

# The Viral Times

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*This picture was chosen as winner in the Photography Challenge "Colour"*

## From the Newsletter Editor

I hope you all enjoyed the last issue, if you have any comments please let me have them. Thanks again to all who volunteered their time to distribute hard copies to those members without e-mail.

I appreciate any and all contributions for this newsletter so please don't be shy. Put your 4 pennyworth in (to [paul.smith2000@talktalk.net](mailto:paul.smith2000@talktalk.net)) and let us know what you are doing to cope with this really difficult situation.

I am most grateful for all of the very positive comments I have received from the membership on "The Viral Times" but it wouldn't exist without all of the input from members. So please give yourselves a big pat on the back, and my sincere thanks to all the contributors.

**Bourne U3A website** <https://u3asites.org.uk/bourne/home>

Martin Adkins has been working very hard to make the website more interesting. It now contains pages for Latest News (including groups), Lockdown Boredom Ideas, back copies of the Newsletter and Viral Times, the Photographic Competition, local entries for the U3A Diary Project and a Coronavirus page with links to appropriate websites. Martin is adding new material every week. It is well worth a look.

## **A Photography Challenge?**

The challenge was to take photos on the subject of "Colour" and the entries were independently judged. Entries were received from Richard and Liz White, Alan Douglas, Jackie Searl, Malcolm Scriven & Bill Reid. The top 3 are shown, well done to all entrants.

**The new challenge is " My teapot!"**

Entries to :- [vasmroberts@gmail.com](mailto:vasmroberts@gmail.com)



## [An Alternative view of the lockdown](#)

### **Everything Old Is New Again: Social Distancing and Life with a Physical Disability**

I am a law professor & like my colleagues, I'm trying my best to adjust to the new realities imposed by COVID-19: No access to my office on campus, no in-person events, which are usually abundant this time of year, and, as of this writing, an open question as to whether my graduating students will be able to have the Graduation ceremony they have earned with their labour at the law, and which they so richly deserve.

I also have a few advantages; my law school, like many others, has an online LLM/MA program in health law, in which I have taught for several years, so teaching online is nothing new to me and I have been able to hit the ground running, while lending a hand to colleagues around the country who need it.

In a perverse way, one other advantage I have is that I have cerebral palsy, a physical disability. That sentence may give readers some pause, so the rest of this piece endeavours to explain just what I mean.

To varying degrees, people with disabilities have been practicing social distancing of one form or another for most of our lives. Depending on our individual level of mobility, we might be able to drive, but for a number of us, circumstances dictate that we should rely on public transportation, or on the kindness of friends and family who can get us where we need to go. I am one of the lucky ones, with access to both, but still, when schedules and availability don't allow it, I'm not going anywhere.

In my work life, this is not a problem. If I need to be in court or teach class at 2PM, but I can only get a ride to the train station at 7 AM, so be it and I'll find ways to kill time.

When it comes to social life, however, ever since I was a child, most of it took place electronically. The options to get out and about without actually living in a major city are limited, and that means that in a sense, I have been practicing what has now come to be known as "social distancing" for most of my life, with limited opportunity for face-to-face interaction except when someone else was available to facilitate it.

I used to look at this as something of a curse, but now I see it as a blessing. The reality of not leaving your house for a week or two at a time is nothing new to me, and so over the years I have developed strategies for coping with the emotional stress it causes. Many of these strategies have now been adopted by the general public, from FaceTime to Zoom sessions to texting and a good old-fashioned Netflix binge. In an era where direct human contact has been somewhat devalued, it is heartening to see people coming together virtually and valuing genuine interaction. We understand now, in a way that we perhaps did not before, the pain that the absence of connection brings with it, and how much pleasure we derive from the restoration of that connection, even in small measure.

Some day, hopefully soon, COVID-19 will be defeated and life as most of us knew it before will slowly return. But we would do well as a society to heed the lessons of the isolation which is our collective sacrifice at this time, and redouble our efforts to shine light in the lives of those often left in darkness.

**Christopher E. Czerwonka** | *Special Professor of Law* | Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University, New York, USA

## A little bit of humour

#Tech-Kid

This is Apple tree, ok.  
But where are the trees of  
Samsung, Lenova and HP...?



## A Short Poem for Spring

### Oh to be in England! – Robert Browning

Oh, to be in England  
Now that April's there,  
And whoever wakes in England  
Sees some morning, unaware,  
That the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf  
Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf,  
While the chaffinch sings on the orchard bough  
In England - now!!

Despite the Corona Virus Pandemic this beautiful poem still reflects how lovely our country is at this time of year.

## A Quiz

### Twenty Questions

#### Answers to the last quiz

1. Green. 2. Hungarian. 3. Indonesia. 4. Hood. 5. The Third Man. 6. Helium.
7. Mary Queen of Scots. 8. Red Deer. 9. Van Klomp. 10. Glass. 11. Troy.
12. Cork. 13. Josaiah. 14. Ian Fleming. 15. The Times. 16. Penny Black and Twopenny Blue.
17. Nicki Lauda. 18. Sponges. 19. Shellac. 20. Cretaceous.



### **And now for the new one!**

1. Who played Manuel in 'Fawlty Towers' ?
2. Wormwood was originally the mindbending and blindness-causing ingredient in which alcoholic drink ?
3. What is the official country residence of the Prime Minister ?
4. What is processed in an oast house ?
5. What is the highest mountain in England ?
6. 'The Power of Love' was the only No.1 hit for which brilliant female vocalist ?
7. Zaphod Beeblebrox was a two-headed alien in which sci-fi novel ?
8. Aeolian processes are the result of which natural geographical force ?
9. In which city was Mozart born ?
10. Which artist painted 'The Girl with the Pearl Earring' ?
11. Phobos and Demos are moons of which planet ?
12. La Scala is an opera house in which city ?
13. For what would you use a spokeshave ?
14. Cantilever and pontoon are types of what ?
15. Was Juliet a Capulet or a Montagu ?
16. A tagine is a cooking vessel from which part of the world ?
17. French, German, Italian and Romanche are official languages in which country ?
18. What have Harlow, Welwyn Garden City and Letchworth got in common ?
19. How many is a full set of human teeth ?
20. Which children's author was famous for juggling a snooker cue and 3 pints of lager ?

**Answers & more questions in the next issue! (no googling!)**

### **How are you keeping yourself occupied ?**

One of our members sent me this:-

I have found a very calming therapeutic pastime in Paint by Numbers. Not exactly artistic but deeply satisfying. Not something I would have thought of doing.

I'd be interested to know of the new hobbies other people have taken up in the strange and different times we find ourselves in.

#### **From the drawing & Art Group**

There may be budding artists out there that have never attempted to produce a picture of any kind. Although our group is completely full it does not stop you having a go at home. One suggestion is to try and sketch a still life scene.

When you have finished email it to me for inclusion in the next U3A bulletin. ([petergillatt@sky.com](mailto:petergillatt@sky.com))

#### **A Gardening Challenge?**

How are you getting on with the gardening challenge? Don't forget to send in your pictures.

Please send all your entries to, Janet Blacoe. E-Mail - [janetblacoe@gmail.com](mailto:janetblacoe@gmail.com)

**An interesting site for those groups who like visiting art galleries, museums etc is:**

<https://artsandculture.google.com/explore>