

## A Gentle Reminder

Members on email will have had a renewal letter from our Membership Secretary this week. The printed version is included in this mailing.

We look forward to receiving your positive answer and are working hard to make sure our u3a has something to offer to all at this difficult time.

Thank you for your patience and perseverance.



## National Newsletter

We hope that you are enjoying the regular offerings in the National u3a newsletter. It is also well worthwhile to visit the national u3a website. The Events page has some interesting happenings such as winter schools and a ukulele jam session.



## Good News

Some of the Zoom courses that are currently running filled up really quickly and some members were unable to get places. Happily a number of tutors have kindly agreed to repeat courses in the near future. So look out for notifications on our website and in the next Bulletin.



## Read any good books lately?

Members have commented on their enjoyment of our book reviews, so reading is obviously one way many of us are spending time when unable to go out. How about sharing what you have read in around fifty words? It's amazing how much you can say in a few lines as many of us found when sharing our Christmas memories.



## Monthly Meeting

Our next Monthly Meeting is on **Wednesday 10 February 2.00 for 2.15 p.m.** via Zoom. The talk, given by Imogen Corrigan, is 'Hazards of the Journey—Pilgrimage and Travel in the Middle Ages'. We are pleased that so many of you attend and enjoy our monthly meetings via Zoom. The above talk promises to be exciting and we look forward to seeing you.



## Festival News

We are encouraged to hear that plans for the Canterbury Festival 2021 are being developed and there are one or two exciting new ideas. Friends of the Festival have had a cheerful letter from Tina and we are very much hoping that we will be able to enjoy some live music and song in the autumn.



## Book Review

### *Fracture* by Andrés Neuman

Translated by **Nick Caistor** and **Lorenza Garcia**

This book by the Argentinian poet and novelist is a mind- and emotion-stretching novel, exploring the effects of both personal and national trauma on an individual and a culture. We start with the first intimations of the tsunami in Japan, and discover that Mr. Watanabe is a Hiroshima survivor.

As his story unfolds, and we are drawn in, our perspective on our personal histories and identities is constantly widened to the geopolitical history we have lived through, and gently helped to take that perspective into our personal past.

The story is written with kindness and a reflective vitality and instils that in the reader. The language is poetic, the pace flowing and nuanced. This reader did not mind that she was unsure as to where the story was heading; there was no need to hurry—the experience was absorbing as it unfolded.

*Kintsugi* is the Japanese art of repairing broken (*fractured*) pottery with powdered gold. ‘When a piece of pottery breaks, the kintsugi craftspeople put it together again and place powdered gold into each crack to emphasise the spot or spots where the break occurred.’

By the end of the novel, or in the reflection that comes when one has finished reading it, the reason for the title becomes clear, and nudges its way into our own understanding of our pasts and what kind of wholeness it is that makes us who we are, now.

Published by Granta (£14.99). To order a copy go to [guardianbookshop.com](http://guardianbookshop.com)

Lynn Maree



## Random Thoughts

- **Coronacoaster** *noun*: the ups and downs of a pandemic. One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks and the next you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.
- I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.
- I'm at that age where my mind still thinks I'm 29, my humour suggests I'm 12, while my body mostly keeps asking if I'm sure I'm not dead yet.
- I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.
- I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.
- At what point can we just start using 2020 as profanity? As in: 'That's a load of 2020', or 'What in the 2020', or 'abso-2020-lutely'.
- You don't realise how old you are until you sit on the floor and try to get back up.
- We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Submitted by Janet Scott



## Monthly Quiz

Try your hand at this month's quiz, all relating to capital cities.

1. Recording of unemployed Northerners stripping (10)
2. You need to gear up to get there (6)
3. Cat with a cold (9)
4. Do you remember Linda Evangelista? (6)
5. Scored goals (5)
6. I hear he's very observant (5)
7. Estoy en la plaza (2,3)
8. Sounds like you trod on something nasty (10)
9. Replanting robinia gets you there (7)
10. Marilyn went through there on her way to freedom (8)

*The answers will appear in next month's issue.*

Chris Anspach



### Answers to last month's quiz

1. Frank. 2. Joy. 3. Stanley. 4. Michael. 5. Ben. 6. Gladys. 7. Barry. 8. Tessa. 9. Isabel. 10. Eric.
11. Christopher. 12. Dawn. 13. Rick. 14. Avril. 15. Lydia. 16. Victoria. 17. Diana.
18. Florence. 19. Violet. 20. Brian.



## Serious Lockdown Advice

Everyone *please* be careful because people are going crazy from being locked down at home!

I was just talking about this with the microwave and the toaster while drinking my tea, and we all agreed that things are getting bad.

I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on *everything*!! Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, cause he's been acting cold and distant!

In the end, the iron straightened me out! She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out!

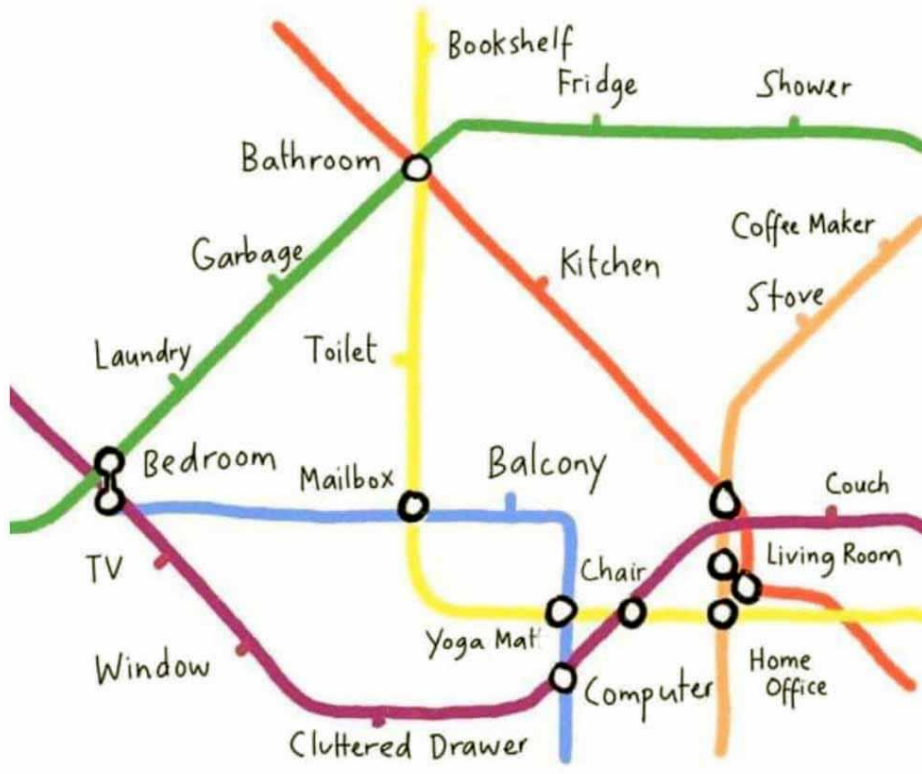
The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic . . . told me to just suck it up! But the fan was *very* optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon!

The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip!! You can just about guess what the curtains told me: they said to 'pull myself together!'

Anon



# COMMUTING IN CORONA TIMES



shared by silversurfers.com

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)

