



October 2020 Newsletter Melton Mowbray U3A

Registered Charity No. 1137780

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The monthly meetings scheduled for Thursdays 15th October 2020 and 19th November are cancelled.

Committee Notices

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Well it is not just the prime minister who finds the covid-19 restrictions confusing. Our thanks go to our groups coordinator Christine Bluett for trying to keep us, especially the group leaders up to date. For few days, last month, we were being encouraged to open up more groups including some of those meeting indoors in members houses. But that advice has now been reversed. I am not sure when will all feel ready to meet up again. So, we are working towards a programme of talks on Zoom, open to all members. We will make it as simple as possible to log-in, watch and listen. Our speaker secretary, Joan Allen, is determined the talks will be both interesting and light-hearted. More details in next month newsletter.

Graham Cherryman, Chairman

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

Would you please consider your suitability for either of these two posts.

Treasurer:

Responsible for maintaining the income and expenditure for the Club and some of the larger groups.

- Maintain all financial records

- Prepare annual income and expenditure statement at Year End for inspection by independent examiner and presentation at AGM

- Responsible for annual Charity Commission submission and financial matters relating to the Third Age Trust.

- Preparing sundry financial information as required by the Committee.

Anybody who is interested must have a financial background and be competent in Excel. This is an essential role; our U3A cannot continue without a Treasurer.

Please contact Brenda, treasurer@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Groups Co-ordinator:

- Acts as a link between Committee, Group Leaders and members

- Maintains groups list (updated formally every 6 months)

- Organises Group Leader's thank you lunch once a year (usually October)

- Organises the Meet the Groups meeting in January

Both of the annual events have been run many times before and there is a well-established format, it's just the names that change each year.

Anybody who is interested should be computer literate to a basic level, enjoy organising and ideally must like people! Please contact Christine, groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

Committee members are re-elected at each AGM and serve for a maximum of three years. All future Committee members will be able to shadow the current postholders for several months before taking on the role and all Committee members are very experienced and supportive. Being on this Committee is a very interesting and positive experience and if you have even the slightest interest please do let us know ... you've nothing to lose by having an informal chat.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you become aware of a member becoming seriously ill or experiencing other life changing events please do let Winifred Maine know, even if you think someone else may have notified her. We would rather be notified more than once than not at all.

The ladies of the Parchment group have crafted, and most generously donated a quantity of beautiful cards for sending to any member fitting any of the above categories, to let them know we are thinking of them. Many compliments have been received about the pleasure and boost these gestures of goodwill from U3A have given them.

If YOU know of someone, do please let me know by telephone or by email

General Notices

U3A ZOOM TUTORIALS

I have now "attended" one of the U3A tutorials "Zoom for Group Leaders" and can report that it was very good. I now feel able to arrange and host a Zoom meeting. Also on offer are "Introduction to Zoom" and "Zoom for AGMs and Large Meetings". Graham has "attended" the latter and tells me that the AGM video is available on the [U3A youtube channel](#).

The link for booking places is <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/> or book via the Third Age Trust National Website.

Further information regarding Zoom can be found on the following web site, which has been developed specifically for U3As: <https://zoomu3a.weebly.com>.

LOCAL HOSPITAL CONSULTATION

The three NHS clinical commissioning groups covering Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are carrying out a public consultation into proposals to spend £450 million transforming acute hospital and maternity services. Details of their proposals and feedback channels can be found at www.bettercareleicester.nhs.uk/news-and-media-centre/partner-toolkit/ and www.betterhospitalsleicester.nhs.uk or on 0116 295 0750.

SOLUTIONS TO MATHS QUESTIONS SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

1. Replace the question marks with mathematical symbols (+, -, x or /): $14 ? 2 ? 7 ? 1 = 5$

Answer. $14 \times 2 / 7 + 1 = 5$

2. An enclosure at the zoo contains both elephants and emus. If there are a total of 44 feet and 30 eyes, how many of each animal are there?

Answer. 7 elephants and 8 emus

3. A spotlight is on the ground 20 ft away from a wall and Bill who is 6 ft tall is standing 8 feet from the wall. If Bill walks 3 ft toward the wall, what is the change in height of his shadow on the wall?

Answer. The change in height of his shadow on the wall is 2ft.

4. My four-digit PIN has remainder 1 upon division by 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 9 and is a perfect square. What is my PIN?

Answer. The PIN is 5041

5. A teacher has a class consisting of 6 pairs of twins. He wishes to set up teams of 6 for a quiz and wants to avoid putting any pair of twins in the same team. In how many ways can he do this?

Answer. There are 32 possible ways of choosing the teams.

THIS MONTH'S QUESTIONS

1. Joe asked his Granny how old she was. Rather than giving a straight answer, she replied:

"I have 6 children, and there are 4 years between each one and the next. I had my first child (your Uncle Paul) when I was 19. Now the youngest one (Your Auntie Jill) is 19 herself. That's all I am telling you!"

How old is Joe's Granny?

2. 10 men dig 10 holes in 10 hours, how long will 20 men take to dig 20 holes?

3. In a right-angled triangle, if the lengths of the two shortest sides are whole numbers exactly and the length of the hypotenuse is 40cm, what are the lengths of the two shortest sides?

The Maths4Fun group continues to meet via Zoom.

Sue Brown, Maths4Fun



Group News



GROUPS RESTARTING AND PERSONAL RISK ASSESSMENT

Advice is changing so fast at present that this is my third attempt to update you on the latest guidance. For a week in mid-September we could have met in Covid secure premises subject to risk assessment and social distancing but now all meetings, indoor or outdoor, are subject to the Rule of Six, although more than one group can meet simultaneously if the venue is large enough as long as they remain separate. Because of the rate of change, I am not giving you a link here; the latest advice will be on the U3A website <http://u3a.org.uk/>.

All restarting will be subject to national and local guidelines and risk assessment; this is in three parts. The meeting venue will have their own requirements and your group leader will produce a risk assessment for group meetings which the Groups' Coordinator will approve but individual members need to be aware of their own responsibilities.

As group members, you each have to undertake a personal risk assessment; the new guidance places a great deal of emphasis on this. In order to attend you will need to be able to assure your group leader that-

You have read and understood the risk assessment

You do not have symptoms or a requirement to self-isolate

Members of your household are not symptomatic

You can get to the venue safely; car-sharing is discouraged

You have considered if your health or age put you at high risk if you attended meetings

You have considered if your family or household members might be put at high risk by your attendance

You are willing and able to comply with the arrangements described for cleaning, social distancing and personal protection

Attendance would not cause you undue anxiety

You will provide your group leader, and the venue if requested, for full contact details for track and trace purposes

You do not need to formally write this out or share details with anyone else but you do need to be able to assure your group leader that you have thought it through.

It is likely that your group leader will canvass your opinion before undertaking a risk assessment as they will not want to spend a lot of time and effort on the process unless enough group members feel ready to attend meetings.

CROQUET

Regrettably, our season has now ended. We lost the first half of the season to Covid but the weather was kind to us and we managed to play on 10 afternoons. We were joined 13 players of whom 5 were new to the group and 3 were new to the U3A. Great fun was had by all and our beginners made excellent progress. We are already looking forward to next season.

Diane Cherryman, joint group leader



Group Notices



AMERICAN STUDIES

Our next meeting will be via Zoom at 2.30 pm on Thursday 24 October.

Zoom codes will be sent during the week prior to the meeting

Bring your own topic

Chris Lawman

OUTINGS - Dedication and Good-bye to Frances.

We're losing one of our team. She's decided to have a rest.

We couldn't have coped without her, She has been one of the best.

We knew we wanted to travel, We knew we wanted our trips,
She helped to start us unravel, The paperwork and how to give tips.

With her help we got it together, Organizing and going quite far,
But we couldn't rely on the weather, And often retired to a bar.

The Covid has stopped us roaming. We just can't go anywhere
But we don't stop at home moaning, We have found another to join our pair.

We are saying goodbye to Frances, We think she has trained us well
So now we will take our chances, But only time will tell.

Jean Pearson

THEATRE GROUP Contact: theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

The Nutcracker, Birmingham Hippodrome, Thursday 25th November 2021 at 2pm

Our booking for the Birmingham Royal Ballet's (BRB) performance of Nutcracker has been transferred to 2021. Please email theatre@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk if you would like to go before the 31st December

The theatre box office has told me that, when the theatre reopens (hopefully in March 2021), they will be operating at full capacity ie no social distancing in the auditorium. Face masks may or may not be required depending on the advice current at the time and hand

sanitising stations are already in place. They are very flexible regarding cancellations and of course this is a long way ahead

I have also spoken with Robinson's Coach Company regarding their Covid precautions. At the moment Robinson's are only using their 59 seater coaches with no more than 30 passengers per coach. There are hand sanitisers by the entrances and exits to the coach, face masks must be worn whilst travelling (necessitating an increase in 'comfort stops' on long journeys). When passengers disembark, the driver cleans all touch points in the coach and coaches are deep cleaned and disinfected on return to the depot.

If you email the theatre group as requested this is not a commitment to going and no money is required – I would just like to get a feel whether or not this would be a 'goer'

Lynda



Walking Groups



2ND MONDAY WALKING GROUP-12th October.

Meet at Wymondham Windmill.

Please arrive between 10-00 am and 10-25am to be divided into groups of not more than six people.

There is a choice of routes and everyone will need to read, sign, and abide by Covid Risk assessment rules prior to walking.

Any queries, please ring me.

Group Co-ordinator Geoff Harris

4th MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Still can't anticipate a start date for the group as a whole

If anyone fancies a friendly stroll (group of no more than 6) not under the auspices of the U3A please give me a ring

Chris Lawman



Annual Group Reports



SCRABBLE

Not much to report this time as, like most of the other groups, the scrabble group has been unable to meet since early March. I have been able to speak to most of the members and they are keeping their spirits up and many are playing scrabble on their computers or phones. As Hercule Poirot would say anything to help to keep the little grey cells working until we can all get together again.

Ann Richards, group reader

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Our last meeting was on 11 March 2020 at Burton Lazars village hall when membership stood at 14. Up to lockdown we were able to enjoy a large number of different dances with very varied figures. Some dances were traditional ones from as far back as the 18th century and some were new and popular ones devised within the last few years.

Because Scottish Country Dancing is very sociable, with much giving of hands, a safe return to the activity is probably some way off yet. In the meantime, I previously suggested

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that members could enjoy some very good Scottish dance music on the BBC Radio Scotland programme "Take the Floor" via the Internet on Saturday and Sunday evenings. I hope that members will retain their enthusiasm and be keen to restart dancing whenever that may be possible.

Paul Woolston, Group Leader

SILVER TONES SINGING GROUP

What a difference this year's report is from last year's, which saw the group had expanded to 30 members over the last 3 years (now with a healthy number of men becoming involved). We had gone from strength to strength, gaining in our confidence and performance. Unfortunately, along with other groups, we had to cancel several events and all rehearsals.

I was asked by one member if we could perhaps rehearse digitally, but when the members were asked if they were interested, we received hardly any response and therefore we did not pursue it.

As we are deemed to be in the "high risk" age group plus singing is also high risk for Covid, it seems it may be a long time before we can resume rehearsals. Therefore, we are awaiting clear guidance from the Government and the U3A regarding singing and performing and will take it from there.

Jenny Poulson, Leader of Silver Tones

SINGLES GROUP 1

Until the outbreak of the coronavirus our Monday meetings continued to be held at the Samworth Centre (St. Mary's) and were well attended. Speakers were provided covering a diverse range of subjects and appeared to be enjoyed by all. Since then the monthly Monday meetings have been put in abeyance pending advice from St. Mary's that the rooms are available to hire again. We have explored several alternative venues without success.

Sadly, our treasurer, June Wander, died earlier this year and we do not yet have a replacement. She was a lovely lady who is missed by us all.

Whilst we have a list of speakers who have informed and entertained us at the end of our meetings, we do need new speakers to keep on record for the future and the universities have been contacted to see whether any of their students would like to augment their incomes by giving us a talk when Covid allows; unfortunately none have been found.

The Singles 1 Group is a very cohesive Group. No-one is suggesting that we give up. We are in contact with each other on the telephone and one or two of us meet up at the appropriate distance occasionally for a cup of tea and a chat. I feel sure that when a vaccine is produced and life goes back to as near normal as possible, our group will happily come together again and make up for lost time. We are looking for new members and if you would like to join us, please telephone 01664 840731 for more information.

Michaela Kelly, group leader.



Final Notices

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FOR THE NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER:

Spanish 1 and 2

Tai Chi

Theatre

Contributions to the November 2020 newsletter to be received no later than 31st October. Items should be emailed to editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk or posted to 20 Gartree Drive, Melton Mowbray LE13 0AE

How are other U3A's are coping? Well we can enter the parallel universe and visit the picture skew town of Molton Mewbray, and join our twinned organisation, the MM U1D [University of the First Dotage], and their ever-infectious chairman, Dr Pan d'Mick.

DEAR DOTTIES (writes the Chief Dotty and Chairman) - Welcome to your MM U1D Newsletter. The only newsletter that will inspire you to self-isolate. And certainly one that will never go viral!

Molton Mewbray - The new Las Vegas: Everyone is losing money, drinking all the time and no-one has any idea what day it is.

Dr Pan d'Mick: "*Alexa, what is the weather forecast for the weekend?*"

Alexa: "*Why? Where do you think you are going?*"

OUR Advice For all Second Waver's:

Stay safe. Eat cake.

The more you weigh. The harder you are to kidnap.

Do you have a problem wearing glasses and a mask at the same time?
Congratulations, you may be entitled to condensation.

Telling your luggage that there won't be a holiday this Christmas will be tough.
Emotional baggage can be hard to deal with.

Decision time - Will winter lockdown turn you into a hunk, a chunk or a drunk?

Covid Testing

Fellow Dotties have you been struggling to get a Covid test?

Well, there is a new and easier test for Corona virus. Pour a dram of whiskey, see if you can smell it. Drink it, see if you can taste it. If you can smell and taste it, I suggest it is reasonable to assume that you are virus free.

I tested myself nine times last night and each time, thank goodness.

But this morning I find I need to test myself again - woke up with a bad headache, which can also be a symptom....

Some news from our groups:

A confrontation only just avoided the last time our Writing group met in the pub. Past, present and future all arrived at the same time. For a moment it was very tense.

Alarm in the German Language group after reports our supermarkets are running low on stocks of sausage and cheese. For them it would be a "Wurst Kase" scenario.

Message for Dr Algebra of our "What's Maths Got to do With It" group. *Please stop asking me to find your X. She is never coming back and don't ask Y.*

Congratulations to our Science Group - their research confirms why ants don't get Corona virus infections. They already have anty bodies.

The Science group are reading a book on anti gravity. Apparently, they can't put it down.

Our lady Dotties in the Biology group reported the Pet Shop was selling cats from the Netherlands. They went down to check "*How Dutch is that Moggie in the Window?*"

Dr Pan d'mick's advice column:

Patient: "*I can't stop singing The Green Green Grass of Home*"

Dr Pan d'Mick: "*That sounds like the Tom Jones Syndrome*".

Patient: "*Is that common?*"

Dr Pan d'Mick: "*Well, It's Not Unusual*"

Nurse: "*There's a man at reception who thinks he is invisible. What shall I tell him?*"

Dr Pan d'Mick: "*Tell him I can't see him today*".

Husband: "*When I get mad at you, you stay so calm. How do you control your anger?*"

Wife: "*I go and clean the toilet*".

Husband: "*How does that help?*"

Wife: "*I use your toothbrush*".

Dr Pan d'mick's Lockdown Journal:

Day 10 of isolation - found myself talking to a spider. Seems nice. He is a web designer.

The two antennas on our roof, fell in love and recently got married.

The ceremony wasn't much, but the reception was excellent.

My wife bought a large world map and pinned it to the wall, gave me a dart and said, "*Throw this and wherever it lands I'm taking you for a holiday when the pandemic is over*". It turns out that we will be spending two weeks behind the fridge.

I am getting out of shape so I have started an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, I twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, perspired for an hour. But ,by the time I had got my gym kit on, the class was over.

I was visiting my daughter yesterday when I asked if I could borrow her newspaper.

"*Dad*", she said. "*This is 2020. We don't buy newspapers. Here, use my iPad*".

I can tell you this..... that fly never knew what hit it....

And my son, the engineer. He tells me he is at home learning about the aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminium and steel in a constrained environment. Turns out his girl friend has been teaching him how to wash up.

I am thinking of joining the Ramblers. My wife wants to know if that involves walking or just talking.

Puzzle Time with Sue doughQue:

Why does Superman stop bullets with his chest, but ducks if you throw a revolver at him?

Competition result:

There were no correct entries for our 2015 competition "Where do you see yourself in 5 years?"

That's all Dotties. Well I think so. My memory is not as sharp as it used to be. Also, my memory is not as sharp as it used to be.

Dr Pan d'Mick