



## Newsletter from your Chairman

Hi everyone,

I hope you are all well and bearing up during our current heatwave – as I write I am aware that it will all change on Friday with thunderstorms and heavy rain forecast for the weekend! Well, here we are, Boris announced that Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July was ‘Freedom Day’.

My reaction – it may be for some people but I’m afraid I still feel very wary about life. Personally, I won’t be ditching the mask and will continue to avoid situations where people are milling together with no consideration about social distancing. Coronavirus has and is the most insidious of infections and it appears that it is not going away. Thank goodness we have had the vaccinations which at least give us protection against the most serious aspects of the illness.

In my last newsletter I mentioned that we had been successful in gaining back an afternoon slot in Crockham Hill village hall. Next week on Tuesday we will be returning to the hall for the first time in 18 months. As you know we will be having our Annual General meeting which will provide you with the opportunity to catch up with friends you haven’t seen for a while alongside a cup of tea or coffee.

We have planned the afternoon very carefully bearing in mind that for some of you this will be the first meeting you have been to in 2021. So let me set out our arrangements:

- Edenbridge u3a Annual General Meeting at **Crockham Hill Hall, 27<sup>th</sup> July**.
- The hall will be open from **1.45** and we aim to start the AGM close to 2pm.
- **Please sign in** at the door – you may wish to renew your membership which you can do with Estelle at the door. If you can download the membership form from our website (<https://www.edenbridgeu3a.co.uk/join-us.html>), please fill it in and bring it with you to the meeting with your membership fee.
- Your committee will all be **wearing face masks** and we would encourage you to do the same.
- There will be **hand sanitiser** as you enter the hall and at the kitchen counter when you collect your refreshments.
- Seating will be more **informal** than on previous meetings in the hall with some social distancing.
- There will be limited paper copies of the **AGM documents**, but these will be projected onto the large screen. You are very welcome to bring your own set of papers (sent to members by email).
- There will be **sheets** for you to sign up, if you are interested in joining a group, on tables at the sides of the hall.

There will be no full meeting in August but some groups may continue their activities during this month. Our next full meeting will be on **WEDNESDAY 29<sup>th</sup> September** at Crockham Hill – usual start time 2pm. We will have a guest speaker and you will be informed of future speakers in the run up to Christmas soon. I have to say this with a word of caution as, of course, coronavirus may play a part in its various forms to alter our programme.” *The best laid plans of mice and men*” springs to mind!



Time for a picture – North Cornwall coast near Camborne. Staycation has been an opportunity to remind ourselves just how beautiful our country really is!

So, one last point to mention around membership – our fees for 2021/2022 remain the same as before. **£20 per year for single membership and £35 for a couple**. You can pay by cheque, bank transfer or cash. Of course, this includes free refreshments at meetings!

All the lockdowns have stopped us doing many things but the one thing that has really grown during this pandemic are scams. Whether it is by a cold call on your phone or an email that you weren't expecting but looks genuine, there has been a dramatic increase in people losing money to scammers. I will be talking some more about the latest scams at the meeting next week. Just be on your guard all the time – remember if a deal seems too good to be true then it probably is! King Arthur lived in Camelot, our world seems to have become Scamalot!

I am really looking forward to us all getting together again albeit under different ways, and I know the committee are all looking forward to seeing you all as well. Take care, stay safe and see you soon!

Best wishes

*Mike*

Mike Collins, ([chairman@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk))



PS one more look at beautiful Britain

Padstow in Cornwall on a sunny day in June