



Issue: May 26, 2020

### FROM THE CHAIR - *Tim Young*

Dear Members,

Our U3A Committee has mastered the 'Zoom' system of online meetings, (for those not in the know, 'Zoom' is a system which allows a number of people to hold a meeting together on computers. You can see everyone, and each member can contribute to the discussion. You have probably seen it used on TV), and so is once again holding our regular monthly meeting. This means that we can respond to the situation as it changes, and plan at least a little way ahead.

We are now considering arrangements for next year, our AGM in July and membership for the 2020 – 2021 year. The AGM will be held at the earliest time that it is safe for us to meet together in the same room. This will not be for sometime we think. We considered trying to do the 'Zoom' system but there are various reasons why it would not work for us. We will hold an actual Annual General Meeting as soon as we are able to, combined with a celebratory tea party! Meanwhile, our committee members and officers will continue in their present roles.

***We have also decided that, in view of the present and ongoing situation, we will waive the membership fee for all current members for the next U3A year. In other words, your current membership card will continue to be valid until June 2021. We shall however, be looking to claim gift-aid on your membership fee for this year and next, and will be doing that ready for the 2021/22 membership year. That will bring us an additional £2.50 per member per year from the government if you are a UK taxpayer!***

I hope you are managing to tear yourself away from the garden, the walking or cycling, or just being outside in this lovely weather, in order to browse our website. It changes constantly and carries new information and activities all the time. For the very adventurous, Facebook is the most up-to-the-minute, and perfectly safe, way of staying in touch and includes garden videos, countryside views, poetry, drama readings and general staying in touch chat. You really should try it. If you need any help just give me a call.

If you have any thoughts or comments about this E-News, or anything else do please let us know; e-mail, text, telephone or even a good old fashioned letter would be much appreciated.

I hope now you are keeping safe and are able to enjoy the weather and perhaps a chat with friends, suitably socially distanced of course

*Tim Young*

**Chairman**

## Latest News

### Garden Group from Kath Gifkins

The Woburn Flower Show at the end of June has been cancelled, so the planned coach trip will not take place. I expect the same decision will need to be made for the visit to Waddesdon Manor in August. Please keep an eye on the on line calendar and garden group web page.

### Realm of Books from Margaret Jocelyn

Members of the **Realm of Books** are keeping in touch regularly. The reviews for April are on the website and if anyone would like a printed copy please do let me know. The author for May is Christie Watson but we will be looking at other authors as well. The May reviews should be ready for the following E-Newsletter as in normal times we would not be meeting until 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The last author on our chosen list is Jodi Taylor, for the June meeting. The month of July would have been the time for selecting a new list, however since the lock-down everything has inevitably changed and we will be looking at other ideas to keep up our reading and communicating skills.

### French Conversation Group from Alison Giles

The French Conversation group has decided against a virtual meeting on technical grounds, but we are keeping in contact by email with optional "homework" for each month. We are also exchanging tips for maintaining conversation and language skills using online resources.

### Possible new Social Cycling Group? Nigel Day

This is at this time a request for input please from all members. We have for consideration an idea for a 'social cycling group'. This would need to be thought through with the current restrictions in place. It is however quite clear that a number of members have taken to cycling as a way of keeping fit and active during lockdown. As a member new to the area I have found it a great way of seeing new places and areas and being able to appreciate the local countryside more. This is not competitive cycling but just to enable people who do enjoy a nice cycle ride **at a leisurely pace** to meet up and enjoy an hour or so cycling with a bit of company. At the moment the idea is still very much on the drawing board but if any members would be interested in doing rides between 10-18 miles would you please register your interest by emailing me, Nigel Day, at [nigel@daysrus.co.uk](mailto:nigel@daysrus.co.uk) and I will then be able to see whether there is sufficient interest for a new group to be started and also look at the logistics of meeting up and socially distancing. Please let me know your thoughts if you are interested.

# Newmarket U3A Anthology

## Members' Poetry Contributions

A number of our members have taken to poetry during the lockdown and while the content can be found on the website we thought it would be a good idea to feature some of the poems in the E-News. We will try to publish 2 or 3 each E-News for you to enjoy.

### **Outside my Window**

*I'm looking out my window.  
A quiet scene I see.  
I've seen this scene before of course  
It's nothing new to me.*

*But I rarely stare as long as sheep or cows,  
It's just that I'm confined within my house.  
I want to join the madding crowds ignoble strife.  
But looking out I see no signs of life.*

*Well, madding crowds are not allowed at present  
I And I'm only let out once a day you see  
To take a stroll whilst I am on parole.  
To continue there my sad soliloquy.*

*I wander lonely as a cloud  
That lends dark thought to a virus that kills.  
When all at once I chance upon  
A woman, who great joy instils.*

*She's chasing a child, she's hot on her heels  
And catches and hugs her midst laughter and squeals.  
And you know of a sudden, you're smilingly sure  
That we must win this virological war.*

*I'm looking out my window back in my home again  
Outside there is no movement, the scene is still the same  
I feel quite lucky that I found, a focus to my daily walk.  
Hope for incident tomorrow, countering TV Covid-19 talk.*

*Back in internment, all bunkered down,  
We think 'early night' and grab dressing gown.  
We're learning to live in a different manner.  
Not striding behind some selfish banner.*

*But talking to people to help them to cope  
With all these restrictions, so at odds with hope.  
Ours to struggle diligently, bravely without sway  
And keep the noiseless tenor of our way.*

**Geoff Jones**

### **The Daffodil**

*Sunshine peeped through my window today.  
With golden trumpet, too bright to stay.  
One year had passed since I last heard her song,  
Its message clear, wait not too long,  
Her touch but brief and all to soon gone.  
So out to the garden I will hasten to go  
To use my time wisely for I do not yet know  
If she will come calling with next Winter's snow.*

**Doreen King**

*I'm going to make a list of the things I'll do today  
I really will complete it nothing will get in the way.  
There's all the dirty cupboards that need a tidy and a clean  
There's a pile of sewing that's hidden off the scene  
I'll give all the surfaces a good old polish and a shine  
I'll shampoo all the carpets they've never looked so fine  
As the sun is shining the grass will need a cut  
The weeds will need removing and I'll clean the water butt  
But  
My armchair is so nice and soft and I have such a lovely book  
In the fridge there's wine perhaps I'll take a look  
The message is to all of us, stay calm  
I think I'll take a little doze, it will do me no harm*

**Jean Kape**

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT E-NEWS CONTRIBUTION IS JUNE 4TH PLEASE**