

# LEARN, LAUGH & LIVE

on the Isle of Wight

Welcome to the IoW U3A Newsletter

No 5 - May 2020



The U3A is an educational and social charity which encourages people in their third age to carry on learning. It encourages social interaction and combats loneliness.

[www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk)

[info@iowu3a.uk](mailto:info@iowu3a.uk)

[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](https://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a)

## Future Speaker Meetings

**The May and June talks are definitely postponed. The AGM has tentatively moved to October 8th**

**Thu May 14th** was going to be on "Secrets of the Solent" by Susan Gibson, who will be looking at the hidden wonders found in and around our Solent shore.



**June 11th** in place of the AGM (which has been deferred until October) - we will aim to hold an online meeting in some form - ideas welcome, details to follow!

**Your committee are looking at ways of holding virtual online meetings. In fact we have just had our second online committee meeting using "Zoom" conference software. As almost all our members are online we intend to try to help all our members participate in this way.**

The core of our U3A usually comprises a monthly speaker meeting when everyone has the opportunity to get together for a social and interesting afternoon, also an ongoing program of special interest groups which meet frequently either in members' homes or other accessible venues (and this monthly newsletter).

We hope from time to time to organise other group activities, visits, etc... which will develop as we move on.

We rely on Internet access for contact and updates (see above).

This newsletter is distributed electronically. If you know someone who would like a printed copy could you print one out for them?

If you struggle to get to meetings then let us know. We will (in due course) try and organise a lift – email:

[membership@iowu3a.uk](mailto:membership@iowu3a.uk)

Please check for errors and omissions. News and articles always welcome.

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# Chairman's Committee News

## *Hello Everyone*

This is just to let you know your IoWU3A Committee is continuing to work on your behalf behind the scenes during this period of social distancing and self-isolation.

We have had two committee meetings using Zoom. The first, in March, was a little hesitant and stilted but by the April meeting it felt like second nature and everyone looked very relaxed. It is nice to see the faces of people! Not all of the committee members have access to Zoom but it is possible to phone in to be a part of the meeting, which one member has done, and otherwise absent committee members can contribute by email on Agenda items and are contacted after the meetings to let them know what has happened.

Well – what has happened?

As you all know we have had to make the decision to postpone the AGM until October and all of the Speaker meetings are, for the moment, cancelled until we get the go ahead to allow social gatherings.

We have been given the go ahead, and have applied for full membership of the Third Age Trust (TAT). This is the national body that looks after all U3As in the UK providing educational and administrative support.

We have received networking invitation from several mainland U3As and links to the communications we receive will be embedded into our monthly newsletter for you all to access.

Although some of the groups have been unable to operate during the lockdown a number are continuing very successfully using either Zoom, FaceBook or email to exchange news and ideas and progress on projects.

We are actively trying to think of ways to communicate with you. We look forward to speaking to you all soon.

Stay safe and well.

*Carol Bradshaw*

## Notes from U3A South East Region:

The U3A National Website has all sorts going on from Quizzes to Mr. Motivator and Mindfulness to Photography competitions and painting competitions. See [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
The S E Region website [www.u3asites.org.uk/south-east](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/south-east) has a page called Isolation with good ideas on it.

Sorry for a swathe of web site addresses but in times of isolation it may be worthwhile turning on the old computer and Googling a bit:

Try exploring the national Third Age Trust (TAT) website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)  
And this one: [www.u3a.org.uk/how-to-guidance](http://www.u3a.org.uk/how-to-guidance)  
Back to school: [www.u3a.org.uk/learning](http://www.u3a.org.uk/learning)

Or when all else fails why not: **Phone a friend** - they will probably be glad to hear from you!

Or in desperation, **try the radio!** Radio 4 is a jolly good listen and we tend to forget the radio when it is so easy to turn on the telly. And if you're on-line then try **BBC Sounds** - for catch-up radio.

And... **stay active any way you can.** Get up for even the most insignificant tasks if you can.



## Group Meetings

All Groups are listed on the web site at [www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk) with up to date details.

Email: [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)

Because of the **Coronavirus** problem none of these groups will be held in person for the time being. But we are looking at ways of drawing groups together either by email or by conferencing software. We will be sending "how to" guides out to members by email to hope to get this going.

At time of going to press:

### Books, Topics & Chat - Tuesday p.m.

This Group takes it in turns to suggest Books, TED talks, Newspaper articles, etc., to discuss. We also look for appropriate trips to literary festivals, etc., to go to. The aim is to cover a wide variety of subjects to achieve variety and hopefully widen horizons.

A trimmed down version of this Group is being planned which focusses on the TED talks. Anyone wanting to participate in this Group could you please let Dina know (via Groups link on the IoW U3A website) so that time and topics can be arranged.

### Film Studies Next Meeting - May Virtual

To develop an understanding of the language of cinema and a deeper appreciation of film through group viewings and discussions of films' apparent and underlying meanings and significance.

Discussions at 5pm on 13 May, 27 May, 10 June, 24 June. The films are yet to be decided. Members can contact Jim Moody for further info - [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)

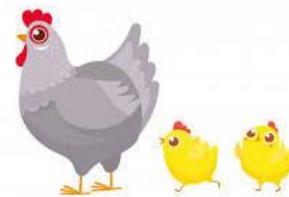


### Gardening Cooperative - Carol

The group continues to 'meet' via email during the month with no fixed timetable, just as and when members feel like sharing, which is happily, quite often. Usually we report successes or failures or ask questions. Photographs are often included showing impressive volumes of work being

achieved by some. Others have large projects on going but we are all cheerfully gardening.

One of our members has successfully hatched 2 chickens (so far) with hopefully more to come. I think we may need to extend the group's reports to include the chickens' progress.



My allotment more than my garden has benefited from all the extra time I have. All of my beds are planted up or ready to be planted. My potatoes are coming up and my broad beans are in flower, spinach, radish and lettuce seeds sown straight into the ground (in April!) have all germinated. It looks lovely. We had had one of the 'cooperative' meetings planned to take place on the allotment - hopefully the others will get to see it in all its productive glory before long. We miss the face to face chat and the cookies but are enjoying the extra time in our gardens.

The idea of 'cooperative' gardening may have to wait a while. Anyone who has not signed up for Garden Cooperative but who would like to be involved in monthly, or more frequent, emails about garden hints, tips, successes or failures, do go to the website [www.iowu3a.uk](http://www.iowu3a.uk) go to Groups and register your interest.

All welcome.



### Multicraft - Dina Jung - Tuesday p.m. But Dina will update with online ideas.

This group is for those people who love making things, in any material. Many people have experience in crafts that are not "run of the mill" and can come along and share this knowledge. We could also learn from books or online if no-one has experience in something that interests us. Things on offer so far are handmade leather goods, pewter casting in cuttlefish, spinning (mainly alpaca) and silver chain mail jewellery but this is just for starters as other people can make suggestions for us to try. We aim to meet once a month at 2pm and it is generally held in someone's house with tea and biscuits, etc.

(Multi Craft is on hold at the moment.)

### **Rummikub - Starting online very soon.**

Contact Sally on [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)  
According to Wiki - Rummikub is a tile-based game for 2 to 4 players, combining elements of the card game rummy and mah-jongg. There are 104 number tiles in the game (valued 1 to 13 in four different colours, two copies of each) and two jokers. Players have 14 or 16 tiles initially and take turns putting down tiles from their racks into sets (groups or runs) of at least three, drawing a tile if they cannot play. In the Sabra version (the most common and popular), the first player to use all their tiles scores a positive score based on the total of the other players' hands, while the losers get negative scores. An important feature of the game is that players can work with the tiles that have already been played.

### **Scrabble - Still Planning but starting online.**

Contact Sally by email - [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk)



### **Walk and Talk about Gardens - Wednesday p.m.**

Walk and Talk about Gardens Group - Beryl.  
This group was formed by a few friends with a mutual love of gardens, gardening and plants and who wished to share their enjoyment and enthusiasm with others. We meet twice a month, from April to October on a Wednesday afternoon to visit one of our gardens, exchange plants, cuttings, seeds ideas and occasionally knowledge. These visits always finish with tea, cake and more talk.

This Group is still continuing and a flourishing email and photoswapping system has sprung up which is motivating, informative and supportive. To join please contact Groups link on the IoW U3A website. Sorry no cake at the moment.

### **Writing Group - Christine**

In the short time our group has been going, we have met some interesting and sympathetic people and have read some very good contributions - what's not to like?! In spite of the present restrictions, we manage to swap texts and meet in the virtual world - shame the virtual cup of tea and virtual cakes are not as satisfying as the real ones. It has also forced us to write and share our writing,

something we had not done for a very long time, if ever for some.

Present times are fertile in writing possibilities but we can choose our subjects. A member can suggest a challenge for all to attempt: a haiku, a clerihew, a letter. You could join us. Or write about anything - or just how you are managing.

### **Planned:**

**(these are listed on the web site but some are awaiting "adoption")**

DIY & Tool  
Knowledge;  
French;  
Mah Jong;  
Medical Matters;  
Photography ;  
Posh Dining/  
Theatre;  
Spanish;  
Using Technology;  
Walking;  
Genealogy - starting November - Alison;  
IoW History - in the Autumn - Sally



All queries re Groups to [groups@iowu3a.uk](mailto:groups@iowu3a.uk) please.

### **Starting a Group - if your group isn't listed here then it probably could be!**

Contact Sally or Dina (usual email address) and we could get one started. You don't have to be an expert to start a group - just show an interest.

U3A subject advisers cover a wide range of subjects from American Archaeology to Yoga, with a real mix of academic, practical and leisure activities in between.

<https://u3a.org.uk/resources/subjects>

### **On-Line Groceries**

Remember to try on-line groceries.

Tip - some slots come available at midnight (e.g. Asda) so try for a slot in the middle of the night!



## IoW U3A Film Studies Group

Affected as we all are by Covid-19 restrictions, the Film Studies Group has come up with its own novel, partial solution for the duration.

We started out in late January and early March with Group meetings attended in person by just a few of the IoW U3A members who had signed up for Film Studies. Then came Covid-19. So we considered how we could safely and easily watch a particular film by a fixed date, when we could then discuss it online. Usefully, we all had access to Netflix films, from which we agreed by email to pick a film to view. And it worked! In the event, more attended the online Zoom session than had come to either of the previous two face to face meetings.

Our first Zoom discussion in mid-April was about the 2018 film *A Private War*, which dramatized the work of war reporter Marie Colvin, played by Rosamund Pike. It was directed by Matthew Heineman (previously a documentary director). Several members mentioned in discussion that they would not normally have viewed a war-related film, but each of them was glad that they had watched this film.

All those present contributed, expressing a range of ideas about how brave Colvin had been, how her life choices might have been made, and so on. In the end, maybe we agreed with the real Colvin, who had stated she wanted to be remembered because, 'I cared enough to go to these places and write in a way to make someone else care about it.' The rest of the cast



included Tom Hollander (as Colvin's Sunday Times editor), Stanley Tucci (a one-time lover), and Jamie Dornan (war photographer).

So enthused were we participants by the first session on Zoom that we decided we wanted more, and not just once a month, but every fortnight. As a result, the Film Studies Group met again via Zoom on Wednesday 29 April to discuss *The Two Popes* (director: Fernando Meirelles), starring Anthony Hopkins as Pope Benedict and Jonathan Pryce as Pope Francis.

Other IoW U3A members are very welcome to join us in our discussions every two weeks. We are holding one-hourly meetings at 5pm on the following Wednesdays: 13 May, 27 May, 10 June, and 24 June. Films are still to be agreed by potential participants, so suggestions are invited, as are new Group members, of course.

### Jim Moody

Ed: Google search "New on Netflix" for possible films

### Film Club Films suggested - available on Netflix

Flight (2012)  
Gone Girl (2014)  
Howard's End (1992)  
Julie & Julia (2009)  
La La Land (2016)  
Lady Bird (2017)  
Lagaan: Once Upon a Time in India (2001)  
Lost in Translation (2003)  
Manto (2018)  
McQueen (2018)  
Mean Streets (1973)  
Minimalism (2016)  
Mrs Lowry & Son (2019)  
On Chesil Beach (2017)

Our Kind of Traitor (2016)  
Public Enemies (2009)  
Red Joan (2019)  
Roma (2018)  
Sarajevo (2014)  
Spotlight (2015)  
The Ballad of Buster Scruggs (2018)  
The Hundred Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out of the Window and Disappeared (2013)  
The Lincoln Lawyer (2011)  
The Machinist (2004)  
The Pianist (2002)  
The Post (2017)  
The Riot Club (2014)  
The Terminal (2004)  
Troy (2004)  
Wild (2014)  
Wildlife (2018)

## NEW GROUP

I have been receiving quite a few funny and interesting videos during this lockdown and am thinking of starting a "Funny" Group so that members of the Group can share photos or videos that they think will keep us cheery during this challenging time. I have a couple that are hilarious, I laughed my socks off when I saw them and they put me in a good mood all day. If you are interested in joining and sharing your "Funnys" just go to our website and contact me on the Groups page to join. Looking forward to having a laugh together.

**Dina**

## How to hide a compost bin

I had a really messy corner in my garden which had an ugly compost bin and loads of bits of wood and metal stacked around it. I could see it through my patio windows and it really spoilt the view. Last week I had an "Aha" moment and three days later the mess had gone or rather the mess could no longer be seen and I had got rid of some of the wood. Here is a picture of the high backed storage chest I made which completely screens everything in the corner and stores all my clay pots but still allows access to

top up the compost bin. I could even sit on it and sunbathe if I had the time but I am now so fired up I have started on bamboo "hardening off" shelving. Having to stay at home has some advantages.

**Dina Jung**



## Facebook page

Check out our Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a](http://www.facebook.com/groups/iowu3a)



## Coronavirus

**We hope all our members steer clear of this by following the rules. We can't give any advice you haven't already heard, but if you are in trouble then please let us know. We can at least lend an ear if you would like to talk.**

