



Issue: April 27 2020

FROM THE CHAIR - *Tim Young*

How are you all managing as we enter the second month of lockdown? We are indeed in unprecedented times but I think we are adjusting to the new routine of life. My feeling is that I have had a nice rest and now is the time to get on with a few things. I tend to start each day with a 'useful activity', anything from sorting bookshelves to gardening to descaling things like kettles, shower heads etc. That gives me a feeling of achievement. Then there is a bit of physical activity, walking or cycling and the weather has been very kind from that point of view. Our Facebook page shows many examples from members who have found lovely places to walk locally. And so the days wear on after that, I won't bore you with any more, but the routine does help as, I find, does doing different things on different days so that the week has a shape. There is still a list of good intentions to be tackled!

A lot more information and activities are being added to the website and I hope that these are proving useful and interesting. If there are things you would like us to provide, do please let us know: the CONTACT US page on the website is probably quickest, unless you would prefer to pick up the phone.

Tim Young

Chairman

Latest News

Rhythm & Rhyme

We have a number of members who enjoy poetry and one of the things that our new-found time has allowed is the putting of pen to paper. To encourage this interest and creativity we have set up a new 'group' called Rhythm & Rhyme. At present it is only an online group, obviously. When we are allowed out again we shall see about setting up a proper group. The group is building an anthology which you can find from the Rhythm & Rhyme Group page. This anthology consists of new, original poems by our members, together with those published poems enjoyed by our members. Feel free to take part in either aspect.

Latest News

Gardening Group from Kath Gifkins

Hello Gardeners, are you glad of the current sunny weather or like me praying for some rain!

The Peonies are in bud so by previous experience we can expect gales and downpours when they break into flower. I hope you have checked the web page for details of the plant diary some if us are keeping and join in if you are not doing one yet. Have you managed to source all the seeds plants and compost you need, if so why not share the secret with those having problems. I've been using up a lot of seeds that have been in the shed, with some success, which only goes to show you shouldn't believe the use by dates completely. For those of you with garden centre withdrawal symptoms, Joe Sharman who was to have given his talk to us in May is still operating his Cottenham based nursery on line, as are some others. When the weather does change why not take a virtual wander around a garden, those who subscribe to Gardeners World may already be aware that you can visit Longmeadow and Alan Titchmarsh's garden. Cambridge Botanic Garden and some gardens in the NGS scheme are also offering virtual visits. By the way, what a lovely picture of Monte Bowers in the Journal, an inspiration to us all. Keep digging!!

History Group from Niddy Walpole

I have been putting quizzes of different subjects on the website page. Number 3 currently. I hope they have helped to while away some time in this lockdown period. There is also a brief history of the Hemp and Flax industries in Mediaeval times in East Anglia.

Whilst looking for more questions I came across- *The Brief History of Wallpaper by the V and A museum*. Do have a read.

If you are YouTube viewers try the B1M videos

- a. *The Statue of Liberty; Building an Icon*
- b. *The Golden Gate: Building an Impossible Bridge*

Lastly before you go back to your gardens – Does anyone fancy joining me in a Springtime wardrobe clear out on Thursday 30th am. We can donate those things we no longer fit into to a charity shop when they reopen of course. However, I thought we could see who has the oldest piece of clothing that they have worn? Perhaps from the 50s, or something you cherish from your mother? And send me a photo of it that we could then put on our Facebook site? I hope so and happy rummaging!!

Publicity Team notice:

Please also note that there is a new link on the website NEWS page with suggestions for Lockdown activities. The Wings , Wheels and Water second quiz is now on the website and the webpage is also featuring presentations on the theme of Space Travel – maybe ultimate isolation for you?.

As this is E-News is distributed by email only, if you do know of a nearby member who does not use email it would be wonderful if you could help to keep them in touch by giving them a printed copy. We would appreciate your assistance where possible and of course at no personal risk. This will be coming out to members every 2 weeks and if you would like anything included please let Nigel Day have your contributions by May 7th.