

## Messages from the Committee

### AmazonSmile

Our U3A is now a member of AmazonSmile. This programme has been established by Amazon to enable charities to benefit from donations from AmazonSmile. It is a simple, automatic way for any of our members to shop online at no extra cost to them. Amazon funds all donations and gives 0.5% of an item purchased by a member from AmazonSmile to our U3A. There is no difference in the prices or items available on the AmazonSmile website to those on the Amazon website. Just select U3A Canterbury from the list of charitable organisations at [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). To make a purchase, return to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), or activate AmazonSmile on your Amazon Shopping app on your IOS or Android phone (found under 'settings' once you have selected a charity for the first time via a web browser).

### Your Ideas Needed

Rona Hodges and I recently attended a meeting in connection with our Memorandum of Understanding with the University. Helen Brooks, the Director of Research and Innovation for the Division of Arts and Humanities, chaired the meeting. Helen spoke about what the University could do for the U3A. I agreed to contact our members and ask what you would all like to do with the University in terms of research and courses, including ideas for research projects. Helen asked if members would like to attend short courses. If you would like to join in a Zoom talk with Helen I will be very happy to arrange it.

Please do send me your ideas by email: [chair@u3acanterbury.org.uk](mailto:chair@u3acanterbury.org.uk) or telephone me: 01843 847 276. Rona and Jo work hard with the research team and this an opportunity to extend our link with the University.

*Chris Plant*

### Good News

I'm sure many of you have discovered that Sky Arts is now available on Freeview, channel 11 in our case. I have recently discovered their Sunday evening book club (7–9 p.m.). It's interesting and stimulating, featuring talks with authors, some well-known and some new. It's a magnet into the wonderful world of books. And, of course, there is always the weekly session with André Rieu on a Monday evening and many other excellent programmes throughout the week. Enjoy it while it is available.

### Share your memories

We would like to make our next issue special to lift our spirits at a difficult time. So please share a memory, distant or recent, of Christmas, or the festive season if you prefer.

Fifty words maximum, shorter if you can manage it. It would be lovely to have a sharing December Issue. Please send your entries to me: [ursulae@btinternet.com](mailto:ursulae@btinternet.com) or by post to 28 Chestnut Drive, Sturry, Canterbury CT2 0NB.

*Ursula Steiger*

## **Spring Holiday**

There are still a few places left if you are considering booking for our U3A Spring Holiday, May 2021, Historic Houses and Heritage of Northumbria, see the October issue of the News Bulletin for details. The tour operators are confident it will go ahead. If you would like to book send a SAE to Roger and Margaret Lansdell, 6 Priory Gardens, Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3HT, for a brochure and booking form.

## **Book Review**

### **A collection of twenty winning short stories, edited by Lindsay Fairgrieve**

Lindsay is a member of our U3A.

How do you review a book of short stories from various parts of the world, albeit mainly western, written during the initial part of a pandemic and reflecting some of the restrictions placed on us during lockdown? That was my question and, in the end, I decided to get reading, involving a friend who is severely sight impaired and dependent on others reading to her or using audio. So, we set off on an adventure of some superb short stories which did what I am told short stories should do, that is, shift the reader's perspective and attitude at some stage. Others were less captivating leaving me looking for a resolution or purpose and a few seemed to be no more than the writing down of thoughts.

We make these observations knowing that most of the writers had entered a competition and won the right to be published in this book. We do not know how many entries there were and are uncertain about the criteria. The book is an interesting collection of lockdown experiences affecting lives in many different ways. Members who enjoy short stories should judge for themselves by obtaining this book on line at £2.74 for the Kindle version, £9.95 for paperback and free if you are with Kindle unlimited.

*Ursula Steiger*

## **The Freedom of Lockdown**

Following my retirement and an interlude of cruising freedom, I was enticed back to the University of Kent and into the life of a laboratory scientist in the Biosciences Department. The only drawback is the need to read scientific papers which are, with rare exceptions, written in the least literate form of the English language outside the White House. These are fascinating and deeply meaningful (I am referring now to scientific papers) to me and a few hundred around the world in my field, but to no-one else.

Since Covid-19 intervened, I have been able to read what and when I wanted to, and it has been a rediscovery of personal freedom and with it I have come across some of the most interesting and literate scientific writing, books and articles, both in my specialist field and much more widely. I read and read and read. I have several books on the go at any one time. I look up things in Wikipedia, *The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*, Poem for the Day, various newspapers; I potter, I'm a magpie. I call it constructive displacement activity. I feel I have expanded my horizons and with them, I think, my insights and personal satisfaction. And I have an itch to write. Writing used to be a chore. Now it's personal. Whether anything comes of it, we'll see. So far *The Guardian* has ignored nearly all my letters, even the short ones.

*Brian Cox*

## Exercise for the Brain, Part 2

If you enjoyed the first part of the body parts quiz, the answers of which are below, then have a go at part 2.

13. Oy, sexy aide, can you produce a flower? (2-3, 5)
14. Fancy free too. (4, 5)
15. Deaf hero possibly has gone. (8)
16. Popular advertising website. (7)
17. Used for the strings of musical instruments. (6)
18. Jeannie's was light brown. (4)
19. Max Bygraves recommends having these. (5)
20. Possibly bather ate this Buddy Holly hit. (9)
21. Sounds like a trendy flower. (7)
22. These are possibly found on tennis site. (10)
23. Flowery part of the eye. (4)
24. Spielberg thriller film. (4)
25. Make an aggressive attack. (2, 3, 3, 7)

### Answers to October quiz

1. Thanklessness. 2. Fire Arm. 3. Piggyback. 4. Belly/Tummy Button. 5. Bladder. 6. Dem Dry Bones.
7. Bottom. 8. High Brow. 9. Treasure Chest. 10. Chin. 11. Dimple. 12. Ear.



## In other words . . .

Are you fascinated by words and their meanings? Here are a few you may not have come across.

*Aeolist* – a pompous person with a pretence of wisdom or spiritual insight.

*Agathokakological* – composed of both good and evil.

*Cryptoscopophilia* – the desire to peer into the windows of homes when passing by.

*Deipnosophist* – having the skill of learned/philosophical small talk when dining.

*Oniochaliasia* – shopping as a means of therapy.

*Psithurism* – the sound of wind through the trees.

*Rantipole* – a wild, reckless young person.

*Tsundoku* – buying books and leaving them unread in a pile.

## and . . .

### A few words on words

\* But words are words; I never yet did hear

That the bruise'd heart was pierced through the ear. *William Shakespeare*

\* Words are, of course, the most powerful drug used by mankind. *Rudyard Kipling*

\* Short words are best and the old words when short are best of all. *Sir Winston Churchill*

\* Words are wise men's counters, they do but reckon with them, but they are money of fools. *Thomas Hobbes*

\* A word spoken in due season, how good is it! *Proverbs 15:23*

## Apple Cake Recipe Review

I tried Pat's Apple Cake recipe with one thought, that this looks like my kind of recipe—chuck it all in and no intelligence test on the instructions—and I must say I was not at all sure how it would turn out. Well, it is a winner! One of our five fruits in there and not too sweet for us health-promoting oldies—texture great. Thank you, Pat.

I also loved the bons mots in the bulletin.

*Chris Cayley*



## What was that?

It's OK to talk to yourself, it is even OK to answer yourself. But when you ask yourself to repeat what you have just said, you have a problem! *Silver Surfers*



## What we do in Lockdown

I am keeping up my ukulele strumming and embarked on learning to play guitar, also painting to retain some sanity. This is a caricature of the ukulele band. It's not really my style but it presented me with a fiddly challenge. See how many people you can identify.

*David Le Breton*



Please keep sending in your items of interest, from a couple of sentences up to 250 words to Ursula Steiger [ursulae@btinternet.com](mailto:ursulae@btinternet.com) or [Editor@U3ACanterbury.co.uk](mailto:Editor@U3ACanterbury.co.uk)