



Registered Charity No. 1137780

November 2020 Newsletter Melton Mowbray U3A

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The monthly meetings scheduled for Thursdays 19th November and 17th December are replaced by on-line talks (see below).

Committee Notices

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

November is with us already and it is time to renew our membership. Your current membership will expire on 31st December. Although our activities have been curtailed during the pandemic, we are still incurring expenses and expect these to rise next year so it is important that we renew as normal. The U3A Trust have been, and continue to be, very active nationally and regionally so we have certainly had good value from our capitation money this year. The renewal form is attached with this newsletter or can be downloaded from the website.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

We now know for sure we are in the second wave. There is a lockdown ahead of us and a long hard winter to come. In truth, like everyone else, I have no idea when things will be back to normal.

Our U3A is too precious to be allowed to fade away. Instead this is the time we all need to pull together and support each other. What can we do? Well we have to make the best use of the tools at our disposal. I should like everyone who possibly can to make every effort to access Zoom [see Christine's contribution below]. Many of you are already using Zoom for linking to family and friends. An increasing number of our groups are now meeting on-line via Zoom.

A few days ago, Christine Bluett and I hosted a Zoom meeting with some of our Group Leaders. I found truly uplifting to be able to again see and talk to each of them sans mask. We are hoping to inspire more groups to meet on-line - not just for formal group activities, but just the joy of seeing and talking to each other.

Christine and the other members of the committee are only too willing to help you. It can be very reassuring to have a quiet practice meeting first. I found in my discussion

group that once we started meeting on-line, we also started exchanging more emails, jokes, cartoons, as well as ideas between ourselves.

I know from the group leaders meeting, and from talking members in the Market Place or supermarket, that so many of us are willing to do more to support our members who feel lonely, stressed and vulnerable. Zoom chats are a great way to do this. In the comfort and security of your own home, with your tea/coffee and favourite biscuit to hand. We would like to see more groups and individuals doing this. Why not start a regular 40-minute friendly chat session open to members? We can help you get started.

Also, we all need to keep in touch with those who still do not have access to the internet? I would like to see our own U3A telephone support networks evolving. An occasional chat on the phone can make all the difference.

Our speaker secretary, Joan Allen, has put together a programme of Zoom talks to replace the monthly meeting talks. The first of these will be given by yours truly before the outside speakers. After all, if anyone is to get egg on their face, I am sure you all would want to see it on mine [further information below - concerning the talks not the eggs].

All your committee, your group leaders and many other members are willing to help and support you through the winter, to comfort, entertain and engage with you. There is still every reason for us to live, laugh and learn together. Let me or any of the committee know what you would like do to help? What you would welcome? Let's do this together!

Graham Cherryman, chairman@u3ameltonmowbray.com

COMMITTEE VACANCIES

We are now looking for 3 new Committee members for next year as our Business Secretary is also now unable to continue after March.

If you, or someone you know, have the skills to serve as Treasurer, Groups Co-ordinator or Business Secretary, please talk to a member of the Committee. The current incumbents are very happy to supply further details of the role and to arrange a shadowing period to ensure a smooth transition.

Our U3A cannot legally continue without a Treasurer and a Business Secretary and would not function smoothly without a Groups Co-ordinator- **YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU!**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

In the absence of regular monthly meetings, we will be experimenting with talks online, via the video conferencing application Zoom, scheduled for the usual time of 10am on the third Thursday of the month. The upcoming talks are:

Thursday 19th November, 'Art Theft for Amateurs?' by Graham Cherryman (yes that one!)- how to steal \$160million and fool the FBI for 30 years.

Thursday 26th November, 'Cybercrime & Fraud,' by Samantha Hancock- cautionary tales for our digital times.

Thursday 17th December, 'The Amazing Mr Dickens,' by David Allen (no relation)- an affectionate romp through the life of the great Charles Dickens, his genius, eccentricities, 10 children & scandalous affair with Ellen Ternan. This talk provides an insight into the real people & events which inspired Dickens' imagination.

To enjoy the talks, you need access to a desktop or laptop PC, a tablet or a smart phone loaded with the Zoom app.

Registration is recommended to reserve a place as numbers will be limited; email speaker@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk to be sent an access code.

Joan Allen, Speaker Secretary

NEWSLETTER NEWS

Our diligent Membership secretary has identified 16 members who had an email address but were not getting the newsletter mailings. We believe that this has now been rectified but if you are aware of anyone else who is missing out, or if you change your email account, please let me know.

Last month's contribution by Dr Pan d'Mick proved popular so I am keen that other members send me examples of their creativity during enforced isolation. The Committee has authorised me to produce a bumper Christmas edition and even to splash out into colour **if you send me suitable material**. Alternatively, we could have an electronic colour photographic supplement. So, get writing, photograph your handiwork and send it my way.

Diane Cherryman, Editor, editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

ZOOM - TEST IT FOR YOURSELF ONE TO ONE SESSIONS FOR ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS ...

During lockdown activity among groups has been very hit and miss. Some groups have managed to maintain communication with their members via email and telephone, some have embraced other technology such as Zoom all with varying degrees of success. Some of the outdoor groups have managed to get out and about a little too. A third of our groups are effectively currently active. If you are one of those members who is already using Zoom and suchlike then please spread the word and help those who are a little more reluctant.

The use of technology does not appeal to everyone and particularly at the beginning of lockdown when many of us thought it would just be a few weeks out of our lives many members did not feel it necessary to go down the technology route for various reasons. I can almost hear some of you saying "why does she keep going on about Zoom" .. well please bear with me

We now find ourselves in a situation where some form of lockdown is likely to be with us for the foreseeable future, winter is almost upon us and it could prove to be a very difficult and lonely time for many members. I have become aware of many more members now looking at ways to keep engaged with others and accepting that using tools like Zoom is perhaps the way to go. We recently offered group leaders the chance to take part in an online session with the committee and the take up was very encouraging. Among those that took part were members who have never used Zoom and considered themselves technophobes. All of the members using it for the first time commented how much easier it was than they had thought it would be and how they could see it opening up so many opportunities in the coming months.

From November, our monthly speakers will begin again via Zoom. There are many U3A groups on line (see separate article on Trust U3A), many organisations are running meetings online regularly (for instance those in Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust will be aware they are running their AGM and monthly meetings online). There are countless online workshops and learning opportunities in all walks of life. Using this technology is such a great way of communicating with others and sharing opportunities. We are even planning some "chat and a cuppa" type sessions just to see other faces and have a good old natter.

With that in mind, we are offering all members the opportunity to have a look at Zoom and test it out for themselves. We will be on hand to help with any setup, although there is very little to actually do, as the first time you use it, the small piece of software required is downloaded for you very quickly. You can use a desktop PC, a laptop, or any tablet such as iPad, Samsung Galaxy, Amazon Fire or any other smartphone or device that enables you to connect to the internet. If you would like to have a go at using Zoom please contact me (details below). There is so much happening on Zoom now, it's becoming a way of life for many. Please join the growing number of members who are benefiting from this and bringing people and interest back into their lives. Give it a whirl, you've nothing to lose and much to gain.

**Christine Bluett, Groups
Co-ordinator**

Email: groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you become aware of a member becoming seriously ill or experiencing other life changing events please do let me 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 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 on or by email.

Winifred Maine

General Notices

TRUST U3A- ONLINE GROUPS

Trust U3A is an **online U3A community** launched in April 2020 to meet the continued demand to become a member of the U3A movement while face to face contact is limited. The Third Age Trust – the national charity which supports all U3As – has created Trust U3A to give people an opportunity to join this amazing movement and make the most of the opportunities on offer for members.

They currently have over 60 interest groups running with new subject areas being added regularly. Some of the groups are full but they are maintaining waiting lists for such groups and multiple groups are being added all the time so it's definitely worth taking a look. The link for the website is <https://u3asites.org.uk/trustu3a/home>. There is a small charge to join, **£4 per annum** if you are currently a member of a U3A or £7.50 for people who are not a U3A member. You will need your membership number when completing the registration form.

Christine Bluett, Groups Co-ordinator, groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

U3A NATIONAL WINTER LEARNING PROGRAMME

A number of creative challenges were launched in this week's National Newsletter:

[Made it! Make it! for Christmas](#) - submit your festive craft projects

[Poetry Competition](#) - competition to find the best humorous U3A poem

[Winter Watch](#) - a challenge to see your best wintery photos

[U3A Maths Week](#) - three events celebrating maths in the U3A Movement

[Paint or Draw \(POD\)](#) - a monthly themed art challenge

We have a number of online learning events, courses and talks to get involved in, including Bridge courses and Philosophy workshops. See these and more on <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>.

Our ongoing initiatives are continuing so have a look at [our learning pages](#) to see everything that you can get involved in.

For further information, visit www.u3a.org.uk where you can also register to receive the National Newsletter.

PHONE SCAMS

Val Coombes reminds us to be aware of recorded telephone calls purporting to be from BT and saying something along the lines that her BT line no longer covered or there is a message and to dial 1. If in doubt, type the caller's telephone number into Google and you will discover if anyone else has encountered it. Pressing the buttons can lead to a charge for a phone call at premium rates which can exceed £100.

She has since been contacted by "HMRC" too.

It is timely that our Speaker Secretary, Joan Allen, has arranged an on-line talk for us on this topic.

AURORA ROTARY CLUB CAR TREASURE HUNT

Our club has devised a treasure hunt in Melton & surrounds. It should take a couple of hours gentle pottering around, no need to leave your vehicle & you can have as many passengers as you desire. There is no set day/hour and no time limit. Completed answer sheets must be returned by 7th November.

Cost will be £10 per vehicle and winning entrant will gain £50.

Details can be found here <https://bit.ly/3nT9iOD>; entry is available now. **Brenda Clayton.**

FRESH AIR AND EXERCISE

Now the days are shorter we all need to make a bigger effort to ensure that we get our quota of fresh air and exercise. Even if we are vulnerable, it is usually possible to walk out at quiet times of the day without putting ourselves at risk by getting close to other people. When the weather is bad, there is no shortage of home exercise routines available on TV, on DVD or on-line. A good starting point might be www.nhs.uk/exercises-for-older-people or www.ageuk.org.uk.

SOLUTIONS TO MATHS QUESTIONS OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

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?

ANSWER: 58

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

ANSWER: 10 hours

3. In a right 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?

ANSWER: 32cm and 24cm .

THIS MONTH'S QUESTIONS

Question 1: Emer and Jemma have an average age of 27, and Emer is 4 years older than Jemma. How old are they? *Maths challenge week 28*

Question 2: If prices are reduced by 20%, by what percentage must they later be increased by to regain their original price? *Maths challenge Week 29*

Question 3: A quick investigation Write 2-digit numbers whose digits add up to the same number. eg 56 and 29 (digits of each both add up to 11.

Now take one from the other and add the digits of the answer.

Do this with several pairs. What do you notice? *Source unknown*

The Maths4Fun group continues to meet via Zoom.

Sue Brown, Maths4Fun



Group Notices



It is very encouraging to know so many groups are still active in some way whether its online, emails, or telephone calls keeping in touch with your group members is important and very much appreciated. This is a list of groups who I understand are currently active in some way. If I've missed some please do let me know.

Christine Bluett, Groups Co-ordinator, groups@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk

American Studies	Meet regularly via Zoom
Beading 1	Email contact, ordering of beading supplies, patterns shared, progress shared
Beading 2	Working through previously agreed formal programme of projects, patterns emailed, help provided to those who ask for it
Bridge beginners and improvers and Bridge Duplicate	Regular emails, tip of the week, details of bridge hands, quiz questions, encouraging members to play online
Cribbage	Some email contact, advised members on what website to use to play online
Croquet	Met successfully for some months, although season now ended
Cycling	Have been meeting for cycle rides in a small group but weather is against them at the moment
Family History	Email and telephone contact, sharing tips and advice, working on own projects at home
Flower Arranging 1 and 2	Regular email and telephone contact, sharing ideas and photos and information on flower arranging sites etc
German	Meeting twice monthly by Zoom
Guitar (Acoustic and Beginners)	Sharing of ideas and suggested music to learn, First Zoom meet-up in November
Italian	Regular meetings online every week, reading stories in Italian, now using Zoom very successfully
Maths for Fun	Very active, regular contact with members, Sue also puts puzzles in newsletter every month for all members
Nature 1	Some email contact and sharing of photographs

Needlecraft	Some email contact, members working on projects at home. Planning a Zoom meeting
Patchwork 2	Email contact with members, continuing work at home, sharing photos of completed work and preparing for virtual display
Patchwork 2a	Some email contact
Patchwork 3	Some email contact
Patchwork and Quilting	Email contact with members, continuing work at home
Philosophy Discussion	Regular Zoom meetings and email. Continuing much as usual except remotely. Also send out emails/cartoons and other snippets. Good group interaction
Photography	Photography field trip once a month, sometimes more. Good group interaction. Also using email, WhatsApp and Facebook to communicate and post images.
Poetry for Pleasure 1 and 2	Good group participation, using Zoom, email, telephone contact between members although currently on hold due to change in circumstances
Reading Dawson	Regular phone and email contact, agree books to read then review via email/phone when possible
Reading Jenny	Some email contact, sharing suggestions for books initially
Tia Chi	Our very first group to restart after the first national lockdown. Still regularly active and very successful
Theatre	Had to cancel many planned trips but the group still working together to identify possible trips for the future and regularly put items in the newsletter to that effect
Walking 1 st Thursday	Regular email contact, looking to start walking again as soon as possible
Walking 2 nd Monday	Have started walking again adhering to Government and U3A guidelines. Very successful and enjoyed by all who have been able to attend
Wood Carving	Have started up again, returning to their usual venue in September when restrictions on indoor meetings was revised. Meetings going well and enjoyed by all attendees
Words Words Words	Using email to send out puzzles and word games

AMERICAN STUDIES

Our next meeting will be via Zoom at 2.30 pm on Thursday 26 November.
Zoom ID and passcode will be sent during the week prior to the meeting
Please bring your own topic

Chris Lawman

OUTINGS

Last month we said "goodbye" to Frances who had been a co Co-ordinator of the Outings Group for the last 2½ years. This month we welcome Ruth Rigby as Frances'

replacement. Ruth has actually been helping us for some time and, once outings resume, will be responsible for liaising with our coach company. We look forward to seeing you all next year. In the meantime, keep safe, and keep smiling.

Debbie Adams, Jean Pearson and Ruth Rigby, Outings Group Co-ordinators

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. **Please note this is now the correct email address** – sorry for any confusion caused last month

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 if this would be a 'goer', **Lynda**

Curve Theatre (Leicester) reopens in November as a 533-seat socially distanced auditorium. The season will start with re-imagined, socially distanced performances of **Made at Curve** award-winning favourites, including concert performances of **The Color Purple** and **Sunset Boulevard**

The original design of the theatre will enable audiences to enjoy live performances from all four sides of the stage. For further details how Curve is implementing Covid-safe measures please follow this link <https://www.curveonline.co.uk/re-opening-faqs/>

The Box Office will be open for telephone sales on 0116 242 3595 from Monday – Friday, 10am – 6pm. You can also book online 24/7 at curveonline.co.uk.



Walking Groups



2ND MONDAY WALKING GROUP- 9th November

Meet at the "Blue Bell" Inn, Hoby 10-15 for 10-30 start

Unless restrictions change, members will walk in groups of six or less

Any queries, please ring me.

Group Co-ordinator Geoff Harris,

4th MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Do not expect any group walking before the New Year at the earliest

Please don't give up on walking by yourselves – it's one of the best forms of exercise !!

Chris Lawman



Annual Group Reports



THEATRE

The past year back to the heady days of autumn 2019 started so well with a visit to the Royal Albert Hall. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra gave a concert called "Music of the Night" which was a wonderful selection of music and songs from some of the top West End shows past and present. This was extremely popular with our members and well worth repeating some time.

After Christmas a real favourite, "West Side Story" was enjoyed at Curve followed there in March by "Phantom of the Opera". Am sure that those who went to these shows will be treasuring their memories until we can go to the theatre again.

The group leaders all have plans into next year and beyond and several of the shows we should have visited this year have been transferred over. Kilworth House will be trying again with "Carousel" and "Half a Sixpence". "Nutcracker" and Gilbert and Sullivan have also been moved to next year.

We look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future. Any suggestions of what you would like to see are always welcome. In the meantime, keep those memories and look forward to making some new ones.

Anne Dyster.



Final Notices

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FOR THE DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER:

Walking- all groups
Words, Words, Words
Writing for Pleasure

Contributions to the December 2020 newsletter to be received no later than 30th November. Items should be emailed to editor@u3ameltonmowbray.org.uk or posted to 20 Gartree Drive, Melton Mowbray LE13 0AE

HOW GOOD IS YOUR AMERICAN GEOGRAPHY?

Thanks to Joan Allen for sending us this quiz-

- 1) What is the least populated state?
- 2) Name the largest state in land mass
- 3) Name the longest river.
- 4) Where in Texas can you spot the Alamo?
- 5) Which state has the most water within it?
- 6) Name the two smallest states in geographic size.
- 7) Where is Old Faithful?
- 8) Which state has the longest coastline?
- 9) Name the river that flows between Texas & Mexico.
- 10) The highest population density is

Answers after Dr Pan d'Mick

TWELVE COMMANDMENTS FOR SENIORS

Thanks to Debbie Allen for these insights-

1. It's okay to talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
 2. "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
 3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
 4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
 5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
 6. "On time" is when you get there.
 7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid - but it sure does muffle the sound.
 8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller?
 9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
 10. Growing old should have taken longer.
 11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
 12. You still haven't learned to act your age and hope you never will.
- "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

And now, brought back to popular dismay, Dr Pan d'Mick, Chairman and Chief Dotty of the Molton Mewbray U1D [University of the First Dotage], writes:-

Welcome to the Vale of Tiers. As Chairman and Chief Dotty members often approach me for help, support and advice. Here is an example of an email I received some months ago:-

Dear Pan

I am hoping you will be able to help me. The other day I set off to do our weekly supermarket shop, leaving my husband at home watching TV. My car stalled, then broke down about a mile from our home. The battery on my phone was flat, so I had to walk home to get my husband's help. When I got home, I could not believe my eyes. He was in bed with our next door neighbour.

I am 64 and my husband is 66. The neighbour, well she is in her mid 50's. When I confronted him, he broke down and admitted they had been having an affair for the past six months. I suggested counselling, but he refuses to go. I'm afraid I am a wreck and need advice urgently. Can you please help?

Sincerely, Brandy Sidecar

Dear Brandy

A car stalling after being driven a short distance can be caused by a number of faults with the engine. Start by checking there is no debris in the fuel line. If it is clear, check the vacuum pipes and hoses on the intake manifold and also check the grounding wires. If none of these approaches solves the problem, it could be that the fuel pump itself is faulty, causing low delivery pressure to the injectors.

I hope this helps

Pan

I was inspired to share this after seeing Brandy Sidecar on our local TV last night, plugging her new and best-selling book "Why Men Shouldn't Write Advice Columns".

(Quite right. Brandy had clearly run out of fuel. Her husband was probably too distracted to fill up. Ed.)

Corona Virus Update & Advice - NB- For all corona virus jokes, allow 2 weeks to see if you get it.

Two dogs talking: "Why are humans wearing muzzles? "Because they didn't learn to sit and stay."

Finland has just closed their borders. No one will be crossing the finish line.

To avoid touching your face keep a glass of wine in each hand.

If you run of loo paper, just use a lettuce - and that's only the tip of the iceberg.

From Our Groups

Demi Cuit of the French for Beginners group tells me she has vowed never to eat fish again. She has learned they are *poisson!*

Moony Ciple, Molton's retired town planner, asks:- If there is a stairway to heaven and a highway to hell, what does this say about the expected traffic flows?

Archie Medes of the maths group reports that he hates negative numbers so much he will stop at nothing to avoid them.

The Pundemic [this is where we want the Ahrrr value to be greater than 1]

No matter how hard you push the envelope it will still be stationery.

If a judge loves the sound of his own voice, expect a long sentence.

I was delighted when my flash light batteries died.

If you boil a funny bone it will be laughing stock. That's humerus??

Texting:

Have you noticed how the younger generations text each other using acronyms? Well fellow Dotties, there is no reason we cannot do the same. Some useful suggestions:-

FWIW - Forget Where I Was

BTW. - Bring the wheelchair

Puzzle Time with Sue DoughQue:

Why do we press harder on the remote control when we know the batteries are flat?

Have you ever heard of an honest cheetah?

Club Competition:

Why?

Club News

Many of our fellow Dotties find they are being asked to spend more of their time looking after young grandchildren. Mr Drum Buie of the Scottish Country Dancing Group tells me that, despite following all the advice he can find on-line about how to child-proof his home, they are still managing to get in.

Congratulations to fellow Dotty Mari Tal, who has just married for the 4th time. She tells me in her twenties her parents arranged for her to marry a banker, in her forties she'd run off to marry a circus ringmaster, then in her sixties a preacher and this time a funeral director. When I asked why four such varied husbands, Mari explained it was a case of *one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready and four to go go go!*

Congratulations also to fellow Dotty, Al Dente who is celebrating his 50th wedding anniversary. Asked how he managed to stay married to the same woman for 50 years, Al says the key was taking her to Italy for their 20th wedding anniversary. Asked what he planned to do now to celebrate their 50th, Al was definite "*I'm gonna go and get her*"

My Life in the Second Wave

My wife, Taykin and I finally braved going out again for a meal. She asked if I would treat her like I did on our first date. So, after dinner, I dropped her off at her parents' house.

She said *'I love you so much, I couldn't live without you'*

I said *'Is that you or the wine talking'*.

She said *'It's me.....talking to the wine'*.

I told her that I was lucky to have someone I enjoyed being quarantined with. She said *"It must be nice"*.

She is now thinking of becoming vegan - it's like I never knew herbivore.

She says I only have two faults. I don't listen and something else.

When I swapped our bed for a trampoline, she hit the roof.

All this quarantine and snacking. Yesterday I spent £20 on a new belt that didn't fit. She said it was a huge waist.

She has started annoying me with her bird puns, but toucan play this game.

She wants me to start using Velcro instead of shoelaces. Well, why knot?

She baked a dog shaped loaf for a baking competition - why not? It was pure-bread.

She then told me I need to stop behaving like a flamingo. So I had to put my foot down

Our three children are now so good at social distancing, they won't even call us.

When we did visit my daughter, she was concerned that I shouldn't share her kitchen utensils, but that is a whisk I am happy to take.

Three of our Dotties were walking up the Main Street yesterday.

The first one says, "It's windy today".

The second says, "No, I reckon it's Thursday".

The third says, "So am I! Let's have a drink".

Anyway, no more jokes about retired people - they don't work.

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

US GEOGRAPHY QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Wyoming, 2. Alaska, 3. Missouri, 4. San Antonio, 5. Alaska, 6. Rhode Island and Delaware, 7. Yellowstone Park, 8. Alaska, 9. Rio Grande, 10. Washington DC