



# NEWSLETTER

Spring 2021 Edition

## Meridian End of Year report – *January 2021*

This year has been an exceptionally difficult one. We are now into nearly a year of lockdown. Many members have contacted me to say how lonely they are and how they miss the social contacts they enjoyed through Lunch Clubs, hobby clubs and social gatherings in local cafes.

Many complained at the extra expense of heating the house during the day.

But they also spoke of the wonderful support they have had from the local community – delivery services from local shops and food banks and hot meals delivered to your door.

**We give our thanks to all the local heroes.**

Some good news - Older People's Day is back, thankfully, but whether we will be able to hold any of our usual activities remains to be seen.

No news from the Afternoon Cream Tea students either. I hope they will come back to the Hillcrest Centre when we get back to normal.

We **will** get back to normal, now that the vaccination programme is fully functioning. Please be sensible and have it done. It is quick and efficient. I didn't have any after effects and those who did said they were no worse than the after effects of the flu jab.

Christine Bowman has put together lots of information which I think you will find very useful.

*Kate Davies*



## What I have been doing in lockdown

This lovely photo (below) was taken in Sheffield Park just at the end of Autumn – one of many walks I took with friends between lock downs (socially distanced of course).



On Monday evenings, Haven Harmonies Choir have been meeting via Zoom led by our brilliant leader Rosie

Brown and her husband Bernd from the studio at the top of their house. Thursday mornings has been ukulele morning – the Newhaven and Peacehaven u3a ukulele group led by me join together on Zoom and strum away for 75 minutes. Of course I needed to carry on with my music during this strange year!

Newhaven and Peacehaven U3A have been very active producing a bulletin every month which is sent out to members either by email or by post. It has contained articles, stories, quizzes, jokes, recipes helpful information e.g. recently how to get transport to the vaccination hubs. Also the Art Group show some of their wonderful work in the bulletin. At the start of the

first lock down we set up Phone Pals groups. Everyone of our members who wished were members of a Phone Pals group with a leader, each leader regularly contacts the members of their group to keep in touch and have a chat. We have had two monthly meetings via Zoom with a speaker. How times have changed we would never have dreamed of using Zoom a year ago!!

Let's hope that with the roll out of the vaccine life will be getting back to some kind of normal and we will be able to see our family and friends.

Keep well and safe – **Marian Stanley**

## Census 2021 – Sunday 21 March

The Census takes place every 10 years and your help is vital as it gives a unique picture of the society in which we all live. This year, due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, a "digital census" and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) will be encouraging people to respond on line – if they can. Otherwise please fill in the form as normal. There will be plenty of assistance from the ONS if you are struggling with the form. You must complete the census form by law. If you do NOT complete and return the census form, or give false information, you may be fined £1,000.

# Barn Theatre, Seaford



The Barn Theatre, in Seaford, has unfortunately had to close it's doors, at the beginning of March 2020, to the members of Seaford Musical Theatre, Seaford Musical Theatre Juniors and all members of the public.



During this enforced closure, the opportunity to do some renovation work was undertaken. Much of the work was to update the safety and practicality of the building.

A new Fire Alarm System has been installed; all electrical equipment has been cleaned, rewired and tested; new fire retardant curtains have been made for the auditorium. Other renovations include rebuilding of the lighting/cinema projection box, doubling the size of the props storage and a deep clean in all areas.

With any luck, all this hard work will be appreciated when the Barn can re-open it's doors with a fantastic production of "Oliver!"

It is hoped that the show, which will include an adult and junior cast, will attract large audiences of people from the local community and help The Barn Theatre celebrate the return of musical theatre to the town.

Hilary Ryan is the Wardrobe Mistress for this lovely theatre, and makes all the costumes. During lockdown, Hilary has also replaced all the theatre curtains.

## Quiz of the Year!

Amid all the disaster of the last year, one thing has stood out as everyone's cash saviour – that is, the I.M.F (the International Monetary Fund).

For most years of my life, I keep hearing how much we've borrowed. Some years we pay a little back, but later borrow it all back again, and now we owe an unimaginable sum!

But let me ask you this – who are they? What are they? Where are they, and where do they keep all this cash? Is it in gold, and under which Swiss mountain is it kept, and most intriguing is, because dozens of countries keep borrowing from this, where does all the money come from in the first place?

So, here's your challenge. Answer the 6 "W"s – Who, When, Where, What, Why and hoW!

Email your answer to: [meridianseniorsforum@gmail.com](mailto:meridianseniorsforum@gmail.com), or send your answer to: Kate Davies, Chair, Meridian Mature Citizens Forum: Glebe Cottage, Piddinghoe BN9 9AS East Sussex. The best response will be printed in our next newsletter. In addition, Kate will award the winner a lovely box of chocolate biscuits!

So, go and put your thinking caps on!

All the very best – *Pat the Hat*

## Local Elections

East Sussex is holding local elections on **Thursday 6 May** – but did you know you can arrange to vote by post if you apply now?

The elections are for all 50 county councillors, for some seats on district and borough councils and for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

Polling stations will be open as normal, but if you'd rather vote by post than in person, you can apply now to do this.

### Links for those with online access...

- [www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/apply-for-a-postal-vote)
- [www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/localelections/registering](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/localelections/registering)

If you are unable to access this information on line, and you need to either register to vote or need a postal vote please contact your local Electoral Registration Office:

**Lewes District Council**  
**Lewes & Eastbourne Councils**  
**Southover House, Southover Road**  
**Lewes BN7 1AB**

## Meridian Forum COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Committee members unanimously re-elected  
and are happy to stand for another year...**

**CHAIR** Kate Davies (Piddinghoe) 01273 516207

**VICE CHAIR** Pat Bowman

**SECRETARY** Hillary Ryan (Seaford)

**TREASURER** Marilyn Nolan (Newhaven)

**MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** Chris Bowman (Telscombe Cliffs)

Eileen Wood (*South Heighton*) – Rowena Reeves (*South Heighton*)

Pat Bowman / Chris Bowman (*Telscombe*)

Marian Stanley (*Newhaven*)

Zena Gibbs (Seaford) – Gill Hart (*Newhaven*)



Computer Group now holds **Zoom** sessions on the second Monday of the month from 10pm – 12 noon.

Contact Dave on:

[d.a.harley@brighton.ac.uk](mailto:d.a.harley@brighton.ac.uk)