

A Letter from our Chair

Dear Member

A very warm welcome to our very first new style newsletter. It is the brainchild of Ursula Steiger who will be assisting Pat Rose in its production. We are very anxious to keep in touch with you all in as many ways as we can. I hope you will really enjoy reading the news and will also contribute items. We would love to hear from you! Take care.

Chris Plant, Chair



A screenshot of a weekly chat-on-line group. We are living, learning about each other and laughing!

From the Editorial Team

We are aware that our members need to be kept informed and hopefully cheered up in this difficult time of isolation. To this end the committee has been working hard to devise various means to achieve this. As we cannot produce our usual quarterly Newsletter it was decided that we would introduce a monthly Bulletin. This will enable us to keep you up to date and offer snippets that might be of general interest or just put a smile on your face. We welcome items from you, even if it is only a couple of lines, and this may well open further thoughts on the way forward once we are over this lock-down period.

A Poem Relevant to our Times

This poem has been credited to the Irish Catholic writer Kathleen O'Meara, aka Grace Ramsay and written in 1869, but this has been disputed and credited to Kitty O'Meara, a former teacher and chaplain from Wisconsin and written in March 2020.

And people stayed at home
and read books and listened
and rested and exercised
and made art and played
and learned new ways of being
and stopped
and listened deeper
someone meditated
someone prayed
someone danced
someone met their shadow
and people began to think differently
and people healed
and in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways,
dangerous, meaningless and heartless,
even the earth began to heal
and when the danger ended
and people found each other
grieved for the dead people
and they made new choices
and dreamed of new visions
and created new ways of life
and healed the earth completely
just as they were healed themselves.

A Lock-down Smile for your Lock-down

An actual transcript between *USS Lincoln* and the Canadian authorities off the coast of Newfoundland.

Authorities. Please divert your course 15 degrees south to avoid collision.

Lincoln. Recommend you divert your course north to avoid collision.

Authorities. Negative. You will have to divert 15 degrees south to avoid collision.

Lincoln. This is the Captain of the US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Authorities. No. I say again divert YOUR course.

Lincoln. This is the aircraft carrier *USS Lincoln*, the second largest ship in the United States Navy Atlantic Fleet. We are accompanied by three Destroyers, three Cruisers and numerous escort vessels. I demand that you change course one-five degrees north, or counter measures will be taken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Authorities. THIS IS A LIGHTHOUSE. YOUR CALL.

Have you read . . . ?

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Mackesy. It comes highly recommended and is an absolutely heart-warming read, just right for the times we are living through at the moment. It's a book that children and adults can enjoy, a family book in fact. It is available from www.waterstones.com or, of course, Amazon. I have tried to find out if there are any book-ordering services available over the telephone but have been unsuccessful. If you are wanting to order something but do not have Internet access please contact me on 01227 711 536.

Ursula Steiger

The Hay Festival

The Festival will be held online this year under the title **Hay Festival Digital** (22–31 May) offering all manner of good things, such as the Wordsworth 250th anniversary celebrations (with Margaret Atwood, Benedict Cumberbatch, Jonathan Pryce and Vanessa Redgrave), films, talks and book reviews. Check it out on www.hayfestival.com/home.

A Message from your Committee

Members will recall that our AGM, scheduled for April, which had to be postponed for no longer than three months, had been rescheduled for 8 July. This meeting is now cancelled as the Government ban on physical meetings of significant numbers of people is very unlikely to be lifted by then. In accordance with Third Age Trust guidance, the committee will meet on 13 July by video-conferencing and make any decisions required. These will be circulated to Members and ratified at our next AGM, which is to be held in April 2021.

A Plea for Help

Your Director of Studies is working with tutors to ensure that we have learning opportunities via video-conferencing during the autumn months. If you are familiar with Zoom or Google Hang Out, please could you offer to help tutors who need technical support. If you can, Pam McGregor would be delighted to hear from you.

Contact: directorofstudies@canterbury.org.uk

or Ursula Steiger via email at ursulae@btinternet.com.

Facebook

Members who like Facebook will be pleased to know that we now have a U3A Canterbury Facebook page.

And why not take a look at . . .

the brilliant weekly National Theatre At Home series, every Thursday on YouTube at 7.00, for details see [National Theatre At Home/Events](http://NationalTheatreAtHome.com/Events).

Do keep an eye on our website to keep up to date on all that is happening:

[www.http://u3asites.org.uk/canterbury](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/canterbury)