

DONCASTER



U3A

Registered Charity No. 1074577

August - September 2020

From the Chair



I would like to start by saying how much I appreciate the amazing community that is DU3A. How well people have adapted to the strange circumstances we find ourselves in and how willing people have been to keep in contact with members – especially Group Leaders who have taken on the task in true British Spirit. The sense of community that has come over through your calls, emails and virtual meetings is phenomenal.

Thank you to all of you who have already renewed your membership. It is really gratifying to see so many of you renew when we are not in a position to hold regular meetings. You may not realise the National U3A bases its charges for Beacon and Subs on last year's numbers so having so many of you re-join has been really helpful. We would usually hope to increase our numbers each year, but sadly that is not likely to happen this year.

Please look further on in the Newsletter for information about meetings taking place remotely as I know many are happy to welcome new members. That particularly applies to Family History. Contact the Group Leaders who will help you with the technology. It really is easy. I know that some groups who meet outdoors are also wanting to start meeting again soon. We are trying out a distance General Meeting for those on email – Monday 20th July at 3.00 p.m. 'Bruges is more than Just Chocolate'. Keep an eye out for instructions.

Our main preoccupation this month has been how to hold our AGM. We have decided a physical meeting in the near future is out of the question, especially given the age profile of our members. I'm sorry to keep going on about people's age but it is something we can't escape as an organisation for retired people!

The conclusion we have come to has been to hold the AGM by email, text and post. In the June/July newsletter you were able to read a short profile of each of the proposed new committee members and a table explaining how the committee might look following the AGM. Now is the time for your input. Included with the printed newsletter is a copy of the minutes from last year's AGM, my Chairman's / Trustees Annual Report, the 2019/20 Accounts and Treasurer's Report. These will come by separate email for those members who have email. Your input is needed (if you were at the last AGM) to approve the minutes as a true record.

The next part of the process is to approve the reports and accounts. Any questions for anything that is not clear should be sent to the Secretary or myself as soon as possible.

Finally we would like a good number of you to vote – as you would if you were there in person – to approve the reports, including the appointment of an auditor, to approve the accounts and to vote on the nominations for officers and committee. See the separate email or printed accompanying papers for how to do that.

We appreciate this is not ideal, but it does enable us to move forward and start our next year with a newly structured committee. It is always good to have new blood and new ideas to keep an organisation moving forward.

So, two months further on we are still, as a country, battling against this virus. I have been able to resume walking in the Peak district now we are able to travel for leisure activities. We try to choose less popular areas to avoid the crowds. We are

still gardening like mad, but now garden centres are open again we can get plants and compost for the summer. If you are a single person household you will have been able to nominate another household to be in your 'bubble'. Slow progress I know. But thank goodness it's summer.

I thank you all for your tolerance as we try to help DU3A move forward. If the AGM works as we hope it will, then this will be my last 'From the Chair'. It has been a privilege and mostly a pleasure! My best wishes go to Chris when he finally takes over and to the rest of the committee who will safely steer this organisation over the coming years.

Wendy Hattrell



Obituaries

Sue Wade

Died 3rd July 2020



Like so many others, we were saddened to hear of the death of such a lovely person "Sue" who we had only known for about 18 months. Though only recent members of DU3A, Sue and her husband John tried various groups which included Quiz, Move to Music, Tenpin Bowling, Enjoying Poetry and Discussion Group. They became popular members of the Saturday drop-in and Dining Out group where we became close friends. We are sure everyone who knew Sue will want to send John all our love and best wishes for the future.

Jane Page and Mike Bowser

Robert Waller

1949 - 2020

We are sad to hear that our fellow Walking Cricketer Rob Waller passed away recently. Bob was a keen cricketer with a cheerful disposition. He also enjoyed the Discussion group, Quiz and attended our Saturday Drop-in group.

He unfortunately contracted the Covid-19 virus while he was in hospital with breathing difficulties, because of a pre-existing condition, a few weeks prior to his death.

If anyone wishes to be kept informed of funeral arrangements, please contact the Secretary.

Our thoughts are with his family.

“ A BIG SHOUT OUT to Doncaster U3a committee and group leaders during lockdown..... forkeeping us connected and informed
Up to date on national and local events & sharing knowledge about local food suppliers and deliveries and above all for letting us know you are there ready to help as required and needed - your caring, considerate and can do approach has been very much appreciated and valued by us all**THANK YOU”**

Carolyn Richardson

DU3A COMMITTEE NOMINEE

Chris Woolven



After qualifying as an Electrical and Electronics Engineer, I obtained a commission as an officer in the Royal Navy. After passing out of Britannia Royal Naval College in 1973 I served in several ships including HMS Fearless.

On resigning my commission, I returned to civilian life, but after a while got itchy feet. I then went out to Botswana as an aid worker for 5 years before returning to Blighty and getting a lecturing post in York.

I continued studying while working in York and obtained a degree in Psychology and Physiology with the Open University. As a member of the British Psychological Society

I went on to lecture in both Psychology and Electrical Engineering.

After taking voluntary redundancy at the age of fifty I went to Sheffield Hallam for three years to study Mental Health Nursing, which I worked at until retiring fully at the age of 63.

I joined the Doncaster U3A on retirement and after a short period, was invited to join the committee as Website Designer / Editor. This quickly expanded into responsibility as Newsletter Editor, taking over from our current chair Wendy Hattrell.

I have already served once as Chairman in 2014/2016 with Diane Harris as Secretary, and I am currently Secretary myself.

I have belonged to several groups over the years and am currently leader of the Walking Cricket and Digital Photography groups. I have also served on the regional YAHR Committee as Bulletin Editor

In my spare time I am an amateur musician and a singer, and I have also been responsible for writing and directing the DU3A pantomimes in recent years.

In 2017 Diane Harris became Diane Woolven and as a newly married couple we took some time away from the committee.

Should we both be elected, I am hoping to serve a second term as Chair with Diane again as Secretary.

NOTICE

DONCASTER U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**There will be no physical meeting this year
because of the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

The AGM will be conducted by email, text, and post.

**Members have been sent an agenda and necessary documents
at least 21 days before
the official closing date for voting of
16th August 2020.**

GROUPS - UPDATES / NOTICES

INTEREST GROUPS

All meetings in person are cancelled until further notice. Contact group leaders to find out if alternative arrangements have been made for meetings.

GENERAL MEETINGS

All meetings are cancelled until further notice. The Chair of DU3A will be in touch with you when meetings start again.

CARD MAKING

The Card Making group has a new leader. See below.

CARD MAKING

The Card Making group is under new management!

I felt such a successful group deserved to continue so I will be taking it on, if we ever get out of lockdown. It has, up to now, been superbly run and I cannot begin to do things the same way as Janet did, but I'm happy to lead a group of people along the card making path, if anyone wants to come along on the journey.

So - because the garden and hedgerow are full of beautiful flowers I have been pressing them with gay abandon, to use in making cards. I've mounted them onto sometimes plain card, other times small offcuts of ink and watercolour paintings. I've added foil, sticky borders, shapes and assorted bits and bobs, using PVA as the sticking medium that was not always successful! The glue spreader has hidden itself very successfully but a screwdriver doubled up as a spreader! The results are here:-



If you would like to join the newly re-forming Card Making group, please do email me at the address you will find at the back of the newsletter. I can then add you to the list so you can be kept informed of any updates to well, everything! You don't need loads of "stuff", just a few basic tools and you won't actually even need those because there will be plenty within the group to borrow. No real talent needed either

Just come along for the fun of it! Place, date and time can be determined nearer our release.

Paula Harmer

WHAT OUR GROUPS ARE DOING NOW?

Writers

Writers' Group is NOT holding Zoom meetings during lockdown. We are communicating by email and phone. We're not a very technological group! Any potential new members are welcome to contact me to find out about our activities, we are still looking at various topics.

Chris Short

The **German Intermediate Group** is meeting weekly at the moment via zoom. If any one is interested in joining they can contact me.

Monica Dawson

Geoff Tagg's groups:

Both of our **lower level French Conversation groups** are meeting 2-weekly on Zoom - we have a full attendance every time, so clearly members are enjoying them.

Philosophy has a monthly email contact, including a new topic for anyone wanting to read up/think in their own time - this month's is "If you learned today that your life will be re-lived over and over for eternity, would you change anything you are currently doing?". This comes with a link to Nietzsche, a philosopher who suggested this would be a good way to guide your actions. One or two members have decided they would be much more adventurous - presumably when lockdown is over! If **Philosophy** appeals, then do get in touch - no limit there.

Playreading and **Scottish Country Dancing** are in hibernation - although we do occasionally stay in email contact. For SCD, we shall be running some sessions for new starters, once lockdown is over. Get in touch with me if you would like to give that a try.

Basic French - the existing group is pretty full, and in any case, if more than 8 people are on Zoom together, it can get unwieldy - but if I do get some new enquiries, I will set up an additional group, running for the rest of 2020.

Digital Photography, **Family History** and **Gardening** are meeting remotely via Zoom. As they are both outdoors, **Stretchers** and **Love of Nature** are hoping to start again soon. If you would like to join any of these groups please contact the group leader. The Zoom app is very simple to use and help can be given to 'get you going'. Family History, in particular, feel they can have more participants.

October - November Newsletter

Articles for the August/September newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 2nd September.

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to
du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new members
Gwyneth Brandreth & Carol Benson



FAMILY HISTORY

Only at a Family History Group Zoom meeting is it compulsory to talk about family gossip such as great aunt Lucy's dalliance with an American G.I. and the consequences of it, the real reason why uncle Joe was never talked about at family gatherings, whatever happened to the family fortune. The meetings are not only about research, they help recall memories long forgotten, good and not so good times and any history shared is history not forgotten.

At one meeting each member talked about one ancestor and why they were researching that person, we heard about shipwrecks, murder, one mans' rise in social office, death during the 1918 flu pandemic, tragedy in WW1, ordinary people in extraordinary circumstances.

Our future meetings are sure to include occupations, crime and punishment, why and how our ancestors travelled. Even if you only want to know one thing about one ancestor you will be welcomed into the group.

Dawn Jarvis



Re - **Uniting 3rd Agers**
after the enforced break

CROWN GREEN BOWLS

At Haslam Park, Bessacarr.



At the time of writing we are hopeful that Doncaster Council as landlords will soon (after July 4th) give Haslam Park Bowling Club permission to resume their use of the Bowling Green and Pavilion. By the time you read this newsletter we at DU3A should be playing again, enjoying the fresh air whilst exercising our ageing limbs, and are able to look forward to some healthy competition as we rub the rust off our redundant bowling limbs. Remembering the names of our colleagues may be a problem, but as long as Mr Zheimer stays away, all should be well.

Newcomers are always welcome. Bowls can be provided, your skills are in you, you just have to find them. Dress is optional, but preferable.

George Kirk

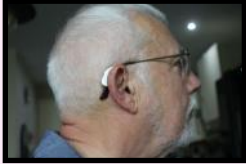
Musings from DUZA members during Lockdown

"THERE`S A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING"

1

There are so many things that are a first in this strange time. Schools and churches closed, holidays cancelled, Easter ! Well there have been a few firsts a bit nearer home.

Hair today gone tomorrow. I had my haircut by someone who is not a barber - Jane!



She was too enthusiastic for my liking but against my better judgement I agreed to let her do it. With trimmer in hand she set about it with huge clumps of hair flying in all directions. But then the trimmer stopped ! It was not charged up. I quickly grabbed the charger and plugged it in - it wasn't working. I looked at my lop sided new hairstyle in panic. After checking my collection of hats I gave up for the day. Jane of course was in fits.

Next morning I checked the charger and found to my relief it was working. After a couple of hours Jane resumed her efforts and declared it finished. What do you think?"

2

"When life deals you Lemons, make a Lemon Drizzle Cake"

So Covid-19 brought a new first for us. Jane baked me my favourite - Lemon Drizzle Cake. The first time that she has baked in our new house and I've got to say, " Every cloud has a silver lining"



3

"There`s nothing so sad as a pub with no beer"



Well there is and that`s a 'pub with beer' that you can't go into. So for the first time since I've lived in Hatfield and been down to The Bay, I couldn't go in. We had done one of our legal exercises round the village and walking down High Street came across the Bay looking all forlorn. The pint would have to wait as would Chris` wonderful lasagne.

One day I'll be back and sit with my pint and drink a toast to the NHS.

4

The government`s new saving scheme is wonderful. These two ten pound notes have been in my wallet for three months. I know I'm from Yorkshire but that`s got to be a first.

So Boris has told us to stay at home and shut all the shops, pubs and what have you - there`s nothing to spend money on!



Mike Bowser

ENJOYING POETRY

We are all still managing to keep in touch which is great. I send out batches of poems every now and then which I email to group members or send by post to others. Many members have suggested poems that they would like me to share. Tennyson is very popular with the group at the moment but one member, Irene Chapman, delighted us all by choosing a very interesting and complex poem by Theodore Roethke. I continue to choose as wide a variety of poems as I can, ranging from TS Eliot to Dr. John Cooper Clarke, via Pam Ayers and Sir John Betjeman. It all counts! Even better, was when one member, Jan Louis, wrote her own poem! Now this isn't a writing group but I am never going to say no to members who want to express their ideas and feelings through their own work. This is it.

Lockdown 2020

Turn the keys on all the doors. Shut the windows on all the floors.
Stay in.

Shut up shops and all the stores. Turn your faces from the spores.
Stay in.

Turn your hand to homebased chores. Shut down the time with you and yours.
Stay in.

Shut your mouths and support the cause. Turn out and clap for the underpaid scores.
Stay in.

Turn on the TV to hear Cabinet bores. Shut out the death toll to help the snores.
Stay in.

But wait.....

Shut out the intel the nation abhors. Turn around and take a pause.
Go out?

Turncoats in government change the laws. Shutting down national doubting roars.
Go out?

Open your eyes and open your doors. Take the risk for capitalist claws.
Go work.

Jan Louis

I thought it's a really strong, well expressed and direct poem. Very good Jan and thank you. Many members of the group email me or write letters, discussing poetry and reacting to the poems I have sent them. I think that we are doing as well as can be expected in these difficult days and my thanks to all the members who get back to me about the poems we share.

David Harmer

If you enjoyed the Marsh family songs about the lockdown you may also enjoy these:

Coronavirus Rhapsody (based on Bohemian Rhapsody) - Covid19
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Eo9M4-BrJA>

Nessun Dorma...alla Corona - Daniel Emmet
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uL52AuF4QzY>

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DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

— FAVOURITE PHOTOS TAKEN DURING LOCKDOWN



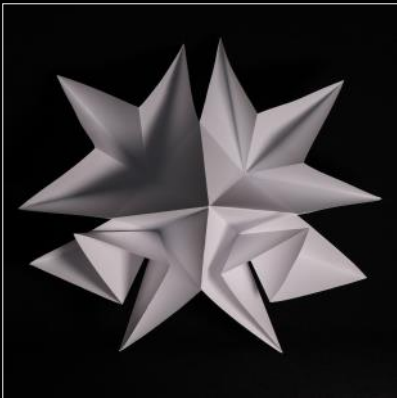
Anne Windle



Peter Chubb



John Wheeldon



Bridget Thompson

John Coe





Nora Boyle



Chris Woolven



David Bryan



Bill Dixon

Diane Woolven



CORONA NIGHTS

Woken from sweaty slumber these haunted
Corona nights by visions
of writhing reptilian wriggling -
the 'wet markets' of old Wuhan.

Repelled in perspiring repugnance, replaying
oriental officialdom pleading to be understood
not to point the finger of blame.
But I cannot. Will not. Understand. My finger rises.

With revulsion and abhorrence, repulsed
by a society pretending advancement yet,
despite the world's disapprobation eats
snakes, bats and lizards, sold live.

Even the pretty pangolin who, in innocent mutation,
may have produced the cankerous covid
metamorphosing monstrously into the virus
escaping to blight us.

But wait! We have a saviour. Admittedly self-
proclaimed, but beggars cannot choosers be.
The orange skinned super hero, presidentially
pontificating, whilst his advisers stand aghast,
that a daily dose of disinfectant will diminish the
developing death-toll. Simple and cheap.
Just like him, presiding pandemically over a veritable
confederacy of misguided fools.

*Colin Brown
May, 2020*

Brian Good's Lockdown

I'm keeping really busy throughout the lockdown going cycling, fishing and walking when weather permits. Today I'm cutting out a garage window for a friend and replacing it with brickwork.



OUR U3A

If, like me, you appreciate the existence of the U3A, I hope you will join me in thanking those who have made it possible for Doncaster U3A to survive and continue over this pandemic period. Indeed in some cases, they have extended the technology knowledge of some of its members by using Zoom.

It certainly did my street cred a lot of good when I was able to say with pride, to friends and family, "Please do not telephone me tomorrow afternoon as I will be in a Zoom meeting".

On a more serious note, it is thanks to the dedication of our committee, the group leaders, and newsletter editor. The newsletter has taken on a very important role in the crisis that we as an association found ourselves in.

I am sure all our members will join in to thank all the above for their dedication to Doncaster U3A.

Betty Alexander

THIS HOUSE

Yes, I could be happy living in this house, in this house on the cliffs above the sea.

I would lie in the sun and on those long afternoons; time would stand still.

Over and over I'd play Maurice Chevalier's La Mer.

The booming sea would lull me to sleep.

Yes, I'd be happy in this house, half the world away.

As the days slid by and the years roll on I would become round, plump and brown.

In the evenings when the cicadas vibrate I'd shower and go out looking for women.

I'd put my suit on and leave the shirt collar out, I'd wear my medallion and smother myself in Old Spice.

Sitting in bars drinking sophisticated cocktails I'd smile showing all my teeth, my eye lids would droop just like Robert Mitchum's: women would have no chance.

Yes, yes I would be happy living here in this house on the cliffs, above the sea.

Dennis Marsden
Writers group

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

Group member, Nora Boyle, has written articles about Hagg Wood and Grove Park Trees. These can be seen on the 'Love of Nature' page on the DU3A website.

A SPOOKY/GHOSTLY ENCOUNTER

Growing up I had heard stories of spooky and unnatural events but I had never experienced anything myself. That is until at the age of 21, in 1974 when I married and moved into the council house my husband already had. It was a modern council house on the Cantley 6 estate very close to the water towers.

John had complained several times of strange feelings he had in the house and told me one story that made the hairs on the back of my neck stand up. He said he was asleep in bed when he became aware of a person in the room. He sat up and saw an oldish looking man with a long beard walk into his wardrobe. He told me he leapt out of bed and threw open the door with the intention of confronting whoever was there. All he saw were his clothes hanging there. It disturbed him but he just went back to bed and thought no more about it.

When I moved in the first week of September 1974, after our honeymoon in Skegness, I didn't give it another thought. That is, until I also started to experience strange feelings. A draught on the back of my neck, a feeling that someone was around, strange but nothing to scare me too much.

We had a little dog at the time, Chip who slept in her basket in the outhouse, a small room about 3 metres by 3 metres. She slept in there quite happily every night until one night she started barking and wouldn't stop. I got up and went down stairs to tell her off, thinking someone had walked by and woken her up but I was a little shocked to see how distressed she was. She was in the back of her basket going mad at something I couldn't see. It un-nerved me but after a while she settled down and I went back to bed.

Some months later John was building a continental headboard in our bedroom. It was a big bedroom and made sense to make it in there. We didn't have a carpet at the time so there was nothing to damage. As a result he had all his tools there too.

The house was built in the 60's so had old fashioned wooden drawers and cupboards in the kitchen. The drawers were on wooden runners and the doors had little metal catches that pinged when you opened and shut them.

I was laid awake trying to get to sleep one night when I heard in the kitchen drawers and cupboards opening and shutting. I lay for a while until I had to say something, "John can you hear that?", "Yes" he said and told me later that he was trying to ignore it. We got up and John took his mallet from the floor and went downstairs with me behind him. He shouted, "I'm coming down" and we carefully stepped into the kitchen. There was nothing there and nothing had been moved. I went into Chip and she just looked at me as if to say, "What are you doing up"? We were unnerved and went back to bed discussing how strange it had been.

The next event really terrified me. It was getting on for nine in the evening and John used to do a lot of spare time painting jobs after he'd finished work, so went straight from one job to the other. I was getting dinner ready for him coming in. The house had warm air central heating with ducts throughout the house with a square mesh outlet, about a foot square in each room. The one in the kitchen was by the door and I used to put my concertina clotheshorse in front of it to dry or air the clothes. The ducts were Chip's favourite place to lay and that night she was under the clotheshorse in the kitchen where I was.

I was at the sink when Chip started barking. She was at the clotheshorse going mad at something that wasn't there. The hairs on the back of her neck were stood on end and

she looked like she wanted to kill something. I tried in vain to calm her and was so spooked and scared myself that I ran to the front door with the intention of going a few doors down to my sister-in-law's. But as I got to the door John was there and looking at me perplexed. When we got back into the kitchen Chip had calmed down and with John home I calmed down too.

We left the house in 1976 when we purchased our first home. No other scary things happened after the clotheshorse incident but it was always in the back of my mind.

I've heard many stories from people since about things they have experienced but fortunately I have never had any other unexplainable things happen to me, thank goodness.

That is until a couple of weeks ago on the 19th of January. We had gone away with friends and stayed at the Black Horse Inn at Kirby Fleetham. I am a very poor sleeper and a couple of years ago moved into a single bed so I didn't constantly disturb my husband. The only way the Inn could accommodate us was in a very nice family room. It had a large main room with a double bed and an adjoining room with two single beds. Because I'm used to sleeping in a single I took the twin room.

I must have dozed off shortly after 3.30 a.m. The last time I had looked at the clock was 3.27 a.m. I was asleep facing the wall when I felt someone lean on the bed behind me. Thinking it was my husband I was turning over about to ask what was wrong when a male voice said "Heather". I whipped around only to see, nothing. It unnerved me so much that I turned on the light and it stayed on until I got up. In the cold light of day I was 90% sure it must have been a dream but at the time it shook me to my roots.

Jess Parkinson – Living History Group



FACEBOOK

facebook

DU3A has a Facebook page. It is a private group which means it is only accessible to our members! It is a very good way of keeping in touch with other members of the organisation. We have 54 members so far but numbers are rising weekly. Will you join us?

To join you will need to have a personal Facebook account. Go to www.facebook.com/r.php. Enter your name, email, phone number, d.o.b., and gender. Add a password. Click sign up. Confirm email and phone number.

Once you have an account, type DoncasterU3A into the search bar and it should take you to our page. If you have any problems contact me (contact number inside the back page).

Diane Woolven

Culture Page

Hi, Culture Page readers. I am putting the Culture Page on hold for this Newsletter and possibly the next one. Hopefully by the December/January addition there will be shows resuming for early next year. Take care and stay safe until then.

Jess Parkinson.

Several years ago I took over one family tree and started another from scratch. My main sources of information, so far, have been from family members and online sites and I know that I need to do more research in the field by visiting, for example, parishes, records offices and archives. The DU3A Family History group has helped me a great deal but a big problem that I have is organisation, or to be more precise, lack of organisation of the piles of information that I currently have.

As we were in lockdown, I decided to enrol on the Futurelearn 'Researching your Family Tree' course. I am now in a much better position to move forward BUT I feel that all new research needs to be put on hold until I have reviewed all that I currently have. Validation is the key word. Going back to the beginning and being more focused may involve more paperwork but it should save time in the long run and I won't need to rely on retrieving facts from my head.

From now on I aim to ensure that all my research conforms to the Genealogical Proof Standard through the use of individual record sheets, ancestor charts, family tree sheets, list of objectives, research logs, timelines, mind maps, sheets for questions, lists of evidence (type and location), general notes and name variations. I aim to be more methodical in planning research sessions and I also need to make improvements to my back-up systems, both hard and soft copy. I hope I can live up to my own expectations.

I enjoy putting together pieces of puzzles and look forward to finding out more about my family both past and present. I feel I now have the tools to get there. I also hope that my work becomes more organised, well presented and accessible for future generations to enjoy and hopefully continue further.

A lot of information was crammed into six weeks in this well structured, stimulating and comprehensive course. I would definitely recommend it to others.

Bridget Thompson

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/genealogy>

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"Quarantine (is Not Quite Over)" - Billie Jean Parody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ygdB-ZE0daY>

How Do You Solve A Problem Like Corona?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4jR_9-YPK8

Celebrities share 'Lockdown' coronavirus moments for a new charity song in aid of Telegraph Appeal

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eDOrIq7TQ>

I Want to Know What Day It Is - Foreigner Parody

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MH4TVYT1OYQ>

And for dog owners: see Olive and Mabel

Olive and Mabel. Episode 3 - The Walk of Shame

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=26FIEX6muAo>

What next?

Will the shepherd tend his sheep
And the church clock stand at ten to three?
Will milk come frozen home in pails
And will the valley bloom again?

We won't know yet not for a while
But in a land across the sea
If Dick the shepherd blows his nail
He is but one, the rest are gone
For the landowners grow restless
Agitated, anxious, itchy
And from the Great White House
Wherein dwells the current Great White Chief
Comes the order,

'Back to market!
Go work! Go buy and sell and pay your debts!
Make the world - the bits that count -
Make us great again!'

And we hear him over here.
We are not sure we want to follow suit.
Some hesitate. Some challenges are made.
Will planes and cars continue to pollute
Still feed the myth that blames volcanic spouts?
Will people of colour still fare worse than white?
Surely while the world is relatively still
We could consider changing wrongs for rights,
If only to vow we won't repeat mistakes
But will make pacts with Nature to be kind.

There never were bluebirds swooping over
Any British cliffs, not even Dover.

But wouldn't it be lovely if a bluebird could evolve
From the germ of kindness born of new resolve?

*Sue Levan
May 2020*

References:

1. *There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover' as sung By Vera Lynn*
2. *Stands the church clock.....The Old Vicarage Grantchester by Rupert Brook*
3. *Loves Labours Lost: Act 5 scene 2 by Wm Shakespeare
'When icicles hang by the wall
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail
And Tom bears logs into the hall
And milk comes frozen home in pail'*

History repeats itself. I came across this poem written in 1869, reprinted during the 1919 Pandemic.

Submitted by Sally Chamberlain

This is Timeless....

And people stayed at home
And read books
And listened
And they rested
And did exercises
And made art and played
And learned new ways of being
And stopped and listened
More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed
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,
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and
People found themselves
They grieved for the dead
And made new choices
And dreamed of new visions
And created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth
Just as they were healed

by Kathleen O'Mara, 1869



Coronavirus advice:

Here are links with advice on what to do:-



Links to Government advice:
<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>



Links to NHS advice:
<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19>

50 Free Things You Can Do During Lockdown

Run out of things to do in quarantine? We've got you covered with 50 fun, free ways to keep busy during the coronavirus lockdown.

go to

<https://www.futurelearn.com/info/blog/50-free-things-you-can-do-during-lockdown>

for more information and links etc. for the following:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Watch a film | Declutter your home |
| Watch a documentary | Build a medieval city |
| Write a novel | Scare yourself in a creepy library |
| Tour ancient Rome | Walk through Paris or London |
| Write a play or short film | Watch a gig |
| Paint with Bob Ross | Go to a national park |
| Write a song | Stretch out with a yoga class |
| Visit the MoMA | Go to the theatre |
| Explore the Uffizi | Visit a mystery house |
| Enjoy the Musée d'Orsay | Have a work out |
| Pop into the Tate | Solve a mystery |
| Experience the British Museum | Volunteer |
| Go to 500 other museums or galleries | Start a blog |
| Have a karaoke night | Learn first aid |
| Brush up on the latest publications | Discover your roots |
| Try a fitness challenge | Understand nutrition |
| Arrange a Houseparty | Meditate |
| Get a penpal | Plan a holiday |
| Try amigurumi | Have a kitchen dance party |
| Cook something new | Sew a teddy bear |
| Play a board game | Improve your communication skills |
| Learn a language | Upcycle old clothes or accessories |
| Go to the aquarium | Read or listen to a book |
| Visit the opera | Start a virtual book club |
| Deep clean your house | Try bird watching |

Futurelearn Courses include:

[Boredom-busting courses](https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/collections/boredom-busters)

Trying to keep boredom at bay while in coronavirus lockdown? Try out an online course to discover a new hobby, learn a new language, or even change career.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/collections/boredom-busters>

[Why we get bored and what to do about it](https://www.futurelearn.com/info/blog/why-we-get-bored-and-what-to-do-about-it)

Bored of being bored? Find out what boredom actually is, why it happens, and what you can do to channel it into new projects.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/info/blog/why-we-get-bored-and-what-to-do-about-it>



PUZZLE PAGE

Fill the grid with consecutive numbers starting at 1 to make a path in sequential order, going horizontally or vertically. You may not connect the numbers diagonally.

Example

16		14	13		11
	20			9	
18		24	23		7
33		25	26		6
	31			2	
35		29	28		4

16	15	14	13	12	11
17	20	21	22	9	10
18	19	24	23	8	7
33	32	25	26	1	6
34	31	30	27	2	5
35	36	29	28	3	4

3		27		29	33
	5				31
1		25	48	47	35
		24	23	44	
9		21	22	43	37
	19				41
11		13		15	39

1 Easy (1 to 49)

15						1
	17		7			3
		11	10	9		
	29	30		34	45	
		31	32	35		
	27		37		43	
23						41

2 Medium (1 to 49)

	36			29	
34	33			24	27
		21	22		
		20	1		
15	12			7	4
	13			6	

3. Medium (1 to 36)

17					28
	19			26	
		21	32		
		36	33		
	12			5	
10					1

4. Medium (1 to 36)

	6					11	
4	3					14	13
			18	17			
		22			25		
		51			42		
			49	44			
59	60					35	36
	63					38	

5. Hard (1 to 64)

	11					58	
9			16	17			60
	6		26	51		55	
	1		27	50		54	
34			31	40			45
	36						43

6. Hard (1 to 64)

	27			18	
29					16
		2	21		
		3	8		
36					13
	34			11	

7. Very Hard (1 to 36)

Solutions for June - July Puzzles

My advice is, never do tomorrow what you can do today. Procrastination is the thief of time.
Charles Dickens (in David Copperfield)

You only live once, but if you do it right, once is enough.
Mae West

Nothing can be beautiful which is not true.
John Ruskin

Be the change that you wish to see in the world.
Mahatma Gandhi

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
L	H	V	R	F	P	U	C	X	O	G	K	A
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
S	D	Y	Q	I	T	M	N	B	J	W	Z	E



Do you know where this is?

Answer in the next newsletter.

Photo taken by Bill Dixon, a member of the Digital Photography group

Page 21: Where is this?



Answer:

Memorial to the Oaks Colliery explosion in 1866, Barnsley

Riddle

You're rummaging around your great grandmother's attic when you find five short chains each made of four gold links. It occurs to you that if you combined them all into one big loop of 20 links, you'd have an incredible necklace. So you take it into a jeweller, who tells you the cost of making the necklace will be £10 for each gold link that she has to break and then reseal.

How much will it cost?

The 16ft high memorial was made by local sculptor Graham Ibbeson, who lost a relative in the blast. It shows a miner's wife rushing to the pit on hearing news of the disaster.

Contacting Group Leaders and Committee Members

Group Leaders can be contacted by telephone (see below) or by clicking on the Blue Bird on their group page on the DU3A website.

Go to: <https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

Committee members can also be contacted via the DU3A website by opening the 'Contact' page and then selecting the appropriate member.

Page 5: **Card Making Group:**

Either contact the Groups Co-ordinator (via Contacts page) who will put you in touch with the Card Making group leader OR click on the blue bird on the Card Making page and leave a message.

Contact Numbers

Current DU3A Committee Members (July 2020)

Chair	Wendy Hattrell
Acting Vice Chair	Chris Woolven
Business Secretary	Chris Woolven
Treasurer	to be arranged
Membership Secretary	Jill Laming
Group Co-ordinator	Vanessa Whaley
Minutes Secretary	Nora Boyle
Publicity	Jane Page
Committee	Diane Williams
Committee	John Wheeler
Committee	George Kirk
Committee	David Smith

Activity Groups & Other: Contacts

Group leaders - see printed Newsletter for telephone numbers, or DU3A Website

**Newsletter Editor
& Website Manager**

Bridget Thompson

bthompsonu3a@btinternet.com

DU3A Website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/doncaster>

Visit the DU3A website for information about all the current interest groups, latest news/notices, membership information, meetings, social events, monthly calendars and newsletters, help/advice links, links to regional and national u3a and more.....

Monks Printers

We are grateful to Monks the Printers for their help in printing and distributing this newsletter.

Prego Café

We would like to thank our friends at the Prego Café for their help over the past years. Not only is the tea, coffee and food excellent, but the free use of the upstairs room for meetings has been a great help to many of our groups. If you haven't been there yet, give it a try!

We wish them the best during the lockdown and look forward to having our meetings there again in the future.



Help the environment and save money by receiving the email version of the DU3A newsletters.

Deadline

Thank-you to all the members who have sent articles for this issue. Articles for the October/November newsletter need to be received by

Wednesday 2nd September

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc. to
du3anewsletterbmt@btinternet.com



