

## From the Chair

Dear Member

Welcome to our second Bulletin! Many thanks to all those who have contributed to the production and to the varied and interesting contents. I look forward to seeing a number of you at our very first Monthly Meeting via Zoom on 15 July.

On behalf of the committee I send you very best wishes and a reminder that 'We will meet again'.

*Chris Plant, Chair*

## Diane Atkin

We were all saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Diane; we will publish a full account of her immense contribution to the development of our U3A in the next bulletin. We have been informed by her family that due to the numbers allowed at the crematorium in Barham the service will be streamed live on the internet. As so many of you had expressed what a force of nature she was, the family wished they had been able to have you there to celebrate her life. As this is not possible they would love you all to be there in virtual spirit. The service will be held on Tuesday 30 June at 4 p.m. Below are the details for logging in to the service.

<https://www.wesleymedia.co.uk/webcast-view> Login / Order ID: 37401 Password: uyrsswt

## Published Article (A first for the U3A!)

Canterbury and District have had an article published in a research journal.

The culmination of over a year's work on a research project which evaluated the effects of a community engagement programme at the Sidney de Haan Centre for the Arts and Health, is the publication of *Carers Create: Carer perspectives of a creative programme for people with dementia and their carers on the relationship within the (carers and cared for) dyad* in an academic journal which is accessible online. Our research team input to the design of the study facilitated the focus groups, and analysed the data, as well as assisting the lead writer. All ten of our team worked together—it is very much a group production. Some learned new skills along the way, which is the aim of the U3A. All of us are cited as the joint authors. Here is a link to the article, which is free to download:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1471301220933121>

Do have a look, it is interesting to anyone who is, or who may become, a carer.

*Submitted by Rona Hodges (research coordinator)*

## Survey Results

The committee would like to thank everyone who completed our recent survey on restarting courses. One third of members responded and did so very quickly. Our aim was to try to understand how members would feel about attending U3A activities once they are allowed to do so and the insights we gained are very helpful. Some of the results are shown below. All the percentages refer to the number of respondents.

- \* 65% would be either cautious or very concerned to attend activities.
- \* 35% planned to go back to what they previously did as soon as it's allowed, nevertheless only 12% expected to attend an activity without separation.
- \* 25% told us they were in the vulnerable category and a number of others told us that a member of their household was in that category.
- \* 6% had gone to courses last year but won't do so this year.

In terms of the types of meetings, 60% would be comfortable in open air settings or venues that ensure separation, 42% in videoconferences and 23% in members' homes. The survey will help us give guidance for tutors and consider the financial impact of using halls at lower occupancy. We expect that attitudes will change in the coming months so the very quick response from members will allow us to run another survey before putting the final programme together.

*David Clarke*

## **Virtual Breakfast Club**

Outside of U3A, I'm part of a six-strong informal breakfast group that used to meet every three to four weeks to put the world to rights, as we older, wiser people do (four of us belong to U3A). Clearly we can't meet at present, but instead we now have a weekly virtual breakfast meeting, lasting about an hour. Apart from putting the Covid world to rights, we have one or two subjects to discuss, giving us each 5–10 minutes on each subject. These have included:

- \* our 5 favourite dinner guests, living or dead
- \* the teacher who had the most impact on us
- \* the place on earth that wild horses wouldn't drag us back to
- \* a time and place in history where we would like to visit
- \* the pinnacle of our career/lives
- \* favourite films, ditto plays and paintings

We have a lot of fun doing this (we take the mickey a lot), but also it makes us think and do some research, not a bad thing at present. We also have imaginary prizes and penalties.

*Graham Phillips*

## **Book Review    *Blood Ties*    by Peter Taylor-Gooby**

A thought-provoking and often harrowing book to read, it is set in 2022 and focuses on the issue of people trafficking. It is estimated that 150,000 people are working against their will but are too afraid to go to the police, the traffickers having taken their passports. The book traces one family, a father and his son and daughter, as they join a campaign to welcome refugees and asylum seekers whilst working to push the treatment of refugees higher on the political agenda.

The author states that he believes you can only truly understand the issues that matter to people through your feelings, your imagination and your compassion. His writing certainly helps us to understand the issues we face today.

Peter, a member of our U3A, is a Research Professor of Social Policy and has written 23 books. It will be available in August from all Ebook stores, paperback, £1.99.

*Reviewed by Christine Plant*

## Zoom, 2020

I never thought I'd do it  
I'm on Zoom  
I never thought I'd need it  
But now, I'm on Zoom  
I've been a technophobe  
Hubby used the laptop  
But now I'm on my own  
And I'm on Zoom

I'll admit that help was due  
Many a hiccup too  
Amazing, art dance, not gloom,  
All on Zoom  
I prefer face-to-face,  
Of course I do  
But during this pandemic  
Zoom is what I do.

Rosemary Welsh

## Glorious Insults

These glorious insults are from an era before the English language was reduced to four-letter words.

- \* A Member of Parliament to Disraeli: *'Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.'*  
*'That depends, Sir,'* said Disraeli, *'on whether I embrace your policies or your mistress.'*

- \* *He had delusions of adequacy.*

Walter Kerr

- \* *He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.*

Winston Churchill

- \* *I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.*

Clarence Darrow

- \* *He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary.*

William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway)

- \* *Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it.*

Moses Hadas

- \* *I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.*

Mark Twain

- \* *He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.*

Oscar Wilde

- \* *I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend, if you have one.*

George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill

*Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second . . . if there is one.*

Winston Churchill, in response.

*submitted by Mary Telford*