. Alternatively you can use the link <http://tinyurl.com/FleetBeacon> in your web browser.

Please also take the opportunity to check that all the contact details we hold for you are correct, phone numbers, postcode, etc., plus you can add 'Emergency Contact' details if you wish.

If you haven't registered your email address with Fleet U3A or have changed your email address then please contact Fiona Godfrey, our membership secretary, via email at memsec@fleetu3a.org.uk so that she can update your record. A valid email address in Beacon will allow you to do online renewal, keep your contact details up to date in your membership record and receive the Fleet U3A Newsletter and other useful information direct by email.

Alan Jones

Secretary Fleet and District U3A

Cycling – the way ahead

I hope that all Fleet U3A cyclists are enjoying the more relaxed regulations about exercising and are getting out on your bikes. When permitted we need to look at how we can resume the U3A cycling groups in a safe way, presuming that coronavirus will be with us through 2021 and beyond? A lot of our riders, including me, are over seventy.

We can change our routes to reduce the time spent on narrow canal towpaths, where social distancing is almost impossible.

On my dog walks round Fleet Pond I have realised how some cyclists have given the rest of us a very bad reputation.

We could restrict the numbers on a ride to eight. So far I have allowed up to twenty to register for a group, on the expectation that no more than ten or twelve would actually turn up. We could still have twenty in the group but people would have to book

by email to join a ride on a particular day. People who did not get on a ride one day could have priority on the next one.

Ideally others could come forward to lead extra groups so that we could increase the frequency. As I already lead 4 U3A groups, I am not keen on taking on the extra work of arranging extra rides.

I would welcome ideas by email from any of our cyclists, whether you have been cycling with my groups or not.



©2013 Peanuts Worldwide

Nick Keeley

Find us on Facebook

Fleet U3A has its own Facebook page and group. Our page can be found by entering "Fleet U3A" in the search box at the top of the Facebook.com page.

Our main Facebook page is visible to everyone including the general public. However, to join our private Facebook "Fleet U3A Members Group" (click on visit group), you need to apply and provide your membership number. Your Facebook details and membership number will be checked against our Membership database to ensure only our U3A members will be able to join this private discussion group.

Please apply to join the private 'Fleet U3A Members Group' to keep in touch during the Covid-19 isolation period.

With Apologies to Wordsworth

I wondered lonely as a cloud,
Two metres from the madding crowd,
When all at once my name was called,
To enter Waitrose' hallowed hall.
This was the pensioners' special hour,
I'd gone to get a bag of flour,
But I forgot, when through the door,
What I had gone to Waitrose for.
The Waitrose staff were extra kind
I told them it had slipped my mind,
They asked what else I had forgot,
They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.
I phoned my wife again to ask,
And remind me of this special task
"I need some flour to bake a cake
With all that cream you make me take."
"Yes I recall" I had to lie
I dared not ask what flower to buy
But then I saw them at the tills
A bunch of golden daffodils!

Thanks to John Abbot

COMMITTEE



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

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

Fleet U3a Web site

Fleet u3a has a Website that is full of information including news, details of rearranged visits, sharing of experiences etc. Any breaking news will be on the scrolling panel on the home page. In addition there is a section of labelled 'Coronavirus Times' that has official announcements to members. The Web site includes space for help and advice, and some humour. The Webmaster will welcome any contributions for inclusion, also images for the Gallery. Web address is: <https://flu3aweb.wixsite.com/fleetu3a> **Chris Porter**

Third Age Trust (TAT) U3A National Newsletter

You can sign up for this newsletter at :
<https://u3a.org.uk/email>
For country wide U3a stories, events, advice, opportunities and more.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INVITATION - ACADEMIC YEAR COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 2020

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

In 2015 Fleet & District U3A launched a 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 paid by Bank Transfer or by cheque.

Whichever option you choose this year, **PLEASE HAVE YOUR COMPLETED RENEWAL RETURNED BY 8TH JULY 2019**

Renewal and Payment Options

Option 1 On-line using the link <http://fleetu3a.org.uk/OnlineRenewal.asp> (this remains the Committee's preferred renewal process). You will need a Login ID and Password for the Fleet U3A website to renew online. The link quoted above will then take you to a web-page administered by PayPal to process your payment – ALTHOUGH YOU DO **NOT** NEED TO SIGN UP TO AN ACCOUNT WITH PAYPAL. Detailed guidance on the process is being e-mailed to all who have registered for a Login ID and Password.

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. 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 BS30 9AD

	I am renewing my/our membership (s)	My/our membership number (s) is/are :	

Payment		Option 2 : Bank Transfer		Option 3 : By the enclosed cheque
---------	--	--------------------------	--	-----------------------------------

PERSONAL DETAILS **Please use BLOCK CAPITALS**

Member 1 : Title : Forename : Surname :

Member 2 : 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 (s) as a Gift Aid Donation.)

	I/we have made a Gift Aid declaration in the past and wish it to remain in force
	Please let me/us have the papers to set up a new donation
	I/we wish to cancel a previous declaration / I/we am/are no longer a tax payer (s)

Optional consent to receive Third Age Trust Magazines by post

	I/we consent to my/our postal address information only, given above, being shared with the company that
--	---

A General Reminder

Please notify the Membership Secretary (mesec@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.

For Office Use Only							
	Received		Membership Card and Programme Posted		Entered Onto Database		