

THE VOICE

APRIL 2020

Issue 50

President's Message

Firstly, I send my condolences to any member who has lost a loved family member or close friend recently due to the Coronavirus. As we all know it is very important to keep ourselves safe during this difficult time. To ensure we comply with the lockdown rules we have cancelled our April Monthly meeting

AGM. we are keeping our Annual General Meeting in May under review due to the ongoing lockdown. Our secretary Maureen has already sent you the nomination form for prospective new committee members. ***This year there are vacancies for both the President, Vice President and Secretary positions plus a few committee members.*** We are looking for members to offer their services to fill these positions for the benefit of our great organisation. Without a full committee of the 4 officers and a minimum of 2 general committee members the organisation cannot continue. This I do not wish to see happen so please step forward, I can assure you the committee is very rewarding and normally only takes a few hours of your time each month. Within the committee there are also different jobs which can be undertaken, if you wish to have more information before committing yourself please send me an email to : mickgoy1@gmail.com . Please remember the committee works for the benefit of all its members, with new members joining the committee who have great ideas and wish to be part of this great organisation and helping it move forward our U3A can only benefit.

False or misleading Information, please be reassured that your committee will not send any information to you unless it is from a recognised genuine site or we have been able to verify it. We will endeavour to keep you up to date with genuine and valuable information when this is available, either by email or on our Facebook site or both.

I am sorry but this month's edition is smaller than normal due to the unprecedented situation we find ourselves in at this present time.

Please have a good month and please keep safe and healthy.

President, Mick Goy

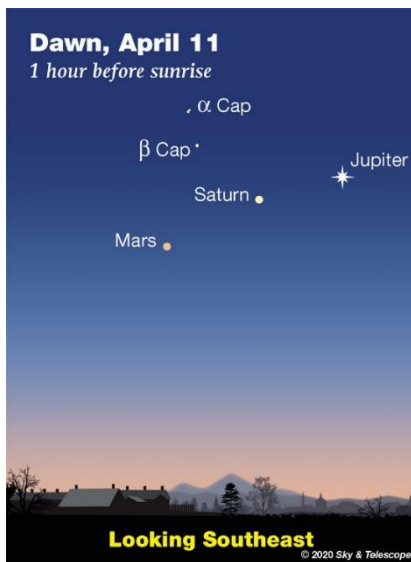
OUR APRIL MONTHLY MEETING

HAS BEEN CANCELLED DUE TO

THE NATIONAL CORONAVIRUS LOCKDOWN

News Update from the Astronomy Group

The lock-down will have a very major impact on anyone wishing to take in the majesty of the night sky, however there is still some interesting things and events to view if you have a window, balcony or patio. Last night, April 3rd Members of the Astronomy were informed that the brilliant planet Venus, the brightest object in the evening sky except for the Moon, would be positioned within the Pleiades Cluster, commonly known as The Seven Sisters. Binoculars or a small telescope were useful to view it clearly but keen-eyed people may have noticed the scene. Venus will continue to be a brilliant evening sky object for some time to come. There is to be a “Super Moon” on April 8th however this is a little misleading, the term is used to denote when the Full Moon is closer to us than normally and so appears slightly larger. The Moon’s orbit is very complex and the distance between the Earth and the Moon vary constantly from 356, 500 km to 406,700 km.



The dawn sky has the planets Mars, Jupiter and Saturn visible 1 hour before dawn and these are bright and easy to see. Mars you will notice has a reddish colouring which to the ancients made it appear rather aggressive and of course it was the Roman God of War!

Comet C/2019 Y4 ATLAS: Wikipedia image

There has been much excitement about Comet ATLAS, which could become a bright and impressive visitor to the night sky in May. Comet

ATLAS was discovered by the **Asteroid Terrestrial-Impact Last Alert System** based in Hawaii. The system is used to detect solar system objects which may possibly impact Earth. Comets are however very fickle and as they come closer to the Sun, from deep-space they brighten increasingly due to ices and dust particles being released, producing impressive Comas and tails, however many “fizzle out” before closest approach and are only observed by users of relatively large telescope.



Predictions for this comet are that it is to be very impressive, it is quite a large object and it is now brightening progressively. Its orbit has been calculated and it has travelled inwards from an incredible 662 AU (that is 662 times the Earth Sun Distance) taking 4,800 years approximately to reach the Sun. As it has likely not lost much of its volatile material Astronomers are expecting a fine display.

The Lyrids Meteor shower will be visible on April 22nd and of course this event requires the observer to be viewing in the early morning hours. No special equipment or knowledge is required just patiently view the sky in the general SE direction and look out for the bright “shooting stars”. Sometimes observers see more than 100 in an hour, however sometimes this figure is far less. If you have any questions about astronomy please do contact james.ince1@tiscali.co.uk

Travel Update

Dear Members,

Considering the State of Alarm being prolonged by the Government until April 26th gave us reason to cancel the May 19th trip to Manises and Lladro.

Francoise and I are very sorry but with all the uncertainties, even about what will happen after April 26th, we don't think we are able to make the above mentioned trip. **All participants for the Manises trip will be reimbursed; if you paid by bank transfer, please provide me with your IBAN number; if you paid by paypal the amount will be refunded automatically.**

Moreover, after much discussion and trying to visualise our lives after the Coronavirus is over, we still don't believe it possible to organise a trip in June with participating members in a confined space: it would be too risky and we are convinced that your first thoughts will be about family and friends in the UK instead of a one day trip.

We therefore decided to give all of us a break as far as trips are concerned. In the meantime the travel team will focus on organising a dazzling welcome back party in September/October and more exciting trips for the 2020/2021 season!

We thank you for all your enthusiastic support and hope to see all of you on many trips and events in the upcoming new season.

Please, stay safe and healthy, keep yourselves busy and positive and don't lose your sanity.

Kind regards.

From the Girls of the Travel Team

Any questions or suggestions? Email me at: travel-co-ordinator@u3a-oliva.org

Fancy some exercise during Lockdown.

Our member Jan Parry has found some exercise videos on You Tube called "walk a mile". They are all about 15 minutes long and she said it was quite a good way of keeping moving. There are loads of them and people could see which one suits them best.

Just search "walk a mile" on Youtube and up they come.

Group and News Update

Even though we are in lockdown there is still group activities going on. Some groups are opening up their sessions to non-members through the lockdown period and some groups have challenges for you to take up.

There is even a new online group. If you want to have a **game of chess**, then please get on touch with Jack Roberts on lallacuna26@gmail.com

Photography: open to all U3A members; the next challenge is to take an amusing photo of your pet or a creature over the next two weeks. Please send it to Lynne Pilcher to be placed in the gallery

Zumba: are now having two sessions a week through an on-line link. Friday and Monday at 11.30am for an hour. There is a charge of 2euros per person to join in this session. Please email Nancy if you are interested Nancy.Benn1@gmail.com

Yoga are also having online sessions. If you need any more information, please contact Shirley sajpatrick52@gmail.com

History and the appreciation of Art have a few pages of a quiz that will take some research. This could broaden your knowledge of art. Please check their group page for the information. I am still looking for a few more of the members stories, as to why you ending up in Oliva or in the surrounding area. Or a funny story to do with living here. I am going to collate them into a booklet. %00-2000 words please. And don't worry about spelling or grammar; I can talk to you about any editing requirements before publication.

Golf: I have a member keen to start and to be the Group Leader of beginner's (or improvers) Golf at Oliva Nova. Please email me if you are interested. Obviously due to the shutdown it may not be starting for a while, but it is good to know who is interested. Angela_Town@hotmail.co.uk

Publicity

Due to the coronavirus the publicity team decided to hold back on any press release for the time being, but we will be sending one out before the end of April. If anyone has any news to share, please let me know: Angela_Town@hotmail.co.uk

Don't forget The Oliva U3A has a Facebook group that all members can join and use to share information and to keep up with what is going on <https://www.facebook.com/groups/U3AOliva/> Thank you to all the 119 members who completed the member's survey. This is a big enough number to be able to draw conclusions. The prize winner of the meal for two has been selected and is Linda Tyler, congratulations to Linda.

Member discounts

In a recent email to all members I mentioned two new Members Benefits which I hope interest you **Ambulancias La Pena**, a private Ambulance Service new to Oliva and **Jennifer Cunningham Insurance Services**. The information about both of these benefits is available at or both of these are available at <https://u3aoliva.wildapricot.org/Members-Benefits> I just wanted to mention that after my request the Ambulance service website now has a multi-language translation app, if you wanted to find out more about their services. <https://www.ambulancias-lapenya.com/> Keep safe everyone and take care
Angela

Buy and Sell

The following are items either wanted or for sale on our Buy and Sell forum, this can be found on our website by clicking the members info tab and when loaded click on the Buy/sell forum tab.

1. Toyota Avensis D-4D car
2. 2 x Bicycle Helmets for sale
3. Mountain Bicycle for sale
4. Ladies Mountain bicycle for sale.

If you wish to sell an item or acquire one, complete a section on the forum for our members to see.

Line Dancers.

The Line Dancers wish to advise members who have booked to go to their BBQ that this has been cancelled due to the present Lockdown.

At present there is no rearranged date available for this but an announcement will be made when the future becomes clearer. Please check future editions of the Voice for a announcement.

IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEM OR REPORT WE CAN INCLUDE IN OUR NEXT EDITION PLEASE SEND IT TO ME AT mickgoy1@gmail.com BEFORE THE 8TH OF EACH MONTH.

Thank you for reading this edition our next publication Voice will be with you on the 15th of May

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