

## Mid-September Update 2020

Hello everyone! I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

### In this newsletter:

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### 1. Serious stuff

**Our AGM (via Zoom) is on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 2pm**

Thank you to all the members who have found the time to send in their votes so far. If you have not yet sent in your vote, *please* do so by 21<sup>st</sup> September.

The AGM documents were sent out to members last month by email, but if you would prefer a hard copy of the voting form, or need further information, please contact Liz Walker [lizwalker48@gmail.com](mailto:lizwalker48@gmail.com) asap.

**Your vote is important**, so we really hope you will find time to support us by sending it in.

If you would like to **join the AGM (Zoom) meeting** on the 28<sup>th</sup> September, contact Sandra Kokocki: [sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com) or 07828297991, and she will make sure you are invited. If you are unsure about how to operate Zoom, speak to Sandra and she will advise you.

**YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT TO US!**

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### 2. MONTHLY MEETING

As you know, we are unable to gather each month at the Coach House for the foreseeable future, but **GOOD NEWS ....**

...on **MONDAY 12<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER** at 2pm, John Cannell will be giving a ZOOM talk entitled 'My private pilot's licence'. I contacted John to ask him about it:



Flying, in all its aspects, has always been of interest to me, and my story is about what initiated the interest and how a dream came true. There are some amusing parts, some frightening and many enjoyable ones.

I expect that some members will have noticed light aircraft pottering about overhead and perhaps even seen some at Manchester Airport, and possibly wonder who flies them, why, and what training they have had. Well, all will be revealed!

An invitation to join this Zoom talk will go out to all members at the start of October. Anyone needing help with Zoom should contact Sandra Kokocki on [sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com) or 07828297991

### 3. Virtual Quiz Feedback

#### Virtual Quiz

Congratulations to the winners of the quiz held on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September

**Locked down but not out (team of**

Fortunately, they are not meeting up otherwise I would have to disqualify them.



7)



Thank you to our quiz setter – Martin Luke

Make a date in your diary for the next quiz on **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September starting at 1:00pm.**

It will be the same format as before. The questions will be emailed at **1:00pm** with the answers following at around **3:30pm.**

Entry is open to all U3A members their households and Bubbles.

I will be taking a break in October so there will be only one quiz – date to be announced.

Thanks to everyone for supporting the quiz  
Lynn

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4. **Barrie's photo challenge** will be back in October

## 5. Contributions from our members

As a young boy **Roger Crossley** was brought up in Smallbridge. He says:

'At that time, it was a typical working-class village with mills, shops, schools, pubs etc. linked by Halifax Road. It was complete in its own right, a living organism. We played in the streets and on the mill tips, perfectly safe apart from the odd scrape. If we transgressed there was a good chance your mum would find out before we got home or, if she worked, by close of play the next day. Then, about the same time as I left the area, came the slum clearances and re-imagining of society. 50 years later when I returned, I was devastated by the dismembering of Smallbridge and its replacement by a dual carriageway, hence my attempt in this poem to try to re-create something which was lost with the names of the dead'.

And this became the inspiration for his heartfelt poem:

### Smallbridge

See the seven sisters rise as the small village dies  
Still there, the small bridge over the Ash, now alive, the colour of sky,  
Once kaleidoscope, chameleon, changing colour through dye.

Stop, the mills, the beating hearts in the Vale of the Roch:  
The Riverside with the Spring by the Green Grove down from the Rocks,  
Watch, the street of Sand where the Kitters knocked

Fill with the bones of Clover, the mine, its narrow seams, barely a yard.  
Find another, son of John, three sides made a Yard  
Or the Kitters again, where three sides made a square – not there, not there.

Strip out the streets, the veins of Elizabeth, Edgar, Matthew, Mary, and Norman,  
And Crossley, Woolfenden, Butterworth, Dex and Newman.  
Return homes from Surrey, Southern, Deal and Filey to dust.  
We can rebuild her  
Take Louise, make her bigger, Closer  
Make Stores Blue and Red  
Into shuttered and dead?

Watch the seven sisters rise, there high flats, here Low Flats on the hill with views of the nick  
An arterial bypass, a fast road to nowhere, a road to perdition to remove the Small's quick.  
Transplant the brains of Board and John into Alice and Kent  
Remove the souls of the Johns and the Cons and repent

But, should the seven sisters fall  
What of the village so small?  
Can it regenerate  
Or is it too late?

See the seven sisters rise as the small village dies

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**Chris Thornton** has been out and about again. This time she visited the Potteries, home of Josiah Wedgwood.



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## 6. Answers to last time's Ding-bats

1. Eastenders	10. In the Line of Duty
2. World of Sport	11. Dixon of Dock Green
3. Lovejoy	12. Coach Trip
4. One foot in the Grave	13. Loose Women
5. DIY SOS	14. Happy Valley
6. Bread	15. Dr Who
7. Peak Practice	16. Torchwood
8. Big Breakfast	17. In the Night Garden
9. Morse	18. The Herbs

## 7. Puzzle

### Start to Finish

For each clue, find a corresponding word that starts and finishes with the same letter. There is one word for each letter of the alphabet except for i, j, q, u, v and z.

Spend time in front of the mirror	PRIMP
Intuitive thinking	
Pioneer in photocopying	
Bitterly sarcastic	
Gas in some signs	
Eskimo canoe	
Chinese medical root	
Where a rubber duck lives	
Roll in the mud	
Pleasure traveller	
Temporary loss of memory	
Deadly	
Pizza herb	
Very knowledgeable	
Forty-eight hours before tomorrow	
The most	
Excessive	
Feudal land	
Trepidation	
Water storage area	

*Answers next time*

## 8. and finally ....

May I modestly direct you to the National U3A website (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/>) where there is coverage of the National U3A Creative Writing competition STAR awards evening held last Thursday. Amongst the regional winners you may come across someone you've heard of.....

Before I sign off, many thanks, once again, to those members who have sent in items for this edition.

Bye, for now, keep up with the Government guidelines(!) - and don't forget to get your AGM vote in!!

Sue

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