

## BOOKHAM AND DISTRICT u3a NEWSLETTER



17 May 2021

Dear u3a Members

As I write this, we have just moved into Step 3 of the Government's roadmap out of COVID-19 restrictions. Whilst we are not back to normal, our freedoms are much improved so that now we can gather outside in groups up to 30 and inside in groups up to 6, all the time continuing to take care of each other with appropriate social distancing. This does mean the possibility of our interest groups returning to meeting up face to face, either outdoors or for small groups, indoors. Our Groups Coordinator, Mike Farrell, has advised the Group Administrators accordingly and added the gathering limit exceptions that we can adopt if our outdoor interest groups follow the guidance published by their sport's national governing body.

Of course, over a year living under strained conditions has left its mark, so that I am not surprised if some of you are reticent about meeting face to face with too many other people. Others are assessing the risks to themselves and deciding that the time is right to get out and meet up safely with people. All of this is happening with the latest variant of concern from India in the background. However, I suggest you are living in one of the best places in Britain, where the Mole Valley 7 day infection rate of 5.7 per 100,000 people is well below the Surrey average of 10.4 and the national average of 23.0. By comparison, Bolton has a 7 day infection rate of 250.3 per 100,000 population. Caution remains the operative word, but that doesn't mean we have to continue in isolation but can instead enjoy life in a COVID secure way. I have returned to group walking and my other great pastime of lawn bowls; you could also return to what you enjoy.

But as recent weather has shown, summer isn't here yet so you can always look forward to our next indoor monthly meeting, which will again be on Zoom on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June. Historian, Simon Gregor will present 'An Illustrated History of London'. London's 2000 year history has been rich and varied, and in this lecture, Simon will lead us on a whistle stop tour of the capital, from its foundation by the Romans to the present day. Taking in a number of different areas of the city, he will draw both on photographs and stories to bring the history to life, and to explore some of the lesser-known facts about London.

To register for the 1<sup>st</sup> June meeting, please click on this link.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscOirqj0pGtR\\_J0lsZqZagUMHoGUfIE-B](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMscOirqj0pGtR_J0lsZqZagUMHoGUfIE-B)

The talk will be open on Zoom at 2:15pm for a 2:30pm start.

Until then, take care and best wishes,

*Chris*