



SHERWOOD U3A

Learn Laugh Live NEWSLETTER September 2020

Hello to all Sherwood U3A members,

The September issue highlights Sherwood committee members for the coming year, a reminder of their faces, and their stories from the lockdown, plus U3A news and updates. There is also a community section with ideas of how you can contribute to them. I hope you enjoy it, please remember you are all welcome to send something.

Sue Robb (Editor)

Contributions by Friday 25th September 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

U3A NOTICES

GROUP NEWS

A message from Terry Dillon to Group leaders ...A big thank you to all of you who are keeping in touch with the members of your groups, either by phone or email. It is great that where possible the groups are continuing virtually and it is good to read the reports in the newsletter

I said that I would keep you up to date with advice and information from the government and National Office. So far very little has changed. We can meet outside in groups of up to 6 from different households, socially distanced. Inside it is groups of up to two households; this is in homes, pubs and restaurants.

It is not possible to socially distance in cars so avoid travelling with anyone not in your household or support bubble. This is general information for everybody. However National Office has said that we cannot meet in groups under the name of U3A. So until we are told otherwise no group can meet anywhere.

When this is relaxed and groups can start meeting I assume it will be the outdoor groups that will meet first, there is a risk assessment form to be filled in by the group leader and a personal assessment to be filled in by each individual taking part. So basically you can meet up with friends following the guidance but you can't meet up as a U3A group. I hope that this clarifies any misunderstanding. If you have any questions please get in touch.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Five friends from the Sherwood U3A Photography for Fun group met for the first time since March. Observing social distancing laws we gathered in a back garden, we were lucky with the weather and did not need our brollies. We all enjoyed ourselves and had a good laugh, and we were well looked after by our lovely hosts Dave and Marjorie Clarke, the cakes and coffee were great. We discussed ways to take the club forward once we get the green light to start up again.

Keep safe and well, Roger Wood.



NATIONAL TRUST

After 9 years, 43 trips and visiting over 50 properties I have decided it is time for me to hang up my Group Leader's badge. Some of you have been on almost every trip from the beginning, some relative newcomers, and others, after this year's fiasco, never made it at all. Was it a sign that our last trip, to East Riddlesden Hall last October, ended with the broken window and several hours delay. The only problem we ever had!

I am sure there will be several amongst you who will be prepared to continue with the group and I will offer any help if needed to get you started.

Thank you all for your support, flexibility and co-operation. Please keep it going. Irene.



HOLIDAYS

All monies for day trips have now been refunded from Skills and monies sent by bank transfers to everyone except those that have requested a cheque when we reconvene.

Thursford 16th November has now been cancelled and I am in the process of getting refunds for this trip, I am hoping to get the refund of £50 deposit by end of September beginning of October.

Denise Whitsed

The Garden of England – Kent 4th to 8th May 2020 Liz Wilson

I rang Just for Groups on 17th August and was assured that refunds would be sent by the end of the month. As soon as I receive them, I will give you, by phone, a date and time for you to collect them and will probably meet you in Morrison's Car Park. If you are unable to make the meet then I will ensure that they are delivered so that you can sign for receiving them.

I am opening up the same Holiday for next year, **3rd May to 7th May 2021**, £469. Half Board.

Staying in the Holiday Inn in Rochester

Monday On the Journey down visit Hever Castle. **Tuesday** Visit NT Chartwell (garden tour included) and NT Emmett's Garden tour included. **Wednesday** Visit NT Scotney Castle (tour included) and then a free afternoon in Royal Tunbridge Wells. **Thursday** Visit NT Knole (tour included) and NT Ightham Mote. **Friday** On return journey visit Pashley Manor Gardens.

To secure a place on the above holiday I will need to know the type of room that you require, Single, Double or Twin and £50 deposit per person – Cheques made payable to Just For Groups. Go on be brave and optimistic!!

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT –Liz Wilson

At our Committee Meeting today, (six only on a monthly rota), Terry was commenting that most of her Reports start with "Thank you" to group leaders and looking back over my previous Reports I too express many thanks to various people. This Report is no exception!!

My first "THANK YOU" is to Irene Berridge who, for the last nine years has been the Group Leader for National Trust Visits. This means she has planned, booked, organised and accompanied several day visits to National Trust places all over the country. She also organised the National Trust visits on two of the Holidays, Norfolk and Cornwall. In addition to her National Trust work, she planned and organised the walking/sightseeing Holiday in the Yorkshire Dales. Unfortunately, she lost her friend and National Trust helper earlier in the year and has had family health problems. These things make you realise that time is precious and as she has a new grandson she is keen to spend precious time with him. Hence she is retiring from her National Trust Role but has kindly offered to help anyone who would like to take over the reins.

"THANK YOU" to Judy Openshaw who for the last few years has been our Speaker Seeker. This means that she has investigated lists of speakers, attended Nottinghamshire Network Workshops where various U3As have discussed speakers. She has then drawn up a list of speakers for the year, contacted and booked them, often introduced them at Meetings and generally made sure that we had a variety of subjects provided by entertaining speakers. She too has decided it is time to pass on the job to someone new. She is also willing to work with and help the person or team of people who take on the task. I say group because Jeremy who has done the job before is keen to work with someone and continue Judy's excellent work. I have seen and chatted with many of our U3A members on walks or at my new home in Forest Town which has a large patio and spacious Garden Room. We've had chat groups, afternoon tea, lunches, coffee/tea and cakes, evening meals and even games but only in small clusters and NOT as U3A Groups. Many have not been arranged but just happened because members have walked past while I've been weeding in the front garden and I've invited them to see the back garden. Hopefully, if what the Committee is working on comes to fruition, in October, I will see many more of you and that's all I'm saying until next month.

Abbreviated Accounts of Sherwood U3A 01.04.19 to 31.03.20

INCOME	£		
SUBSCRIPTIONS	4,722.50	Balance of accounts at 31.03.20	£15,342.35
SALES FROM BOOKS, CDS. ETC.	64.10	Less balance of accounts at 01.04.19	-£12,921.92
FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL EVENTS INCOME	6,764.66		
INCOME FROM GROUPS ACCOUNT	1,022.39		
GIFT AID	483.90		
INTEREST.	88.86		
DONATIONS	236.50		
		£22,583.91	
EXPENDITURE			
MEMBERSHIP FEES TO NATIONAL OFFICE	742.00		
ROOM HIRE/SPEAKERS	2,068.99		
SPEAKER SEEKER & WELFARE OFFICER EXPENSES	167.08		
ADMINISTRATION including Web site, Printing, Telephone, Paper, Ink	2,941.33		
REFRESHMENTS	230.85		
EQUIPMENT	128.15		
SUBSCRIPTIONS, CONFERENCE & WORKSHOP EXPENSES	175.00		
FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL EVENTS EXPENDITURE	3,658.22		
EXPENDITURE FROM GROUPS ACCOUNT	10,051.86		
		£20,163.48	£2,420.43
			£2,420.43

Accounts were "examined" by C. Thomson who made the following recommendations which were reviewed by the Finance Sub-Committee on 13.07.20.

1. Entries entered into the incorrect year.

Review confirmed that the Treasurer and Chairman would receive appropriate training.

2. Expenses forms would need to be amended to reflect that all expenses have appropriate receipts and are authorised by the Chair, Vice or Secretary. Review amended the Expenses Claim Forms and confirmed that the Treasurer will produce a monthly list of expenses for the full Committee

3. A review of the cost of ink cartridges be undertaken. Review concluded that ink cartridge costs had risen due to more printing being carried out by individuals on behalf of Sherwood U3A.

Purchasing a new U3A printer with cheaper cartridges may be the answer and this possibility will be investigated.

If anyone wishes to discuss the above accounts in more details please contact Margaret Taylor, Treasurer.

email treasurersherwoodU3a@gmail.com

The Finance Sub-Committee and full Committee are aware that whilst being in lock-down Sherwood U3A's overheads have reduced and are sympathetic to concerns raised by some members. Therefore a review of this year's budget will be taking place in October and our recommendations to the members will be published later in the year.

If anyone wishes to serve on the Finance Sub-Committee to discuss all financial information on behalf of Sherwood U3A or would like to assist the Treasurer with providing accounts to the Committee please contact me.

COMMUNITY

HELP THE HOSPICE..... We're looking for crochet enthusiasts willing to make us small comfort blankets for our end of life patients. We're hoping to be able to have 200 blankets, measurement 600mm x 600mm. All colours welcome. Our address for the blankets to be posted to is: John Eastwood Hospice, 401 Mansfield Rd, Sutton-in-Ashfield NG17 4HJ. We are looking for crochet not knit. Thank you!

AND KINGS MILL HOSPITAL.... During lockdown I set myself a challenge to knit 20 doll/teddy outfits. I completed the challenge and sewed 'created by ...' labels into the garments, put them on hangers and bagged them up to make them look as professional as possible. They will go to King's Mill Hospital for sale on their charity stall.

If anyone else has the urge to get their needles out, I found the patterns on line at <https://www.linmaryknits.com/> who kindly allow their free patterns to be used for charitable causes. I have now set myself a further target to make 10 premature baby cardigans for the neonatal unit. Janet Jackson



VISITING.... NHS England and Improvement have lifted the national visiting restrictions. This will mean that from 3 August one designated person is allowed to visit a patient for one hour a day for the duration of their stay. This needs to be the same person throughout to minimise any risks to our patients and staff. Some areas of the hospital will still need to remain restricted to keep patients as safe as possible. Further information on visiting can be found on our website at <https://www.sfh-tr.nhs.uk/for-patients-visitors/visitors/ward-visiting-times/>

COMMITTEE TALES!!!

Margaret Taylor - Treasurer



I have been busy keeping the finances of Sherwood U3A on track and later in the newsletter I have put together an update of last year's finances and a short report which would have featured this month at the AGM. I also, with help, set up "communication to members" and how we could do this in lock-down. This resulted in working with Sue Robb in getting her fantastic newsletter out to many people on email and printing newsletters for those members who were not which Rita Foulkes sent out by post or delivered locally when taking "Bobby" for his walk. This meant that every member of Sherwood got a regular newsletter.

Working with Sandra Rogers and Terry Dillon we also set up groups of volunteers to telephone some of the members not on email especially those who were thought to be more vulnerable on a regular basis. However as lockdown is easing and contact is also being made regularly by Group Leaders and members' family and friends, it has been decided that we will no longer be doing this and I would like to thank David Bradley, Jane Lowe, Sue Haywood, Sue Robb, Terry Dillon and Jenny Weaver for their help.

I also have taken on temporarily leading the Music Group in Chris Robb's absence and will also be featuring a future article about this Group and what we are getting up to.

Now that small Committee meetings and working parties which I am also involved in are meeting up (within Regulations), I know that my time will still be taken up with Sherwood and helping to keep our U3A moving forward. And I will leave you with this little piece of advice on how to socially distance:- **LEND PEOPLE MONEY!!**

Sue Haywood - Health and Safety



During lockdown I have done all the usual things that most people did at the start. A massive clear out of cupboards and all the jobs that we never seem to get round to. I also rediscovered my love of crafting. I had not done any for four years, so I dug out loads of materials that I had stored in the cupboard and began to make cards again. I had forgotten how much I enjoyed it. I have made quite a few birthday cards and after a few weeks

rest to enjoy the nice weather I am going to attempt to make Christmas cards again.

I also seem to be having what I call "lockdown moments" doing the silliest of things like leaving my glasses in the fridge and blending soup and getting it all over the kitchen curtains and window and myself. The worst one was nearly setting fire to the kitchen. I had cooked dinner and have a very bad habit of throwing the tea towel on the hob.

This particular day I didn't realise that I hadn't turned it off properly, went to eat my dinner totally oblivious until thirty minutes later took my plate into the kitchen and saw the tea towel going up in flames. I managed to get a large oven glove and smother it, then threw the towel onto the yard and stamped on it, picked it up and threw it on top of the wheelie bin thinking that was it. I made myself a cup of tea and went to watch the news while I drank it. Half an hour later I went into the kitchen to wash up and saw smoke pouring across the garden. There was a big hole in the bin lid and an accompanying dreadful smell of burning plastic. It took three large jugs of water to finally put it out. Next day I had to phone the council to request a new green bin, dreading an inquisition as to how I could have done such a stupid thing. However they were not a bit bothered so I could breathe a sigh of relief. Up to now I have had no more mishaps but who knows as this goes on.



Rita Foulkes - Membership Secretary/ Deputy Chairman



Watching the 10pm News on Friday 20th March was shocked to hear about the Pubs closing down!! What was I going to do on Saturday for my Dinner????

First thing I did was phone my daughter and see if she had seen the news. She had and her first words were “you are cooking tomorrow”. Panic set in as I tried to envisage where I had hidden my pots and pans!! Next morning I had to think what I could cook and then rushed to Morrison’s to see what I could throw together. Needless to say we survived and I cooked every day for the next three months or so, apart from Mother’s Day when my Son and Daughter-Outlaw and Carol fetched a meal from the Take-away. I must admit it was a

success and we had a lovely afternoon.

Two days later came the Lockdown News and I found out I was the Chief Cook and Bottle-washer!! I must admit I did enjoy it and saw Carol for an hour every day.

The next shock was the closure of the Hairdressers. I should have had my hair cut on the first Wednesday but, naturally, the salon was closed. In a short space of time I was The Wicked Witch of the West. You only had to take one look at me to understand why. I can remember the first time I saw Marilyn Stubbs and she spent about ten minutes laughing her socks off. Three months or so later I had the last laugh when she saw me with my hair cut – she wasn’t laughing then she was stunned. Again the meeting was in Morrison’s carpark and I had to do a few twirls!!! I felt at least two stone lighter without my extra locks!!

Anyway, Carol survived my cooking – especially when we had salads!! – and the first day the pub re-opened we were one of the first people to imbibe. I must admit Carol’s choice of wines during my cooking spell made life - and food - bearable.

I hope we don’t have to go through the lockdown again but at least I know we can survive!! Good luck to everyone and I hope to see you sometime in the not too distant future.

WORK, REST AND PLAY!

Terry Dillon - Visitors/ Joint Groups Co-ordinator



As joint Group Coordinator for admin, my work started as soon as Lock Down was introduced. I contacted all group leaders to ask them to cancel their groups and to let the group members know. I then worked with Marilyn Dillon to make sure that she had all up to date information for the web calendar.

I have contacted group leaders regularly during the past five months to keep them informed and to encourage them to keep in regular contact with their groups. Some have phoned and emailed, and those who can have kept their groups going

virtually.

We are very grateful to the leaders keeping up this contact. Rest has been easy as all of the activities I usually do have been suspended. I am sure that all of you have experienced this and we have had to find other ways of occupying ourselves with hobbies, reading and some of us playing games on our electrical devices. Not a lot of play but I have met up out of doors with friends for a picnic and the line dance class I go to have met a few times at Sutton Lawn. We even managed a couple of dances in a secluded spot on one occasion. The best thing was a family holiday in two caravans in Skegness. We had good week weather wise and paddling and sand castles were the order of the day followed by ice cream. It was lovely to spend time with my family including my six year old grandson and my new granddaughter. The photo, taken at Gibraltar Point, shows social distancing in action!!



Jenny Weaver - Joint Groups Co-ordinator



Like many other Sherwood U3A members I was home alone during this unprecedented lockdown but, unlike Macaulay Culkin, I didn’t have such an exciting time. To start with it was an opportunity to do those jobs around the house that I didn’t get round to last year and I quite enjoyed baking my own bread etc. but as the weeks rolled on and the death toll increased we all began to realise just what we were missing most of all our close family and friends.

It is surprising how quickly our goals changed as I can remember getting very excited when I

finally managed to book in for a Click and Collect from Tesco's having tried a variety of times including getting up in the middle of night on numerous occasions to try to book a slot. I actually did my first shop at Tesco's on 1st August and really enjoyed the freedom I felt on impulse buying.

I have also developed some of my computing skills using WhatsApp to keep up to date with some of the Keep Fit Group namely Jo, Wendy and Lynn each week and kept one another updated on how Julie was managing. Also mastered Zoom where we had a quiz every Sunday night initially, but have now progressed onto Bingo. As I am sure everyone with family has missed them sorely until lockdown eased and we could have "bubbles". Things we took for granted suddenly became very precious and the first hugs and kisses after we had some easement were certainly golden moments.



I managed to complete an unfinished project like my bedspread and also started a Corona jacket using some bright material I had bought in Thailand many years ago, Hope to finish that sometime this year once I can get some more gold buttons from Sally Twinkles.

Made good use of the my first project was to Summer House; it had mould inside with the and needed a good



garden and paint the got a lot of damp winter coat of paint when shops deterrent,

both inside and outside. Amazon was my saviour at times and everything was closed getting everything from mould paint and many other household essentials.

I have made full use of the garden and the weather this spring which has helped with having both friends from U3A and catch up chat and have some nibbles and the odd glass of wine. These have all been highlights and precious memories, if not a few headaches!!!!

and summer, relatives to

As hopefully we move more and more out of lockdown we can cautiously start some of the groups up whilst observing social distancing. Like everyone else we all miss the camaraderie and friendships gained from these groups, trips and holidays and can't wait for things to get back to normal.

Ann Madden - Minutes Secretary



The beginning of lockdown was certainly a strange experience. For someone who is used to being out and about a good deal and used to visiting family in the northwest almost every other weekend not to mention regular visits to my sister in northern France, the whole notion of not being able to do so or to use public transport was most bizarre. Modern technology certainly supported keeping in touch with family and sharing in major family events – notably the birth of my third great niece in the States on 1st April. Being able to see videos, photos etc. immediately was amazing.

Even more alarming for those of us living alone was the rule that you could only leave your home once a day to exercise or to do essential shopping. According to my Fitbit I have walked 928 miles since the beginning of lockdown and worn out two pairs of trainers and numerous pairs of socks!!

Like many others, I started lockdown by spring cleaning and turning out every cupboard and drawer in the house. I then turned my attention to the garden, which was far more enjoyable. In the evenings, I phone friends and family, watch TV, do my sewing or crosswords. Having a plan for each day certainly helped.

When restrictions were eased, I was able to assist Liz with planting the gardens at her new house. The easing of restriction also brought the joy of being able to meet initially with one other person and then six in a public place. Meeting friends in Berry Hill Park for a walk and a chat became a highlight of the week. Then the creation of support bubbles actually enabled me to join one and be able to travel further afield by car and enjoy having meals with other people. More recently the committee (or rather a rota of six) have been able to hold socially distanced garden committee meetings at Liz's house to discuss among other matters what our U3A can do currently and in the future.



Most importantly though I have remained healthy throughout lockdown and have been well supported by family and friends and hope I have also supported them.

Claire Wilkie - Business Secretary



Last month I gave an insight into one particular week of life with the virus in 'A Tale of Sherwood, But Not As You Know It,' but here are a few more nuggets of life for me since March.

I live five minutes from a park, so having been told that I was allowed to exercise once a day-although being over 70, I should really have stayed in - I went to Woodthorpe Park nearly every day for three weeks, choosing as many different entrances to the Park as were available and every different route I could find. I even downloaded one of my walks onto Facebook, as compensation for those people who couldn't go out, but by the end of the three weeks, I think the only way I hadn't walked round it was backwards!!



I am in Mapperley U3A in addition to Sherwood and run the Family History Group there, so when it came to keeping in touch with them, and Sherwood Board Games Group, I was making phone calls regularly and finding tasks for them to do remotely. At other times I would do Spring Cleaning and keep in touch with friends, while the Thursday claps encouraged me to play the trombone for the first time in eighteen months!

I have gradually become acquainted with Zoom and have been involved in several sessions with Mapperley U3A, where some groups are using it regularly.

As lockdown has eased, I have enjoyed afternoons in various gardens and actually travelled to Kidderminster, where I used to teach, to celebrate a friend's ninety second birthday. I went into Nottingham by car twice, but am not totally happy with the number of people there now.

I feel I have been very lucky that I have stayed healthy, live in a friendly area with shops just round the corner and have a good many friends just a phone call away.

Liz Wilson - Chairman



How Convenient!!

Yes! Lockdown was very convenient for me! The renovations to my Dad's house, in Forest Town were more or less finished on the Thursday before Lockdown was announced on the Monday and I had my furniture from a lock up moved in on the Friday. I was going to have the furniture and stuff from my house moved on the following Friday but, after the Lockdown announcement on the Monday, the Removals rang Tuesday morning and said "It's now or never"! My new bed was delivered on the Wednesday, the televisions on the Thursday and Sky came on Friday, TV was fine but had problems with internet --- well fancy that, can you

believe it.

Hence I spent the first month sorting out the furniture and emptying boxes and bags into drawers, cupboards and other such storage places (stored in garage if couldn't decide where to put them). Of course in May, when someone was hanging mirrors and things for me, they asked if I had any string, I knew I had lots but not where it was!! Nor could I find it until, in July, I was looking for something else and discovered string!!

May, I spent planting in my newly formed garden. First of all with plants that I had ordered on line and then, yippee, Garden Centres opened and the choice was limitless!

Steve who had finished forming my garden got busy and did my patio so that I could start inviting friends round to see how the new place was progressing and serve socially distanced tea and cakes. The firm who were supposed to do my drive remained locked down so I went onto My Builder (internet up and running now) and found a brilliant company who did a fantastic job of my drive, paths round the house and my dropped kerb. (No rude comments!)

No rest for Steve because then my front garden needed forming – great job! So, when he finished, July was another Garden Centre visits and planting time. Just when I thought that I had finished towards the end of July, Steve pointed out that my front garden would look awful in winter --- I hadn't got a single evergreen in it!!! So more visits to Garden Centres were needed and more planting was done.

Now in August all I have to do is have lots of visitors, do lots of cooking, lots of cleaning, lots of harvesting of vegetables and fruit, lots of dead heading and, it goes without saying --- lots of weeding!! If any of you wish to pop in to view the garden, the house or help with the weeding please do so! 45, Clipstone Road West, Forest Town – opposite the vets and Library!

Pictures in October with article about the garden!!

Jeremy Lloyd - Social Committee Chairman



After months of uncertainty we were finally cleared to go on our family holiday to Norfolk. Norfolk- especially North Norfolk - is one of our favourite places to visit and we had booked a self-catering cottage near to Burnham Market. There were six of us, Joan, her daughter Fiona, son-in-law Pete and grown up grandchildren Lewis and Charlotte, not forgetting Buster the dog and of course myself.

The accommodation was superb even though it previously was a cow shed (or so we were Told) and it was surrounded by open countryside, yet we were within reach of a host of

beautiful beaches and places to visit.

The weather was very kind to us and so we enjoyed walks on Brancaster and Holkham beaches. We went crabbing at Wells next the Sea and also enjoyed fish and chips from French's Fish and Chip shop (to be recommended!) Also to be recommended is The Crab House in Wells, a small restaurant specialising in seafood. The seafood platter was magnificent and visually a work of art. Blakeney is another place to visit and the crab sandwiches there are delicious. It seems food was a rather important part of our holiday.



We spent every day out and about and no-one wanted to come home, but all good things must come to an end. However we hold such happy memories of our family holiday in Norfolk and hopefully we will be able to visit again before too long. Jeremy Lloyd and Joan Taylor.

Jane Lowe - Greeter/Refreshments co-ordinator



I'm very fortunate that I haven't been greatly affected while under "house arrest". I live alone so am used to social distancing. I reminded myself often how lucky I was being retired and having a garden to enjoy when others were worried they may not have a job to return to or were cooped up in a flat with no outside space. The only thing I could complain about was the time it took to shop at the supermarket! Of course that became much easier as time went on. I loved the silence. Normally there's a faint drone of traffic from the main road but this was replaced by the drone of bees and birds singing their hearts out. Nature was fighting back! I'm glad I appreciated it then as now things have returned pretty much to "normal".

The time at home encouraged me to tackle a job I'd been putting off for a couple of years – clearing the garage and painting the floor. It was a far, far bigger task than I'd anticipated but well worth it in the end. It looks good enough to party in now!! The garden also had lots more attention than in previous years so I'm very pleased with the outcome. The fabulous weather we enjoyed in April and May meant I spent a great deal of time outside and ate most of my meals there. So many times I felt as if I were on holiday - the cheapest one I've ever had!

Keeping in touch with friends and family by phone or online has been so important to everyone and fortunately I had lots of chats with my neighbours too. My two cats took part in many a conversation!

My first "social event" since March was in late June, the day after a friend phoned, inviting me into her garden the next day at lunchtime. Of course I jumped at the opportunity and prepared with gusto my feast of sandwiches, fruit and plenty (non-alcoholic) to drink. What a wonderful afternoon the six of us had. Beautiful weather and, in spite of theoretically having nothing to talk about, we chatted non-stop for hours.

Naturally I miss U3A and other events and outings but not as much as I expected. We've had a couple more socially distanced meetings in friends' gardens and had the first meal out in early August at Rossini in Woodhouse, followed the following week by dinner at Naaz. It was so good to see inside a restaurant at last. Now more are planned, particularly under the government Eat Out to Help Out Scheme. Amazing to get 50% off!

I suppose a version of life today will continue for some time and we need to get used to it. We're still in a better position than third world countries and we must value what we DO have.

Quiz answers: 1.Huthwaite 2.Fiskerton 3.Thurgaton 4.Plumtree 5. Annesley 6.Woodborough 7.Dunham 8.Bestwood 9.Gotham 10. Eakring 11.Greasley 12.Kirklington 13.Market Warsop 14.Newark 15.Holme Pierrepont 16.Attenborough 17.North Muskham 18.Stanton-on-the-Wolds 19.Ollerton 20.Epperstone

