

**From:** U3A Newmarket News

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**Subject:** Newmarket U3A E-Newsletter

Dear All

First and foremost we hope everyone is keeping safe and well. Somewhat strange times we are getting used to but wasn't it heartening to see such a public show of support and affection for NHS workers. Certainly where we are in Newmarket there was a tremendous turnout on the doorsteps - I'd also never realised until I saw the local news on TV just how many balconies there are in Suffolk!

Now of course there is nothing new to report on Group activity but if you are able to view the U3A Newmarket Facebook page (and you only need to request to join it to view it) the gardening group are clearly using their time well in tidying up the gardens, and with the wonderful sunshine this week I've been sitting in mine in the afternoons - albeit with a glass of wine reflecting on what I could possibly do!

Anyway the purpose of this edition of the E-Newsletter is to let you know that our resident Bard (Niddy) has come up with a great idea so I'll let her introduce it:

*Hello Everyone*

*Do you remember the speaker Tony Diamond, who spoke to us back in 2017 on the Shipping Forecast?? He has recently sent to me a poem, entitled Covid-er than you See below.*

*The history group were going on exploration of the Fens and one of the things that I mentioned was their well known poet John Clare, whose house and garden are open( well perhaps not right now) Google "I am" his most well known.*

*There is another ,James Withers whose poems have been donated to Cambridge University. Google "Chlorea 1853"*

*I was wondering if any of you are budding poets, inspired by the situation we are in, by nature on indeed your garden? If you can pen a short poem, a limerick or an ode, get writing and email to me niddy198@gmail.com and if you are willing we can put them in our next proper newsletter ( we can print anonymously if you would prefer).*

So here is Tony Diamond's poem entitled 'Covid-er Than Thou':

Reflecting on the Covid conversation

Whilst currently immersed in isolation,

One casts about in evidential lightness

For items and events reflecting brightness

Although our fickle populace may mope

On shortages of cereals and soap

The finest thinkers philosophic scope

On how redundant criminals will cope?

Extend a thought for miscreants made by theft

For those who might a mighty bludgeon heft

Where once were hapless victims set upon

These thieving opportunities are gone!

Mayhap a mugger loitering in the dark

A lonely vigil passes in the park

Whilst ne'er a drunkard weak and weary treads

They're all corona-virused in their beds.

Whilst crooks and burglars cry for falling figures

The Constable Statistically sniggers

With no compassion for the robbers plight

For nobody will walk the streets at night.

In every city, village, hamlet, town

The incidence of incidents goes down

The isolated elderly are sleeping

The empty-handed criminals are weeping

For those who criminality decry

It's just the same for them as you and I

The dreaded lurgy smites both slave and free

The robber and the robbed, plus you and me

So if to depths of infamy you fall,

Beware, the virus strikes at one and all

And let not any smirking sinner doubt

Corona Virus sure shall find you out.

TONY DIAMOND 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

If you have any poems of your own or ones that you feel are particularly appropriate at this time please contact Niddy (see above) - or of course put them on the Facebook page.

Keep safe and well and we will all get through this together.

***Best Regards***

***Nigel Day***  
***Newsletter Editor***  
***Newmarket U3A***