



SHERWOOD U3A

Learn Laugh Live NEWSLETTER August 2020

Hello to all Sherwood U3A members,

Thank you to those members who have contributed to the newsletter this month. I hope you all appreciate their support in enabling me to produce this August edition. I continue to ask those of you who may not have sent a contribution to consider doing so, please have a go, you do not have to be a "writer" and it can be about anything. If you prefer to send a handwritten piece, just phone for my address.

In August there is news and updates. Not unexpectedly the focus of what you have been doing is home based and therefore Hobbies is the theme for this month. There are also reflections of what has been happening in the community. As most of you are not travelling very far the quiz is also locally based. I hope you enjoy it all!!

Sue Robb (Editor)

Contributions by Monday 31st August at latest please.

If you have any questions about specific things please contact the following who will find out the answers to your concerns and try to come back to you with the answers:

Membership	Rita Foulkes
Groups and Postal Members	Terry Dillon
Welfare	Sandra Rogers
Holidays	Contact the holiday organizer whose contact details are in this newsletter.
Financial/General	Margaret Taylor
Newsletter/General	Sue Robb

Changes to the over 75 TV license will come into effect from 1st August 2020

If you are aged 75 or over and hold a free TV Licence which has expired or is due to expire on the 31st July 2020, you don't need to do anything to stay licensed until we contact you.

We will write to all over 75 licence holders starting in August. This letter will let you know what action you'll need to take for your next licence.

U3A NOTICES



JULIE STAPLETON We, my family and I, would like to thank you all for your kind messages during and after Julie's illness. To see you all, her friends, on the drive at her funeral was wonderful. We loved Julie dearly and were proud to have had her in our lives. She will be forever in our thoughts and in our hearts.

The donations in lieu of flowers from yourselves, the U3A, and other friends and family were very generous. A cheque for £500 was given to the District Nurses who had helped so much.

John Stapleton

LOCKDOWN!! Terry Dillon

There are many ways in which Coronavirus has affected our lives. So many things which we have always taken for granted that we can no longer do. However life does go on and there have been many things to celebrate like VE Day. As lockdown starts to ease we can now meet up with friends, all be it at a safe distance and out of doors. We can see our families in our homes. We can eat and drink at pubs and restaurants. We can go shopping!!

I also, very quietly, celebrated my 70th birthday. But the best celebration of all was the birth of my new granddaughter Elicia Hope, a sister for Ethan and a joy for our family.



GROUP NEWS



HOLIDAYS

The Committee met to discuss the Advice from National Office with regard to the Holidays to Kent and the Isle of Wight and the fate of the holiday to Scotland.

National's Advice was to redeem the Refund Credit Note and get money back NOT to transfer holidays to the next year. I rang Groups for us and informed them that this was our intention for both holidays which had been cancelled. They have photocopies of all cheques received from us and will refund them by sending cheques for Kent to me and the Isle of Wight to Rita. We will then post them to you but it won't be until the end of August or beginning of September.

I apologise to those who wanted to transfer their holiday to next year on the 3rd to 7th May but National are very insistent that we get refunds for members. However, in September, I will advertise the Kent Holiday again and start again by taking £50 deposits and Rita will do the same for the Isle of Wight in November, for holidays in 2021.

For Scotland holiday see Pat's message below.

SCOTLAND - OCTOBER 2020 - Pat Magness

After careful consideration it has been decided to defer this holiday, if possible, to September next year. Deposits will be refunded when these are received from Just for Groups. I will be contacting all those booked on this holiday during the course of the next few weeks.

THURSFORD - Cancelled.

POTTERS 7th-11th December. At present time this is still on. Denise Whitsed

THEATRE I have cancelled all bookings for the Theatre Royal and The Royal Centre at Nottingham. If you have paid for a ticket all monies will be refunded to you soon, I need to contact Mrs M Miller and Mr Miller concerning their tickets. Sheila Whalley



On a Friday in July, keeping to Government advice, six friends from the **GARDEN GROUP** met up for a chat, tea and biscuits, outside on the lawn, adhering to Coronavirus restrictions of one metre apart. It was a lovely sunny morning, we sat and chatted, looked around the well-tended garden, tasted delicious raspberries and admired all the ripening tomatoes. We all agreed we must do this again soon so there may be a gathering of friends from Garden Group meeting sometime in August. Marilyn Dillon

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well! Well! Well! We are now not so much locked down as limited to either groups of six or Households or Households and bubbles or different numbers for outside and different numbers for inside! None of which enable us to get our U3A up and running! In fact National Office for the U3As in Britain, who advise us on all legal issues, have suggested that we do not meet in groups under the name of U3A.

Some groups have been meeting virtually, some on Zoom and some as groups of friends. The walkers, for instance have travelled to various local places such as Vicars Water or the Carrs and walked in groups of six. The Wine Appreciation have done quizzes on Zoom, the Photography Group have continued online and had themes and competitions. The Music Group have listened to suggested pieces and discussed them. Please let us know if your group have had contact, in what way and how did it go?

Other Groups are having Risk Assessment Meetings, not as an official U3A group but just as a set of friends. The Oriental Dining are having six people try an evening at the Chand in Mansfield, the International Dining Group are having six people try Tom Browns at Gunthorpe. They were going to try for ten but decide the official six would be a safer trial run.

The Committee are on a rota of six each month and we meet usually outside on my patio or in the Garden Room. As you can imagine, apart from the usual Agenda items, Finance, Membership and Reports, the main topic of discussion is --- "How and when can we get at least some members together again for some sort of Meeting?" In fact, part of our homework before the next Committee Meeting is to explore possibilities, with the hope that by October we can have some sort of Meeting, even if we have to have several, just an hour each and you book a slot - Slimming World Style!

The Holiday Committee met at on Pat's garden and discussed the latest advice from National Office and the Holiday to Scotland. (See outcome under Holidays!)

I mentioned that the Committee had homework and only part of it was finding a venue. The other half was a request from Sue Robb that each Committee member write a summary of what they had been doing during lockdown, with photographs, for the September Newsletter. Well I can tell you that I had a real achievement! I got another MAN for the Committee – Dave Clark. Be warned gentlemen! He was passing my house and I invited him to look at my garden --- now he has been co-opted onto the Committee! (In my defence, his wife was with him and he did volunteer!)

Next time, there will be more about the men in my life and my garden, with pictures of the latter but not the former!!!

In the Community.... A TALE OF SHERWOOD, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT!

Friends in my area of Nottingham are very confused when I tell them I belong to Sherwood U3A, as they know nothing about it! They know of Gedling, Burton Joyce, Mapperley, Carlton, Arnold and, of course, Nottingham U3A, but say,

"Is there one in Sherwood?"

At which point I inform them that Sherwood U3A is, in fact, in Mansfield Woodhouse, not the Nottingham Sherwood where I live!

This Sherwood has become quite a vibrant area over the last few years, but it's rather a strange place in many ways. Some of you will may have had a meal here, probably at Ania's Polish Restaurant, or if you have passed through on your way into Nottingham, you may have noticed just how many eating places it boasts - 40 at my last count, a few months back, including pubs, take-aways, cafes and dessert parlours, as well as ordinary restaurants. Most of the other shops are either hairdressers (17) or Charity shops (13)!

Normally, each year, in the middle of June, we have Sherwood Art Week. Again, some of you will probably know about it and may have visited the craft fairs, workshops or demonstrations that take place then. Many of the shops show art and craft exhibits, produced by local artists, for the whole week.

Obviously, this year the organisers couldn't follow the usual pattern, so it seemed the Art Week wouldn't take place, but that didn't take account of the sociability and determination of some of my neighbours.



I am very lucky in that all the people who live in this road are very affable and on two previous occasions we have held a Garden Party for those living in it. One neighbour, Alex, helps to organise the Art Week each year. She and a couple of other neighbours came up with the idea of having a linked event in our road, so 'Sherwood Art Week At Home' was born.

Everyone in Hall Street, and two adjoining roads, was encouraged by a leaflet drop to place any art or craft contributions of their own in the front windows of their houses. In addition, arrangements were put in place to have a poetry/music/ social 'get together,' to be held on the Thursday of that week. An afternoon tea at the front of houses was to close the event on the Sunday.

All in all, it was a lovely idea.



Many people entered into the spirit of the event and the art and craft on show included paintings, knitted children's clothes, Indian patterns drawn on the pavement in chalk and collages. One neighbour constructed a scarecrow, which sat in her garden when the weather was good.

On the Thursday evening we had poetry recitals by four people, country singing from three members of a choir and guitar playing. A short talk on the history of Sherwood was given by someone who had written a book about it and I ventured to play my trombone when there weren't too many people about! Four local children played games and several adults tried their skill at using a Hula Hoop, but they were put to shame by a ten year old girl who was brilliant at it!

Those who didn't perform in some way sat outside their front door enjoyed the evening with snacks and the odd tippie. One of my next door neighbours was still outside with a few other people at 10.30pm.

On the following Sunday afternoon the weather wasn't good, but about twenty people didn't let that bother them and they gathered in four rented garages which were opened up to allow the afternoon teas to be enjoyed. There were quizzes to do and bottles of champagne were brought out by two neighbours which added to the enjoyment!

Overall, 'Sherwood Art Week at Home' was deemed a great success and no doubt the 'inspirers' of this road will be mulling over what everyone can turn their hands to next!!

HOBBIES

JIGSAWS



...and wine and chocolate

Eileen Wass

'Lockdown,' is a scary word, more familiar to those living in military controlled states, that is, until the coronavirus came amongst us, and freedoms we took for granted, ended. We venture forth to shop, no online deliveries for us, counting our time out as exercise, and return home within the hour. I couldn't get a new battery for my Rolex. Ironically, the cheap Chinese knock-off watch I won in a raffle is reliable and long lived! Irony indeed!

We mourned the closure of coffee shops, and garden centres which we would meander around in pleasurable contemplation. Fortunately, our local supermarket is currently filling the breach. I bought a selection of bedding plants and spent a joyful Sunday planting them. Maybe not 'necessary' items to some, but they are to me! And, like Prince Charles, I talk to my plants.

After lunch, we contemplate the rest of the day. Fortunately, we have a decent garden. I can birdwatch whilst drinking a latte (or double gin), sorry doc. I can enjoy the sun whilst texting a friend, writing or giving serious consideration to what to cook for our evening meal, or, watching a determined ant carry a dropped cake crumb, back to the nest --- See? Fascinating stuff, eh?!

My neighbour is self-isolating. I don't know why. Everything arrives at hers by DHL, Argos, Royal Mail or UPS and Amazon. The cardboard mountain is growing, and our once quiet street is akin to a delivery depot. Our new hobby is: 'spot the livery on the delivery vehicle.'

The council thoughtlessly closed the tip, so gardening refuse had a temporary home behind the shed. The only upside is I mowed the lawn less, and bees certainly appreciated the dandelions! The tubs of petunias are also doing well --- probably the coffee dregs!?

I had to make a GP appointment. The cheerful receptionist inquired if I had the coronavirus? Since I am not a qualified medic, I told her, that as far as I was aware, I was free of the dreaded virus! I still had my temperature checked on arrival, and was then declared 'safe to enter.'

Unfortunately, my dentist isn't seeing patients, and today, unluckily a large filling dropped out! My dentist's telephone advice was to buy some dental adhesive from the pharmacy and glue it back! *Really?* Well my advice, when normality returns will be that I am seeking treatment elsewhere!

My Tai Chi instructor keeps me up to date on 'You Tube.' I go through the moves, but without the aura of the full class it just doesn't light my inner fire. However, attempting alternative exercise, I almost ended up in A&E when I decided to 'deep clean' behind the pedestal basins in the cloakroom and bathroom. See how low I've sunk for something to do? My back objected, and I had to take serious pain-killers, because I'd run out of gin.

My husband is more tolerant of 'the situation.' He has appointed himself chief critic of my writing efforts! It's hard to take when *his* preferred reading is crime and cowboy material churned out in mind-numbingly, similar format. If I let loose with my rolling pin, hubby may become more 'tolerant' of my intolerance of his chosen reading material!

When we clapped for the NHS on Thursdays, the neighbours appeared around 8p.m. on their drives, some in psychedelic pyjamas that screamed bad taste! It gave me a real insight into their personalities! But there is much more of a community feeling now: a great positive.

My brother lives in Spain. Recently, with special permission, he drove 60 miles to obtain cat and dog supplies for his friend's animal refuge. Talk about going the extra mile! But at least his new, expensive Volvo has got some miles on the clock. I expect he put it through its paces. His latest good deed is 'nursing' a friend with a bad knee; fully gowned and masked, of course. Medical care is sparse if you live half way up into the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The air is very good for your health, though. My brother is a saint, and the community around him is very lucky.

The virus has brought out the best in most of us. I know more of my neighbours to chat to, and swap stories with. We all appreciate the work of local services like waste disposal. I gave chocolates to our bin men, and to our local pharmacy. It's a challenging job to keep drug supplies arriving on time these days. I am thankful for their excellent service.

Someone commented recently, it is only when we are restricted to fewer choices; we appreciate what we have lost. This virus is indiscriminate, taking from us loved ones of all ages, and tragically, far too many talented, caring people who worked in the NHS. It is time for all of us to contemplate change. I vow to be more tolerant, patient and complain less. I like to be in control, but the fact is we control nothing! And some things we may never come to terms with; yet my hope is still, even on the darkest day, we can summon strength from within to find a positive in these changed times.

Lockdown woes in 50 words ... Sylvia Pearson

Lockdown has ruined my hair. It was short and tidy, easy to look after. Now it's like a mop. Turn me upside down, dunk me in hot soapy water, wash the floor with me – useful for something after all. I long for a hairdresser, make me look normal again.

(I hope you have now ventured out to have a haircut - Editor)

Round the shop I go, list in hand, pen poised. Into the trolley I carefully place the weekly shop, until at the busy checkout come to a stop, load the bags and stash them in the car. Back home, put away, find only half's done. I lost the list!

.....and the fox family update from last month

The family's cubs are growing fast. One of the vixens likes to lie out in the morning sunshine. I fancy she enjoys a bit of peace before going into the den with the cubs. I'm guessing she'll be glad when they leave home and disperse to find their own territories.

Isabel Costigan wrote:

Blackbird singing in the dark

Daffodil nodding in the morning

Crazy dunnock jingles, crocus opening

First bee of the year

And a butterfly in March!

Proper job well done: satisfaction

Smiles, greeting, friendship, appreciation

Warm room, comfy bed

Mug of tea, chocolate brownie

Good book, magazine, free time

(Apologies for not including the complete 50 words last month)

CAMERAS and PHOTOGRAPHY Sandra Evans



Delightful Discoveries! Entering my garden shed is quite an adventure these days, due mainly to reorganisation of the garden borders and reduction of the amount of containers I have, all of which are currently littering the floor. After completing the setting of all baskets and containers with bedding plants, I was advised to feed them weekly, did I have some feed?, oh yes, it's in the shed!!! And I know exactly where. However, the exactly, wasn't exactly where I thought, so a search ensued. It was during this search that I made an exciting discovery, my old Box Brownie Camera, what joy, I knew it was somewhere in the shed. Forgetting the original reason for the shed search, I came indoors.

Now, where are my other cameras? One in a drawer in the kitchen and the others in a drawer in my desk. I eventually found another four. One still has a card and batteries in it, so I'm assuming that will be the one I used last. I don't think I've used a camera since I had my iPad and mobile phone, it's just so much easier.

I found lots of memory cards too with some Holidays on them, many are on discs, so now I'm trying to remember how I can look at them? I think I looked at them on my laptop, which has sadly given up the fight, although to be fair, it is quite ancient. Maybe my fellow photography group members will be able to enlighten me.



ART Ann Stanford



At the start of lockdown I was invited to take part in a trial Zoom art course run by the library service, Inspire. A year ago I joined an Inspire acrylic painting course and have experimented, with varying success, using paint and different tools since. Alexandra, the tutor and a professional artist, says that painting should be fun and no stress but it is quite scary putting paint on that blank canvas!

The paintings are semi abstract based around different topics such as land, city and seascapes and floral



compositions. The cityscape was painted using a spatula out of the baking drawer! The courses have come to an end. They have been truly inspirational and a mental lifesaver for a time when life as we knew came to an abrupt end.

GARDENING Marilyn Dillon

I began my lifelong interest in gardening by helping my father with weeding and learning the names of vegetable, herbs fruit and weeds. Over the years I have tried to learn and remember a few of the many plant Family Latin and genus names, where a plant comes from and the best conditions it will grow in, not always successfully of course.

My garden's design has change over the years from the one that was here when we moved in, almost 54 years ago, to one that developed into a children's play area. When the girls left home it changed again, we planted two apple



trees, a number of roses and many annuals, I altered the lawn area, we bought a green house and dug two ponds for wild life. It grew and developed over the years. We bought a small plot of land adjoining the bottom of our garden, this we use for growing fruit and vegetables as well as there being a small wild life area. I try not to use chemicals as I believe that the eco system of gardening works very well.

After a late start this Spring, I planted potatoes, peas and beans, all have grown well and are now ready for harvesting and eating. The strawberries have finished but the raspberries and black currants are almost ready for picking. The tomatoes in the greenhouse are doing well as are the two citrus trees in there. I have taken quite a lot of cuttings of annuals most have taken and are ready to fill up any space left in the flower borders. The hanging baskets and tubs are all doing well too. I am, at the moment, battling with over exuberant growth of shrubs and trees so I am giving them all a severe haircut. It is a wonderful feeling after some hard work in the hot sun to sit in the shade of the apple tree, near the pond and contemplate all the diverse plants from all over the world and beautiful flowers, the scent from them is intoxicating.

KNITTING Marilyn Stubbs

I've been a "big knit" for as long as I can remember and have knitted all sorts of things, but in the soft toy line, cowboys, policemen, nurses, brownies, ballerinas etc. etc. I've also made food: biscuits, fish and chips, bacon, doughnuts, you name it, I've knitted it. You see I have two granddaughters as most of you know, and they had a play kitchen so obviously I knitted all the food. I've even knitted six giant jelly babies, in all the different colours of course. Now we've moved on to soft toys thanks to Harry Potter as they are both big fans. So far I've made six, for friends of friends, that sort of thing, so, if anyone out there wants to give it a go I can send a copy of the pattern, or any pattern you fancy really. If you get stuck or aren't quite sure, just give me a ring. At the moment I'm working on a blue rabbit! The quirky bit about these dolls is that the bottom half of the body is not stuffed, you place in a chocolate orange instead. After that's been eaten, a tennis ball works just as well, or re fill with another chocolate orange. If you use tennis ball you need to cut the bottom off otherwise Harry will be rolling all over the place. Give it a go, if you hit a problem give me a ring on 01623 641185.

One is from the house of Gryffindor and the other Hufflepuff, scarves are different colours!



CHOCOLATE QUIZ ANSWERS:

1.Roses 2.Mars Bar 3.Minstrels 4.Wispa 5.Quality Street 6.Snickers 7.Matchmakers 8.Milky Way 9. All Gold 10.Crunchie
11.Dairy Box 12.Galaxy 13.After Eights 14. Buttons 15. Aero 16.Celebrations 17.KitKat 18.Bounty 19.Flake 20.Twirl
21.Classic 22.Topic 23.Double Decker or Taxi 24.Twix 25.Milky Bar

As you probably aren't going anywhere, this month's quiz is local!

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE WITH A VOWEL DISORDER!

All these places are to be found in Nottinghamshire, but all the vowels have been missed out. Most are reasonably easy to work out.

- | | |
|------------|--------------------|
| 1. HTHWT | 11. GRSLY |
| 2. FSKRTN | 12. KRKLNQTN |
| 3. THRGRTN | 13. MRKT WRSP |
| 4. PLMTR | 14. NWRK |
| 5. NNSLY | 15. HLM PRRPNT |
| 6. WDBRQH | 16. TTNBRQH |
| 7. DNHM | 17. NTH MSKHM |
| 8. BSTWD | 18.STNTN-N-TH-WLDS |
| 9. GTHM | 19. LLRTN |
| 10. KRNG | 20. PPRSTN |

