

***Hello and welcome to our November newsletter. We do hope you are keeping safe and well during these trying times.***

## **Zoom Open Meeting**

Although there are few activities during the current situation, we are holding a "virtual" Open Meeting on **Monday 7 December at 2.30 pm**. Our speaker will be Michael Grillo and his talk is entitled "Two Kinds of Teardrops, the stories of Roy Orbison and Del Shannon".

This talk will take place on Zoom and all you need to do is to log in to Zoom, join a meeting and enter the Meeting ID **853 6210 4059**.

When prompted enter the password **728848** and wait for the host to let you in. We would suggest that you log in about 5-10 minutes before the start of the meeting.

We hope you will join us; it may bring back memories of our youth!

## **New Look u3a**

Are you taking advantage of the main u3a website, which is now sporting its redesigned, punchy format and improved layout? Access [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) to gain the full benefit of news, advice and developments taking place within our organisation. You can receive your very own monthly free copy of the national Newsletter by filling in the simple registration form on the main News page. This highlights what is going on, available learning events and what other u3a's get up to. An easy way to keep in touch with developments and opportunities - essential reading for us all!

One significant development is the launch of a new u3a brand. Gone is the title 'University of the Third Age', which has been replaced by a simple logo and new posters and graphics, which will be used locally. Already we have adopted the new logo at the head of our Newsletter and this will be followed shortly by similar changes to our forms, 'Update' and website. This change of logo is the beginning of a much larger drive to promote the organisation, which will gradually take place over the next few months. *Watch this space!*

## **Theatre & Travel**

The Theatre and Travel Group hopes you are all keeping well and that it will not be too long before we will be able to resume our outings and shows. Unfortunately, though, there appears little hope of anything before the spring at least. We do, however, have hopes of holiday breaks early summer - see below.

**Two double rooms available, 3-night stay, Sandown Isle of Wight in March.**  
**Holiday to Derbyshire: 4 nights £470 April 2021, single and twin rooms available.**

**Please contact Jean on 01799 513411 or [little361@btinternet.com](mailto:little361@btinternet.com)**

## **New Book Club group**

Would you be interested in joining a book club, meeting at 11am on the first Thursday each month via Zoom? The book club members would aim to read a contemporary fiction book (chosen by a group member, preferably a best seller - easy to buy locally or online) each month.

At the monthly meeting we would discuss our thoughts about the book over a cuppa and biscuit, but there would be no pressure to contribute to the discussion - or even to have finished reading the book! This group is for fun, social contact, and to encourage reading and sharing, particularly in these difficult times. When restrictions allow, we could meet in a coffee shop.

**Contact Mary at [maryfcurtis@live.co.uk](mailto:maryfcurtis@live.co.uk)**

## **Beacon**

The Committee is looking into the viability of adopting the National u3a system called Beacon. It would replace our existing system of spreadsheets to manage membership, groups and finances. Many other u3a groups in the country are already using Beacon successfully. Therefore, during this period of forced inactivity we will investigate if we can easily switch to the Beacon system.

***With all best wishes for the forthcoming festive season.***