

A Message from Chairman John.

Whilst there now appears to be a prospect that we might be released from Covid restrictions within the foreseeable future, for the time being we must rely upon electronic communication to maintain contact. Having had now six very successful Zoom meetings and numerous group meetings on-line, Havant U3A has responded well to the challenge imposed by the lockdown restrictions.

The National U3A is anxious to refresh its image and publicise the activities of the U3A.

As you may know, the National U3A now has its own **You Tube** channel and has begun a **Radio podcast**, which it is hoped will become a regular feature. The U3A also has its own **Facebook** page (Facebook@u3auk). The U3A also has a Twitter account. You can easily access these features, and more, through the National U3A website (www.u3a.org.uk). The Sources archive, for example, contains material in respect of upwards of 50 subjects.

If you have not so far explored the National U3A Website, I would urge you to do so. There is so much useful information on it. Through the U3A website, you can access the **U3A monthly newsletter**, which contains both news and a number of ideas as well as interesting and challenging features.

If you have not so far read the **newsletter**, you will find it very worthwhile. You can access the newsletter by visiting www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter, where you will also find a newsletter archive.

Our own **Ken Arkell** has contributed to the U3A National website (National Programmes) with some boyhood memories at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/battle-of-britain>

Most members receive the quarterly **Third Age Matters magazine**. It is full of interesting articles and contributions from members. Among other things, in the most recent edition there is an announcement of a forthcoming discount scheme with a number of supermarkets and others so that members can benefit from savings on everyday items. You will be able to take advantage of the scheme from your digital device or computer.

Turning to matters nearer to home, we shall be holding our first, and perhaps last, virtual **Christmas party** on Thursday **17 December**.

With few Christmas gatherings on offer this year, I hope that you will make the most of our party and, of course, it will be free. **Alison White** will send out the Zoom link in the usual way a few days beforehand. Although you will have to provide your own wine and mince pies, we have an exciting programme of entertainment on offer.

We are planning to have a professional singer to entertain us and **Martin Owen** will be providing a quiz as he would in more normal times. We shall have some poetry from **Denise Bennett**, **Val Worthington** and **Brian Shipman**. Our own **Paul Jerome**, who is a lead singer with Havant Light opera, with his wife **Alison**, will conclude with some seasonal songs and **John Burch** has kindly agreed to act as our Master of Ceremonies.

Finally, if you have difficulty in accessing and using **Zoom**, you should contact **Elizabeth Jorge**, who will be pleased to help you.

Best wishes and stay safe.

John West