



HAPPY EASTER

The Coronavirus Times

Everyone is going through tough times at the moment, people who have the virus or family and friends who are suffering, or worse, have passed away, this newsletter doesn't seek to make light of the situation, but rather help to keep you feeling connected and supported by your U3A family.

Brian Starkey, from the Quiz Group, has kindly put together a short quiz to keep your brain in fine fettle.

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| 1 How many pedals are there on a modern piano? | 6 How many bones are there on a skull and crossbones flag? |
| 2 What was soaked in vinegar then hung on a string | 7 What is the Italian name for pie? |
| 3 What would you be on if you rode a chopper? | 8 Which is larger 50% or 5/8ths? |
| 4 Where did the lady, who wore rings on her fingers and bells on her toes, ride to? | 9 Usually partnered with milk, but sometimes with jam and custard, name this yellow gold dried food? |
| 5 Which reptile, according to the song, should never smile? | 10 I'm called thick when I'm close to the ground, but people smile when I'm high. What am I? |

The answers may be found on our website, ([link to website page](#)). Don't cheat now!

We have been lucky to have some sunny and even warm weather so it's a good time to take a few photos of the wonderful spring flowers and wildlife you can see from isolation. Pam Lynch has done that, see her photos on the website. ([Link to website page](#)).

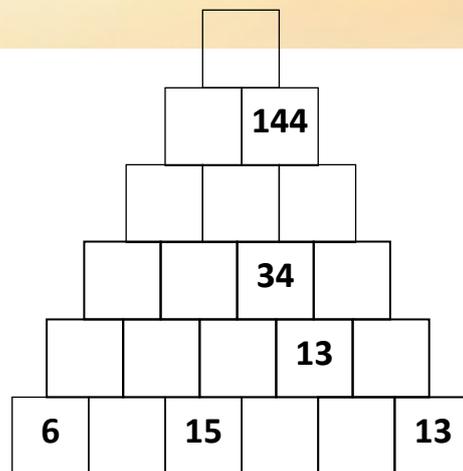
Number Pyramid

Ken Smith has kindly provided a Maths puzzle to tease the brain while in isolation.

The Maths Puzzle - What do you get as the Top Number of the Pyramid?

The answer may be found on the website ([link to the website page](#)).

Write a number in every empty block so that each block is equal to the sum of the two blocks directly beneath it.



Bumblebees

With this enforced isolation, I have relished in the solace of my garden, which must be the case for many of you. We have more time to observe bees, butterflies, birds and other creatures in our gardens. For the past week, bumble bees have been lazily buzzing around, so I thought this would be an opportunity to find out more about them. The Queen spends all winter underground, and when she emerges, she drinks nectar from flowers to give her energy. She finds a suitable nest, either a hole in the ground, tussocky grass, bird boxes or under garden sheds. The Queen makes a mound of pollen and wax and lays her first batch of eggs. Then she sits on her eggs making shivering motions to keep them warm. Grubs or larvae emerge, feed on pollen and nectar which the Queen brings, and hatch 2 weeks later. This first batch are female 'worker' bees. I hope to bring you some more information about bumblebees in the next newsletter.

Ruth Harris

There are definite benefits to music and singing on health and well-being. Alison Simmonds, who is in the Singing for Fun Group, has been trying and enjoying the Gareth Malone Home Choir. It is available through Decca and YouTube. The warm ups are great fun. Why not give it a go. 5.30 p.m. every week day evening. You can always catch up at another time. (<https://decca.com/greatbritishhomechorus/>)
(<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLZeyn7glWqDQwBYsiMUGWU0KmCdGWA14m>)

If the theatre is more to your taste then see National Theatre (nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home) and the Royal Shakespeare Company (shakespearesglobe.com/watch). Culture in your own home, how marvellous.

The Money Saving Expert has pulled together a list of things that normally come at a fee, but are being provided free for a while (www.moneysavingexpert.com) (search “paid for things they’ve made free”). Not much is free in life and these normally wouldn’t be so scan through and see what you can find.

If you are trying to maintain your fitness there are some good offerings on TV and online, Joe Wickes is a particular favourite with children but is worth a try, at your own level of course, don’t go over doing it. The Green Goddess, Diana Moran, has also been resurrected and at eighty she doesn’t look too bad on it. 6.55 and 8.55 a.m.

A communication from Brackley U3A wouldn’t be complete without a joke from Ian so here goes.

POOR JOKE ALERT

A couple go for a meal at a Chinese restaurant and order the 'Chicken Surprise'.
The waiter brings the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot.
Just as the wife is about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rises slightly
and she briefly sees two beady little eyes looking around before the lid slams back down.
'Good grief, did you see that?' she asks her husband. He hadn't, so she asks him to look in
the pot. He reaches for it and again the lid rises, and he sees two little eyes looking
around before it slams down.

Rather perturbed, he calls the waiter over, explains what is happening, and demands an explanation.

'Please sir,' says the waiter, 'what you order?'

The husband replies, 'Chicken Surprise.'

(You're going to love this.....)

You're going to hate yourself for loving this!.....)

..'Ah! So sorry,' says the waiter, 'I bring you Peeking Duck!'

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| Finally to give you hope for the future we have included a poem from Anna Coates' 6 year old niece, what a creative talent. "I think it's so clever for a 6 year old." | "There once was a skinny black cat And he spied a big smelly rat He gave it a chase All over the place And then he was happy and fat" |
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Continue to take care and let us know if there is anything you would like to see in the next Coronavirus Times, email (newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com).