



Branston & District u3a – 6th December 2020

Dear Member,

Let it snow...

Good morning, it's another pleasantly sunny day, what a wonderful change after Thursday and Friday's miserable weather. I thought the forecast for Friday was for rain rather than snow, so it came as a bit of a surprise. Maybe I should pay more attention to the forecast.

At least the garden got a good enough soaking that it was ready for me to plant the new raspberry canes that arrived on Friday evening. We decided to go for some autumn-cropping ones for a change, to lengthen the harvesting season. We're often away when the raspberries are at their best, so we tend to miss out somewhat – except for this year, of course, when for some reason we were home for the whole of the cropping season. So with those and the blackberries that went in last winter, we're hoping for a bumper autumn harvest next year.

Who's at the Door?

By the way, I'm sure that many of you were a step ahead of me when I mentioned our unwelcome visitor last week. It turns out that the village was targeted by a gang known as the Nottingham Knockers, who are known as disreputable individuals who are not only involved in pressuring householders into buying their wares, but also "case the joints", passing on their intelligence to criminals who follow up with break-ins. So it will pay to be on your guard in the near future if you were visited.



Holiday Time!



I hope that you are getting excited about going on holiday on Tuesday – at least virtually! We have Stephen Wells speaking to us on the history of Butlin's for our Monthly Meeting. We begin at 2.00pm, although I shall start the meeting a few minutes before that. As before, you will be able to join the meeting with your microphone on, but will be muted once the introduction and talk begin. Then you can be unmuted for questions.

[The link for the meeting is here](#), and if necessary, the **meeting ID is 839 1022 5942** and the **passcode is : butlins** . I shall be grateful if you resist the temptation to click on the link ahead of time, as I receive emails when people join too early, and they're a bit distracting. I'll re-send the invitations tomorrow, just in case.

Chris Hodson tells me that for our January Monthly Meeting, she has booked Mike Brook to speak on "Musings from the Amateur Stage", anecdotes from his experiences in amateur dramatics. So book the date – January 26th.

I've had the pleasure of introducing yet more Members to Zoom this week, so we're definitely becoming more switched on! Tomorrow evening, the Photography Group will be meeting on Zoom, so we're gradually getting a reasonable number of Groups up and running again.

The Wrongs Rights of Quizzing

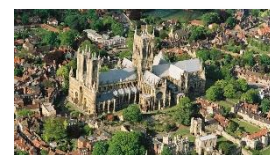


Oh dear, how wrong can I get things. Janet Foster was the first to return the answer to the crossword last Sunday – and the first to point out that the Spinnaker Tower is in PORTSMOUTH, not Plymouth. No wonder Janet's head hurt. Oops – and my apologies to all of you who have spent hours trying to figure out the anagram.

However, I am attaching the solution for those who tried to solve the crossword.

This week it has been Lynn Snelson's turn to be first to return her answers to the Trophy's and Awards quiz, followed by Chris Hodson and Arch. Both sets of answers were excellent, so well done to all three contributors. The answers are attached, as are the results of the Pot Luck quiz of a couple of weeks ago, which were not published in time for last week's KiT.

As I suggested last week, the latest quiz on the national u3a website is from Branston u3a – as devised by Colin and Joyce Beck, so that's a feather in both of their caps! So it has been fortunate that Karen Wood sent a quiz on the history of Lincoln



as we've used the Beck's quiz before. Karen says of her quiz, *"I pulled this together on Lincoln's history as a bit of fun for the trainee guides at the Castle early in lockdown. I'm fairly certain all of the answers could be researched on the internet."* Well, she's right, I've looked up some of the answers so far, and some of the results are quite fascinating – and occasionally very amusing, but more of that next week.

Recreation Time



Today's short story is written by Bill Fowler, and is called "The Bell". Another compelling story by one of our local Creative Writing Group members. Enjoy reading it!

Garry Snelson has forwarded an email from the Royal Albert Hall offering online events over the Christmas period, together with gifts (to buy!), so have a look at the attached htm file if you think you might be interested.

Up for Grabs

It sounds like Andrea White has been doing some Coronavirus Cleaning, as she is has a slide projector up for grabs, as she says, *"I've found an old slide projector that is in good working order and wondered off any of our members have found old slides in boxes whilst doing a Corvid clear out. If anyone would like it it's free for collection, otherwise I'll take it to the charity shop."* If anyone does want the projector, let me know and I'll pass your information on to Andrea if you don't already have her details. And, by the way, I think I can lay my hands on or two halogen light bulbs of the type that was used in many projectors, so they might fit, and could be useful as spares.



Wildlife

I have received the latest newsletter from Vine House Farm, and it makes interesting reading in terms of farm management as well as the current situation of the wildlife found on their farm. A copy is attached to the email.

Today's wildlife photos come from Janet Webb who has been practicing the art of manual focusing with her camera, and what better to practice on than a walk to Cliff Farm to see Blue Tits. As Janet says, you can never have enough photos of Blue Tits! The photos are below.

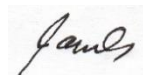
Christmas Greetings

I didn't receive any feedback from my suggestion of a Christmas card "wall", so I'll mention it just once again, that if you wish to send greetings, with images if you like, to fellow u3a Members as a group, send me your greetings by email and I'll construct a "virtual" wall that will appear in the KiT email on 20th December – and maybe even on the website.

And, as always, let me have any contributions that you think might be of interest to fellow u3a-ers, whether it's information on events, photos, quizzes, just general musings – or telling me what I've got wrong! I'll be pleased to hear from you.

Now I DEFINITELY need to get some cards written, so keep well, keep, and keep smiling,

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'James'.

James Hewson, 4 Chartridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1UE 01522 828780

Janet Webb's Blue Tits

