

A photo of the bluebells in U3A member Dee Phesse's Garden that she shared on the U3A Keeping In Touch group.

National Garden Day

This Sunday is National Garden Day - a day dedicated to celebrating being in our gardens and open spaces.

You are using lockdown as a time to celebrate and spend more time in your gardens. Thanks for sharing lots of photos of your gardens with each other on the Keeping In Touch group.

The organisers of Garden Day encourage garden lovers to put down the gardening tools and spend time in their gardens, share it with the ones they love through FaceTime and make flower crowns.

Find out more about the day here (<https://www.gardenday.co.uk/>) and if you do get involved, we'd love to see your photos!

(mailto:eleanor.mair@u3a.org.uk?subject=gardens)

Please share how you got involved with the day here

(mailto:communications@u3a.org.uk?subject=Garden%20Day%20)

** Financial Matters

Financial Update

Finance Manager, Kevin Traynor said, "Thank you again for all the support you have given to the Trust in making your Membership Subscription payments by bank transfer or by cheque. It has been a pleasure to be able to speak with so many of you".

Holidays/Trips

The most topical subject of your enquiries has been the cancellation of holidays and trips and more importantly how to secure a refund. Many U3As have run into a number of issues with the tour/hotel provider. These issues are similar to those that have now been taken up by the Competition and Marketing Authority (CMA) following a huge rise in complaints to the watchdog and it is threatening legal action against tour operators.

The link here (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cma-to-investigate-concerns-about-cancellation-policies-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic/the-coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-consumer-contracts-cancellation-and-refunds>) may be helpful for further information.

The Trust's advice is that wherever possible:

Members should book the holiday direct with the tour operator and so outside the U3A books of account

Scrutinise the terms and conditions and pricing, beware contracts that refer to minimum numbers of travellers as the costs could increase significantly

Pay by credit card

Use an ABTA registered tour operator, check the cover is still in place when you pay

Keep updated with travel advice from both the UK and overseas governments

** Zoom Tutorials

By the members for the Members ...

If you would like to connect with other U3A members on video or want to take your interest group on-line or run a virtual meeting during lock down, then our Zoom Tutorials may be for you.

U3A Trust Volunteers are hosting Tutorials covering an Introduction to Zoom: The aim of this session is to help you become familiar with the basics of how to use the Zoom platform, what you can do on it, some of the functions (such as splitting into break-out rooms, instant polling, muting everyone!) and how to be safe.

Please see more details on this onSources Online (<https://sources.u3a.org.uk/>)

Please email National Office (mailto:NOVolunteer@u3a.org.uk) if you have any questions.

Book yourself onto the Introduction to Zoom session (<https://introduction-to-zoom-series-1.eventbrite.co.uk>)

Email to learn more about Zoom for Group meetings (mailto:NOVolunteer@u3a.org.uk?subject=Zoom%20Host%20Session)

Next Dates

Monday 11 May - Introduction to Zoom 14:30-15:30
Tuesday 12 May - Introduction to Zoom 10:30 -11:30
Wednesday 13 May - Zoom for Hosting Group Meetings 10:30-11:30
Thursday 14 May - Introduction to Zoom 10:30-11:30
Thursday 14 May - Zoom for Hosting Group Meetings 14:30-15:30
Friday 15 May - Zoom for Hosting Group Meetings 10:30 -11:30

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** Email (mailto:info@u3a.org.uk)

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