



News and information for our members

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WELCOME

In these unusual times we hope you're safe and well. To help, we're going to provide you with regular updates of activities from some of our classes. If you have any thoughts about contributions for future editions do send them to ros@recbedford.co.uk or david@recbedford.co.uk

SUMMER TERM COURSES

While our building may be closed we are still taking bookings for the summer term courses, as the wonders of technology are allowing us to run courses remotely via various platforms including video, WhatsApp and email. We urge you to continue booking courses to ensure the continuing success and future of The REC.

SELF ISOLATION HELP

Bedford Borough Council are establishing a community hub that will pull together volunteers, assist individuals self-isolating and seek to match both groups. For help email covid19@bedford.gov.uk or phone 01234 718101.



**Our doors are closed
BUT
OUR COURSES
ARE OPEN!**

This week a few of our students trialled a French lesson using Zoom, a web based video conferencing tool. This proved a great success as has our 'REC Bird and Wildlife' WhatsApp group. More information and student feedback on page 2.

STUDENT FEEDBACK FROM ZOOM TRIAL LESSON

“This afternoon a few of us from our “French Upper Intermediate” class acted as guinea pigs for Marion to test whether teaching on “Zoom” is a viable option. I have to inform you that it was very successful. I ask you to give Marion all the support she requires in order that she may continue to provide the course as scheduled during the summer term. Michael”

“I was one of a number Marion's Monday morning class members who, this afternoon, trialled a free App called Zoom, as a way to deliver classes remotely. We were all impressed with how easy it was to install and to use, with features such as screen-sharing and group chat. We would strongly recommend using it as a way of continuing to have our classes delivered while the REC is closed..... Regards Tim”

REC BIRDS & WILDLIFE WHATSAPP GROUP

REC tutor, Peter Holden, has set up a WhatsApp group to share bird and wildlife information. Peter said - “We now have 11 students signed up to the WhatApp Group and messages have been brisk with both observations and questions. So popular that we have had to put in a curfew and now only also messages between 9am and 10 pm! Dawn chorus recordings and late nights messages (mostly from me!) were disturbing other students!” To join please send you MOBILE phone number to admin@recbedford.co.uk.

ECONOMICS IN THE NEWS COURSE

Our Economics in the News students completed their final lesson this week with an on-line PowerPoint presentation. We're sure tutor, Angela Pollard, didn't anticipate the extraordinary events that would take place during the five week course, however she adapted the course and on the right is a snapshot of the beginning and end of her presentation.

MONETARY AND FISCAL POLICY

Any government has a range of policies (or 'tools') that they can use to achieve their macroeconomic objectives

The choices are;

- 1 Monetary Policy (delegated to the Bank of England)
- 2 Fiscal Policy (tax and spending)
- 3 Supply side policies

HOW DOES MONETARY POLICY WORK ?

CHANGES IN INTEREST RATES

CHANGES IN THE MONEY SUPPLY

(Quantitative easing)

Bank of England policy interest rate



Finally

Observer 22 March

What we are facing, indeed already experiencing, is a fall in output – gross domestic product – of anything between 10 and 20% in the next three months, according to Capital Economics, a consultancy with a well established reputation.

Why? Because the emergency declared by the government implies a collapse of demand for all but essential supplies, as the nation confronts what economists call a “supply shock” – factories closing or going on “short time” – while at the same time the level of consumer spending (ie by people like you and me) plummets as incomes collapse and so many of us are confined to our homes (in economists’ jargon, “a demand shock”).