

Talks on the topics of 'It's not what you say – it's all about body language' and 'The Tidal Thames - Folklore and Tradition' are starting off a new year of online talks and events organised by Reigate & Redhill u3a

Undaunted by the lockdown, the u3a programme of events offers members a range of activities to entertain and provide ways to learn and laugh together.

This new year, over 40 groups are meeting by Zoom, which provides a vital link for many members, particularly those who live alone or are isolating. For example, those in the Current Affairs group can still discuss issues of the day, while the Photography group are able to use their outings for exercise to take and share photos on agreed themes – some then displayed on the website - rru3a.org.uk . Many of the Art for Pleasure group log on every week to talk to friends as they paint and draw. Also on the website are YouTube videos devised by members and recorded through Zoom. They include miniplays inspired by the lockdown, monologues, musical items and a video about the history of local hospitals with personal anecdotes from former staff and patients.

The members of the Book groups share their opinions of the books they have read, and the Language groups continue to practice and develop their conversational skills. Two new groups have been formed – one exploring issues related to Climate Change and a Bridge group who play each other on line. The Family History groups were delighted to receive a list of websites to further their research from Pat Mitchinson's recent talk on ***Who do you think you are?***

Over past 10 months, Meet & Chat sessions on Zoom have replaced the regular Coffee Mornings where members in small groups catch up with old friends and meet new ones. The Tech Help team have been supporting members in becoming confident in using online resources.

Reigate & Redhill u3a has a membership of 920 retired and semi-retired people. Annual membership costs £14 for an individual and £25 for a couple. For further information about the u3a and how to join, go to the website at rru3a.org.uk and follow the links.



Reigate & Redhill Committee meet once a month by Zoom.