



Issue: June 9, 2020

FROM THE CHAIR - *Tim Young*

Dear Members,

What on earth...?' you might ask.



While I was website editor, I made suggestions about photographs, in order to provide information in an appealing, interesting and artistic manner. Plenty of faces, bright light, blue sky: I hoped that every photo would tell a story but I wasn't reckoning with this sort of story. I would have turned this one down on the grounds that it did none of those things. It's the one that breaks all the rules. Taken in November 2018 it is of our Walking Group preparing to set off. Clearly it is not a clement day but the group are going anyway. We can imagine the rest of the day.

The story in this photograph is actually about preparation, overcoming difficulties, determination, success; qualities that our members show in abundance. We have all adapted to a completely new set of circumstances, not least of which is the fact that everything keeps changing. As I write I think I may meet someone from another household, but only outdoors and only while social distancing. But how long will that last and what will follow? New activities have moved in to my existence to take the place of those no longer permitted and there is rather more relaxation than there used to be. No bad thing in fact, less rushing about is a good idea.

The Group Co-ordinators have done their best to provide some on-line activities and I hope that you have found them useful and interesting, maybe now the sun has gone in for the time being, digital activities will come into their own. We look forward to continued, safe relaxation of the lockdown so we can begin to enjoy all the activities that our U3A team work so hard to provide for you.

Best wishes, continue to keep safe.

Tim Young

Chairman

Latest News

Gardening Group from Kath Gifkins

Hello Gardeners, I expect that you are all welcoming the rain if not the accompanying drop in temperatures.

Firstly, we heard yesterday the sad news of the death of Margaret Stafford, one of our group members; her cheerfulness and enthusiasm will be greatly missed.

As you will be aware if you have used the web site, the proposed visit to the Woburn Home and Garden Show on June 28th has been cancelled. Hopefully we will be able to make it next year. Could I ask for your feedback regarding the planned August visit to Waddesdon Manor. As you are no doubt aware the National Trust are gradually opening their outside spaces but as yet there is no indication about the opening of properties and cafes. Should it be open when we are due to visit and if group visits are allowed, Rosemary and I were wondering how many of you would be comfortable with making the visit with about 2 hrs each way on a coach. I know some are very apprehensive about how quickly we can safely get back to 'normal'. While it is always nice to have something to look forward to, if a good number of you would rather not commit to this visit we will cancel it and make alternative plans for a meeting that month should we be able to get together. Please get in touch and let me know. On a more positive note, most of the speakers we have had to cancel this year have been happy to rearrange for 2021, which is good news.

Realm of Books from Margaret Jocelyn

The **Realm of Books** group had chosen the author Christie Watson for May and the reviews will be on the website. As the group are inevitably running differently at the moment many members have also been reading other books during our extra leisure time, and we have some interesting reviews for these also. The author for June is Jodi Taylor. In July the plan was to meet up and select some new authors; but luckily due to email, we have still managed to come up with a varied list of books which also appear on the website. None of us know quite what is in store for us but we are exploring ideas to keep our group thriving.

Possible new Social Cycling Group - Nigel Day

Thanks to everyone who got back to me expressing interest in a social cycling group. I am still working through the logistics and there are a few questions of course that I need to answer regarding current restrictions and insurances. I have also been trying out a few rides myself (just to make sure I can get to the end!). I shall get back to all who expressed an interest as soon as possible.

Music Appreciation Group - from Mike Jocelyn

Judy from the Music Appreciation Group suggests you will like the Poems and Music taken from a CD 'The Glorious Garden'. I have superimposed videos of the plants in the hope they will also appeal to the Gardening and new Rhythm and Rhyme Groups as well as U3A members generally. Try the link below and enjoy.

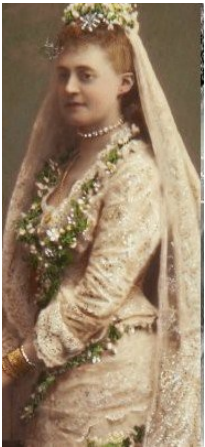
<https://youtu.be/9mkNxd69iFw>

Here also are 2 more YouTube links to go with SNOWDROPS, CEDARS OF LEBANON and WATER LILY previously sent.

<https://youtu.be/e6ZW7b4i9xc> HOLLY

<https://youtu.be/7ZQDzMoGw80> PEONY

History Group - from Niddy Walpole



Niddy was going to give a talk in June on Royal Weddings from William The Conqueror to present day, including traditions that have come and gone and some scandals too!

Sadly this has of course had to be postponed but hopefully it can be presented at a later date.

If you visit the History Group website you will find the May 30th History Quiz questions and answers: just CLICK on this link:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/newmarket/page/5547>

Military History: Newmarket Area - from Tim Young

Here is another new idea for those happy to use Facebook. I am trying to get this group going to look at the wide range of military events and interests in and around Newmarket. In the first instance this group is open to anyone but when the lockdown is completely over it will become a U3A group. I know we have many members interested in local history and it would be great to explore the military orientated history of this area. For example, not only do we have the bombing of Newmarket in 1942, the airfields in and around us but we have connections with famous military men such as Admiral Rous, a key figure in the history of horse racing.

I do hope you will join the group and give it a go. There is so much to learn about our locality. Facebook Users can find the Facebook page just by searching Military History: Newmarket Area and apply to join the group where Captain Mainwaring is ready to welcome you.

This poem was sent in by Mike Jocelyn

1346 – 1353 the ‘Pestilence and the Great Mortality’ was a most fatal pandemic.

The following doggerel was recently found among some ancient ruins.

It is loosely translated from the original Ye Olde Englishe.

This lockdown's getting really boring
Sat indoors and gently snoring
This won't do I must try waking
Out the window, folks are taking
gentle walks as recommended
until this purgatory is ended.

There's Mrs Smith and daughter Joan
And Mr. Smith is on his own
Here come that Ginger Tom again
He's out all night come wind and rain
His catawauling makes me mad
he really is a dreadful cad.

His lady friends keep having litters
The noise at night gives me the jitters.
It would be good to go out shopping
Chat to neighbours without stopping
But can't go out, I'm isolating the rules are clear, no violating.

So here I sit and watch the world
as leaves are slowly blown and swirled
by gentle winds from nearby trees
dancing in this cooling breeze
Now there's a leaf sat on my lawn
Must make an effort not to yawn.

Will find my nature book, must dash
to see if its oak, elm or ash
Here's the book, page twenty three
should tell me plain what sort of tree
Oh dear, looks like its shape could mean
Its from my neighbours runner bean
I'll check the shape again, I say!
The blasted thing has blown away.
Thus ends another fun packed day.

by that well known poet Anon.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT E-NEWS CONTRIBUTION IS JUNE 18TH PLEASE.