



**CHAT FROM THE CHAIR:**



So much has been going on in Exmouth U3A in changing from group meetings to using Skype or Zoom. Much depends on the type of group but many are finding various subjects to discuss or just keeping in touch over a cup of coffee.

I for one have learnt how to meet via Skype or zoom. In the family we had a Skype birthday party and when I told the grandchildren I knew how to Skype they were most impressed. I learnt how to do it through our wonderful tech team on the Committee.

A meeting of some of Devon U3A groups was held recently via Zoom and when John Hunt, who provides our U3A with his Connect and Learn scheme, explained what it was about they all agreed that it would be so useful for their members as well, so he has made it available to them. Those of you who have not tried it yet, John has explained it fully in this newsletter so please give time to read it as there is something there for everyone who is reading this online.

I have not been well during some of this 'lockdown time' so Christine Chittock, who is responsible for engaging our speakers, has taken over for me as acting Chair, to which I am very grateful, so a big thank you to Christine.

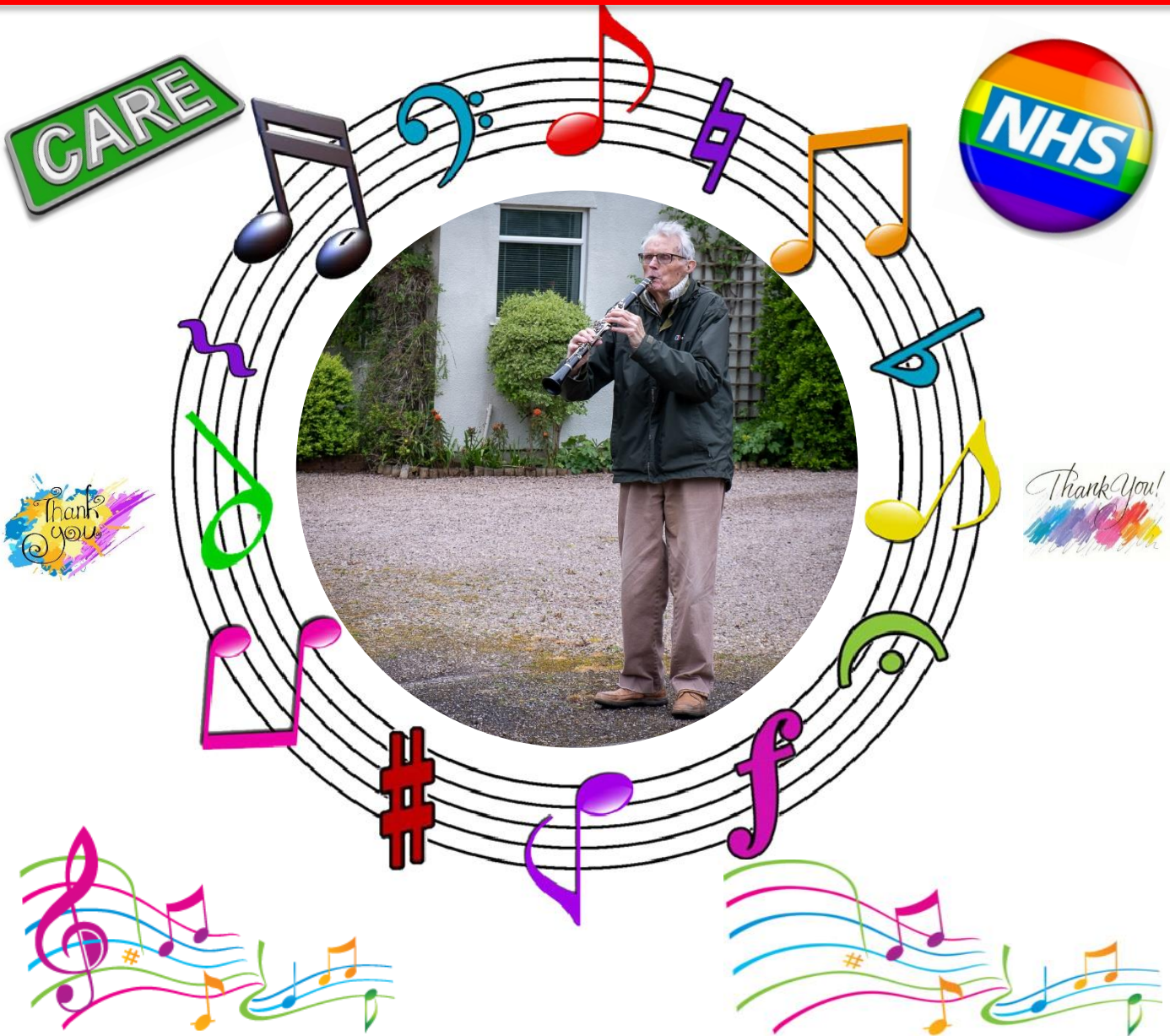
This is the last newsletter that Chris Woodward will be editing. He has used his own style to format it and everyone will agree, I am sure, that he has done a wonderful job over the last two years. Our next newsletter editor starting in June will be John Hunt who was recently co-opted to the committee. He has been talking with Chris as to how it all works so thank you Chris for this input. John will need a Deputy Editor to assist when he is away so if you would like to be involved please contact me [chair@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@exmouthu3a.org.uk)  
You do not need to be on the committee but to stand in when necessary.

It is always important to have new members on the committee though so that they can find out what it is all about and generally help out so I hope you will give it some consideration and contact me or any committee member if you want to know more. I think you would find it interesting and worthwhile. There will be at least three places for new committee members.

We cannot say when the AGM will take place as it should have been this month, but I am pleased to say that all committee members will continue in their roles until that time.

Best wishes and stay safe.

***Sandy***



Bill Howitt, one of our U3A members responded to the call from the National Youth Orchestra (NYO) to come out on 17<sup>th</sup> April at 17:00 for a rendition of Beethoven's Ode to Joy. The NYO had appealed to all musicians to throw open their windows, get out on their doorsteps and share their own 40 second performance of the well-known piece. Dedicated to those who need it the most, our NHS staff, our key workers and people isolated in their homes. Well done Bill!

*Report and photograph by Christine Chittock*



## **U3A Tech Team:**

There are now five of us in the Exmouth U3A Tech Team, and we are on hand to help members with any technical problems or issues you may have with the use of computers, tablets or smartphones, or the use of any software or apps. We are averaging one call a day, and so far, we have been able to resolve every issue (or at least point members in the right direction). To access the Tech Team, email John Hunt at [johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk) (or if it's urgent or you don't have an internet connection, phone him on the number given in our weekly U3A Bulletin and leave a message if necessary).

## **"Connect on Thursday" meetings via Zoom**

We have mentioned in our U3A Bulletins that we are holding weekly "Connect on Thursday" meetings using Zoom, and these are open to all Exmouth & District U3A members. These are informal gatherings lasting about an hour (but you can stay on afterwards, and you can come in and out whenever you want). It gives many of us the chance to chat and also share several short topics which may be suggested by members or which members may present and share. Why not give it a try? And feel free to join just to observe what is going on.

They are held every Thursday, alternating between the morning and the afternoon. The times of our meetings in May are:

- **Thursday 7 May at 3.00 pm**
- **Thursday 14 May at 10.30 am**
- **Thursday 21 May at 3.00 pm**
- **Thursday 28 May at 10.30 am**

There's no need to let anyone know in advance, just click or tap the same link (or meeting ID and password) that we circulated in our weekly U3A Bulletins at the time you wish to join in. If you can't find this or want to know more how to join, or if you have any suggestions for topics or would like to present anything yourself, please email John Hunt at [johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk)



## Connect and Learn website

Have you looked at our Exmouth & District U3A Connect & Learn Website recently? This website is open to everyone to use and benefit from. Here are the most popular pages:

- **Our home page**, which provides further links to everything else on this website. If you scroll down you come to our Topic of the Month which currently is **“Online Music”** This topic is a bit different from previous ones as it will evolve as you offer more suggestions or additions to this so any suggestions or recommendations welcome! It’s something that we can all relate to, especially as music can be such an important mood-enhancer during this extended period of lockdown. Click or tap on <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn>
- **Our ideas page**: This has been developed by a number of members and includes lots of information and a range of suggestions and ideas of things to do during this strange time we are going through. This is constantly being added to. Do you have any ideas you would like to share? Click or tap on <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/ideas>
- **Our topics page**: This gives details and links to the 14 topics we have developed over the past year or so. Which topics interest you the most? Click or tap on <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/topics>
- **Our page all about computers, tablets and smartphones**, which includes a number of free short and accessible online courses to make us all more knowledgeable about new technology. Click or tap on <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/computers>
- **Our page on video calling and teleconferencing**. This may be helpful look at especially if all of this is a bit new to you. Click or tap on <https://sites.google.com/view/connectandlearn/videocalls>

Any comments, feedback, suggestions or ideas about any aspect of this? Please contact John Hunt at [johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:johnh@exmouthu3a.org.uk)

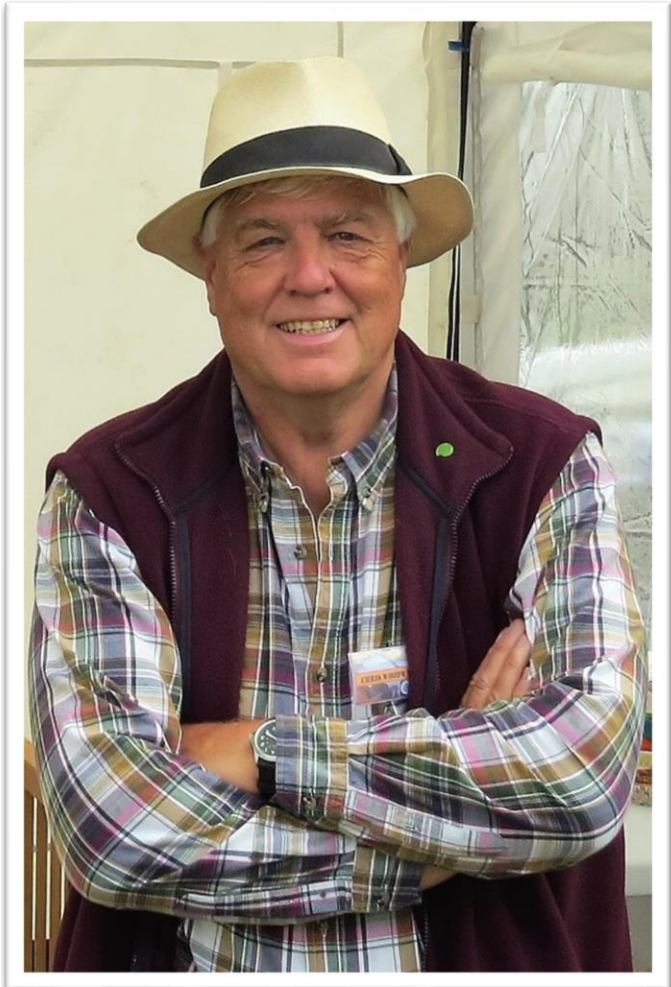


# Exmouth & District U3A



May 2020

**Hello Readers.....**After 24 editions of your monthly newsletter, 'tis time for me to say a fond farewell to the position of Editor. During this period, I have had the privilege of being at the centre of news items from many of yourselves and the groups that you are part of, as well as presenting information and updates from the committee plus reports on our monthly meetings at the Pavilion. Sadly, since June of 2018 (my first U3A newsletter) so many things have changed, and not always for the better. When we eventually come out of our current situation, perhaps as a country and as a species, we can reassess our standing in this, the only world we have live in, thinking about and acting on many issues that affect us all from inequalities of wealth to climate change, habitat destruction and plastic pollution (to name but four). We, the oldest generation, must play our part to ensure that those generations that follow are not left to address these problems alone. As U3A members we have more power than most to assist such changes if we raise our voices in unison. If every cloud has a silver lining, let's go one better and make golden one for all, especially those who follow on.



**Goodbye All & Take Care!**

**Chris Woodward**



**Photo by Chris Woodward: A Woodbury Garden During Apple Blossom 'Lockdown' Time – April 2020**