

U3A IN TOUCH!

The Newsletter of Wellingborough & District U3A

April 2020



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From the Chair:

I am led to believe that we have not experienced life, such as we are having to endure now, since the Second World War, which finished 75 years ago. It is not as long a period since I can recall having 'not a lot' to say, but I face that situation now.

We all must do the right thing to protect ourselves, loved ones and friends at this difficult time, such that we can be fit and healthy when we are able to resume normal service. I am also led to believe that the heating will be restored at the URC by then...although we hope it will not be needed!!!

We do not feel that it's appropriate to issue a full 'In Touch' Newsletter at this stage. This interim communication is likely to be the first of several regular messages during the enforced suspension of activities, designed to keep us all together, with ideas and suggestions for keeping our minds active and to prevent us seizing up with boredom.

Inevitably, most of these communications will be delivered electronically, so please, please, if you have not already done so, let us have an e-mail address for you, or if you do not have one, perhaps a relative or a close friend can pass messages on to you; the fewer letters we have to send the lower our costs will be!

In the meantime, stay safe, follow the government guidelines and keep cheerful, firm in the belief that we will soon be able to put these times behind us.

As for me, I'm off to check my provisions, as, having run out of toilet paper, I had to use a lettuce leaf. It's just the tip of the iceberg.

Also, I'm giving up drinking for four months. No..., wait... I mean "I'm giving up. Drinking for four months."

Bob (Chairman)

Our Website:

If you're reading this while you're online just click the link to go straight there, otherwise type the following into your browser:

www.wellingboroughu3a.org.uk

For the members-only area, you need:

Username: **Cr0mwell**

Password: **H1ndh0tel**

Both are case-sensitive, and use zeros and the number 1.

(Photo by Peter Burnett, which appears on our website and also on your membership card.)



Let's all...Keep safe and well – Keep washing our hands – Keep following government advice – Keep in touch with our friends – **During this enforced suspension of U3A activities, please feel free to ring a member of the Committee if you feel lonely or worried, or would simply like to chat to someone. Our members are top priority. Remember: We're here for you!!**

A Message from our Groups Co-ordinator:



Keeping in touch with your groups:

I have enjoyed hearing about the many and varied ways our talented U3A members are keeping in touch with their groups. They are using Facebook, WhatsApp, Zoom, email and even good old -fashioned telephones! One group has signed up for an Open Learning module, sharing their responses on Facebook.

The national U3A website has some excellent ideas under the section 'COVID 19 and U3As, Ideas to Keep Learning.' It is well worth a look. Some of the ideas are:

- Puzzles, challenges and quizzes
- Creative writing competitions
- Painting, drawing or photography competitions
- 'Future Learn' courses or a 'Massive Open Online Course' (MOOC)
- Art and Craft groups sharing photographs of their latest work by email

The national U3A website will be posting updates of suggested ways to keep learning with your group, so it is worth checking regularly. There will soon be guidance on how to set up a teleconference system such as Zoom. I am using this with some of my groups so I can recommend it!

Please let me know how your group is staying in touch. I look forward to hearing from you!

Julie Williams

...followed by a message from our Website Co-ordinator:

We are now up and running with Beacon. The Committee are using Beacon to manage membership details and send emails to all members when required, which has been vitally important in these uncertain times. It's good to keep in touch!

A number of our Group Leaders have also signed up for Beacon, and are finding it a useful tool for running their groups, which is great.

We are now going to open up the Members' Portal, so that you can control the details that we hold about you - especially useful if you change your email address, phone number, or you move house.

[Click here to access the Members' Portal](#) . You can also find a link for this on our website, on the 'NEWS' page.

To sign in you will need your membership number, your forename and surname as they are printed on your membership card, your postcode, and the email address that we hold for you.

While we have time on our hands, it's a good time to experiment with Beacon; it's very user-friendly but if you have any queries or problems please get in touch with me, Bob or Jayne.

Sue Burrell

Northants U3A Network event (Revised Date): Friday October 23rd 2020

The Northamptonshire Network (there are now 14 U3As in our county) organised a talk by popular best-selling author and public speaker Gervase Phinn, which was originally scheduled for April 23rd. It has now been re-booked for October 23rd.



You may have heard of him/read his books... but if you haven't you'll enjoy his wit and humour. Tickets are £5.00. A few have already been issued, which can be retained; tea or coffee and biscuits are included in the price. Do make a note of the date and plan to come along if you can! (If you haven't booked just yet, don't worry... we'll give you details later on, but in plenty of time.)