



Hello Everyone,

Well here we are again, starting to emerge from the tunnel that is lockdown. We can now meet in each other's homes as long as we are only from two households or in a family bubble. Also weddings can now take place with a maximum of 30 people - it must be very difficult to decide who the 30 people are, and will they have masks on for the photos! My own son has had to postpone his wedding until next summer.

Doesn't it feel good to have a haircut again and beauty treatments if they are wanted. And to start going to restaurants, cafes and bars - places I am sure we will never take for granted again. We'll need to be patient for theatres and concert halls to re-open. Maybe you will want to take a holiday abroad - difficult decisions for us all. The phrase *patience is a virtue* springs to mind.

At U3A we are continuing to attend our Zoom calls. I was at a virtual meeting of the Herts Area Network in July. All 41 of the Hertfordshire groups were invited. We spent two hours discussing how the groups are coping in these difficult times. Some groups have virtual general meetings and have even had a virtual AGM. They are all busy with quizzes, dingbats, circulating jokes etc. We are hoping to hold our AGM via Zoom in September, but there are no concrete plans yet to meet face to face until the church is allowed to re-open for communal meetings.

Interest groups are still communicating. So important for us to connect with each other. Once we are up and running again I intend to visit all the groups - a) to introduce myself and b) to have a better understanding of what groups are doing. We are so diverse and it's apparent we have a thirst for knowledge and learning.

In the meantime, be well, look out for each other and hopefully we'll start up again after the summer. If you are going away, whether it's for a week or a day trip, have a good time and stay safe.

Barbara,  
Acting Chair

### ***Other news***

We are holding a **Zoom General Meeting** on Tuesday 15 September. Those of you who have registered your email address with Lesley, our Membership Secretary, will receive the log in link the week before the General Meeting. The Zoom call lasts 40 minutes. If we need to continue the meeting you may log in again with the same log in link. Once logged in click on video and audio. You will need to mute your microphone once the meeting starts.

**Subscription Renewals** should be sent by the AGM which will be held on a Zoom call on Tuesday 20 October. Lesley Cummings, our Membership Secretary will be emailing/has emailed you with full details.

### **Online Learning Hub**

Have your say! We are looking for your ideas to help us develop the new Online Learning Hub. This is going to be an online collection of all of the resources and tools you may need to support learning across your interest groups and U3A.

This short questionnaire will give us valuable information about what's important to you, and what we need to consider in the design and implementation of this Online Learning Hub. None of the questions are compulsory and your response is anonymous. This should take you less than 10 minutes. Click here to participate:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RFZYSMK>

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION MARCH 2020 - MARCH 2021

The membership renewal for this year has been delayed due to COVID 19, but we are now asking for the annual membership fee. The usual fees are £24, but we have decided to reduce these by 50%, to £12, which reflects the reduced activity of our U3A. There are many fixed costs which we still have to meet, including contributions to the National U3A Office and the costs of the Third Age Matters magazine. We also have other incidental expenses such as printing and postage and a contribution to the church premises. It seems unlikely we will be fully 'up and running' in the next few months, and we will keep the situation regarding subscriptions under review.

Lesley will be contacting/has contacted you via email or post (for those without an email address) about how to pay your fees and renew your membership, so please keep an eye on your inbox.

I know how important the friends and contacts we have made through U3A have been to so many of us in this difficult time, and how much this mutual support has helped us.

### **Answers to July's Quiz from Sue at the Quiz Group**

1. A female sheep .....EWE
2. The armature of a motor .....ROTOR
3. The mother of Samuel in the Bible .....HANNAH
4. Kings of Persia .....SHAHS
5. A method for detecting objects with radio waves .....RADAR
6. An old Indian coin equal to a sixteenth of a Rupee .....ANNA
7. One half of a semi-breve .....MINIM
8. The lady in charge of a house of ill repute .....MADAM
9. One who restores life or consciousness .....REVIVER
10. A machine that breaks up soil .....ROTAVATOR
11. A Norwegian pop group .....AHA
- 12 . Relating to or belonging to a city .....CIVIC
- 13 . A form of Jewish Bread .....HALLAH
- 14 . Worshipped or revered as a God .....DEIFIED
15. A Scandinavian pop group .....ABBA

## And now for August's entry from Sue at the Quiz Group - answers in September

### BRAIN TEASERS

1. You can see me in water , but I never get wet . What am I ?
2. The more you take , the more you leave behind. What am I ?
3. Imagine you are in a dark room , how do you get out ?
4. What English word retains the same pronunciation , even after you take away four of its five letters ?
5. When you have me , you feel like sharing me . But ,if you do , you don't have me . What am I ?
6. An English word has six letters , remove one letter , and twelve remain . What am I ?
7. What invention makes you look right through a wall ?
8. What occurs once in every minute , twice in every moment , yet never in a thousand years ?
9. What gets bigger every time you take from it ?
10. I'm flat when new. I'm fat when you use me . I release my gas when something sharp touches me . What am I ?
11. What do you throw out when you want to use it , but take in when you don't want to use it ?
- 12 . Which ring is square ?
- 13 . The more you see of it , the less you have of it ?
- 14 . What kind of coat is always wet when you put it on ?
- 15 . What kind of cheese is made backwards ?

That's it from Sue at the Quiz Group for this month - Good Luck

### *Welcome to Facebook*

Woodside U3A now has a Facebook page. The private page shows a photo of The Church of The Nazarene. All members are welcome to join. We hope to feature items of interest and photos of group activities. Just let me have your facebook username and I can invite you to join.

Barbara Elman,  
barbaraelman@hotmail.co.uk  
Acting Chair

### ***Beware - a new scam***

The scam is this: You receive a call stating they are from the NHS track and trace saying you have been in contact with a person who has contracted COVID-19. You are told you must isolate for 7 days and take a test. You are also told you must take the test in the next 72 hours and they ask for an address to send the kit to.

If you ask who the person who has the COVID-19 positive test you are told this information is confidential.

Finally they say they just need to take card payment details so they can send you the kit. When this is queried as test should be free you are told "afraid not there is a one off charge of £50.00".

At this point you should put the phone down.

### ***Walking Book Group***

Our next meeting for the book club is on 16th September at 10.30 in Cassiobury Park by the Cafe Cha Cha. The books we are reading this month are Pickwick Papers by Charles Dickens, Tidelands by Phillipa Gregory and The Guest List by Lucy Foley. Some of the books we would recommend that we have read during lock down are: Innocence by Erin Kinsley, The Code of the Woosters by PG Woodhouse, After the End by Clare Mackintosh, The Hour of Separation by Katherine Manon, The Light Between the Oceans by M L Steadman, Frankenstein by Mary Shelly and Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens.

Libby

### ***Well what a difference a year makes!***

This time last year many of us were out and about enjoying the various activities of the U3A in a very carefree way. The phrase 'social distancing' hadn't been invented and as for a national shortage of toilet rolls and flour - well that would have had most of us chuckling!!! By this time last year many of us were involved in the development of the Christmas meeting events and becoming immersed in the intense planning and plotting for the Christmas festivities. Ideas were flowing, designs were emerging and lots of laughter and cheering was heard in between the head scratching as creations emerged.

For me it was a time that showed how the U3A ethos was definitely working in our Woodside group. Everyone involved gave so much time and effort, researching and setting quiz questions, producing materials and equipment, planning suitable refreshments, and working together to produce the props and costumes needed. Everyone was sworn to secrecy in order that on the day, the big reveal would give everyone something to look forward to and enjoy the fun of each event, and experience the surprise of seeing the wonderful creations as they were unpacked and seen for the first time, even by members of the same group.

The Quiz group started off our celebrations, a much anticipated event which is now very much an established part of the morning, looked forward to and enjoyed by all, the winners getting chocolates and cheers, and the quiz group applauded for their collaborative work.



### *Enjoying the quiz*

The Curry group had again provided a lovely array of snacks and served drinks to each table - a military operation that makes a complicated process look simple!! Members disappeared quietly and panto characters emerged in their place. Props depicting a variety of pantos adorned the tables, and the Singing for Pleasure group provided an engaging array of songs, sounds and surprises.

Controlling the procedures was our own Nutcracker soldier - resplendent in his (her) bright red and black military outfit, ably supported by three very glamorous Fairy Godmothers - looking absolutely fabulous in their much glittered mop heads and tutus.



*Giant's head created by Sue B's talented 6 yr old grandson*

The whole morning was a buzz of noise and anticipation, lots of laughter, lots of ad libbing but most of all lots of very happy people who all contributed in their own way to make us realise how much we as a group could achieve.



*Don and his hand crafted Pinocchio*

I loved every minute of the whole process - no one said 'no', no one said 'but'! I laughed a lot, took many photos, took many notes, and prayed I didn't lose my blue book!!! At the end I said someone else's turn next!!! By January we had three themes in the running - with quite a few members asking what the plan was!!!!

Sadly Covid 19 has put one very large spanner in our works - so this year whatever we come up with won't be involving approx 150 people in a hall. However I do have half a plan based on an old tv series (before my time!!!) TWTWTW!!!! Now watch this space!!!!

Regards to you all - stay safe and keep positive  
Val xx



Joan and her wizard of Oz poppies

**WANTED: NEWS & PHOTOGRAPHS**

suitable for publication please send to  
The Webmaster, Andrew Cummings at  
[andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com](mailto:andrew.cummingsu3a@btinternet.com)

**AND FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter is available online at  
<https://u3asites.org.uk/woodside>

**Copy date** for the September Issue is 1<sup>st</sup>  
September

Send to Jo Bromwich, 01923 443758 or  
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