

HANDS ACROSS THE “C”

Dear Members

We are getting accustomed to being 'Safe' at home, I know most of us are finding it very hard not to have the company of others to talk to and share our interests with.

But, we are finding new ways to chat and share photographs of our activities, and some are sharing the amusing and touching posts they have received. All these things help to keep our spirits up.

I do hope you have 'clapped' our heroes, it really makes you realise how important the humble jobs are to our society. We all appreciate our NHS of course, what would we do without them, but the supermarket employees and refuse collectors have become more valued, and rightly so.

It has always been a changing world, but my goodness life has changed now. Keep in good heart and health, enjoy the sunshine and a bit of fresh air.

Very best wishes

Brenda Stevenson

STOURBRIDGE COMMUNITY SUPPORT

has taken over virtually all the work previously being done by Foodbank and similar organisations:

www.stourbridgecommunitysupport.org

There is also a food Donation page that tells you which food items will be most useful.

www.stourbridgecommunitysupport.org/food-donations

It is important that people who are struggling know they are not alone, that help and support is available. The above addresses will tell people what is being done to help them, what they can do to help others, how to volunteer to help. A page is also being set up for people to donate money if they wish/prefer.

PLEASE SHARE THIS INFORMATION!

Barbara Sykes



82 year old artist, David Hockney, who is currently in isolation in Normandy, has released his latest iPad paintings on line. The title of one work is a reminder that “They can’t cancel Spring”.

To be 70 years young is sometimes more cheerful than being 40 years old.
Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr

INTEREST GROUPS

Group Leaders are finding innovative ways of keeping our U3A buzzing; contacting group members by email and setting up Whatsapp and Zoom groups for messaging and video conferencing sessions. The Committee and a group of volunteers are also keeping in touch with more isolated members with regular telephone calls.

Recorders: Andrew Paterson's group as well as practicing their current music, have been set two monthly tasks. March was to practice a piece by Tartini that they tried in 2012/3 when less experienced and April is to look at transforming Bach's Suite in B Minor for Flute and Orchestra for the recorder. All the best of luck with that one!

Art Group: Jan Murphy has set a theme of the Unexpected or Unseen, which gives plenty of scope to put individual preferences and ideas into practice. Jan says It will be interesting to see different interpretations of the same subject.

Ukulele: Keith Picken is sending out regular video recordings so that his group can sing along and practice on their instruments. He is also rewriting the lyrics to popular songs to reflect the current situation.

Knitting & Crochet: Brenda Smith is setting a new stitch sample each month and group members will knit 6" squares to be turned into a charity blanket when they meet up again.

Golf: David Reeves, says it will be difficult to practice golf over the internet, but is planning to set up a Whatsapp group with golf related quizzes and, in order to rekindle that Dunkirk spirit:

"We will play them off the Tees, from the Fairways. out of the Bunkers and on the Greens.....and we will never, ever, put down the wrong score on our cards. In years to come, some may say, "This has been their finest round of Golf"

Family History: Sandra Bull reports that members are able to work successfully from home and have been provided with a comparison of various websites.

Canal Group: Brenda Stevenson is in regular email contact with members and Ivor Caplan has produced a canal related quiz, which has already been posted on our website.

Please let us know what your group are doing to support each other during isolation.

*On hearing ill rumour that Londoners may soon be urged into their lodgings by Her Majesty's men, I looked upon the street to see a gaggle of striplings making fair merry, and no doubt spreading the Plague well about. Not a care had these rogues for the health of their elders.
Samual Pepys - London 1664*

Although we are currently unable to visit stately homes, there are many virtual tours of properties and museums available on line. Try:
[www.waddesden.org.uk/the-collection/virtual-tours.](http://www.waddesden.org.uk/the-collection/virtual-tours)

Would you like to learn Mandarin?

Chinese is becoming the market language of Asia. Ed Conduit has set up a Zoom account and could organise conversation, Chinese food menus, characters, or whatever you like.

Ed says that after only one hour you would be able to say:

"Good morning, how are you?"

"Good thanks, and you?"

"Not so good."

"And the kids?"

"They're great."

Contact Ed at: econduit@yahoo.com or mobile 07976 646291

The answer to each clue is a phrase with one of the words being a metal, mineral or chemical element of some sort e.g. 25 years of marriage Silver wedding Wizard of Oz character The Tin Man.

1. Scientific method for detecting the age of objects.....
2. Dickens novel – eponymous hero
3. Traditionally given on engagement.....
4. The goal for Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz
5. Silence is
6. Can eat anything without ill effects
7. Caribbean modern instrument
8. Very well behaved!
9. Lifesaving equipment in aeroplanes.
10. Every cloud has one
11. Colourful when lit up at night
12. and Old Lace.
13. To rule like a tyrant
14. Stored in bones and teeth
15. To malingering
16. Inert gas, lighter than air
17. Device used to access preserved foods
18. A name on a door
19. Medieval torture device
20. Persuasive and eloquent speaker

Answers to Lords & Ladies quiz: 1. The Lady of Shallott, 2. Lord Lucan, 3. Lady MacBeth, 4. Lord Snooty, 5. Lady Marian, 6. Lord Nicholas Soames, 7. Lady Isobel Barnett, 8. Lord Sebastian Coe, 9. The Lady of the Lake, 10. Lord Michael Heseltine.

UK VIRUS UPDATE

The English are feeling the pinch in relation to recent statistics and have therefore raised their threat level from “Miffed” to “Peeved.” Soon though, the level may be raised yet again to “Irritated” or even “A Bit Cross.” The English have not been “A Bit Cross” since the Blitz in 1940 when tea supplies nearly ran out.

The virus has therefore been re-categorized from “Tiresome” to “A Bloody Nuisance.” The last time the British issued a “Bloody Nuisance” warning level was in 1588, when threatened by the Spanish Armada.

The Scots have raised their own threat level from “Really Irritated” to “Let’s Get the Bastard.” They don’t have any other levels. This is the reason why they have been used on the front line of British troupes for over 300 years.



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