

New Mills and District U3A Coronavirus Special

Coming Out

Double, double,
Toil and trouble.
Now I'm free
To join a bubble!

Philip Kendall 18.06.20

Dear members

Your committee has not been idle during the past 4 months, absorbing missives from the Third Age Trust, organising Renewals (a little more on that from the Treasurer later), ensuring that our bills are paid, legal commitments fulfilled and discussing and planning for the uncertain future ahead.

Nor have our Group Leaders been doing nothing. Several have used technology (yes – it can be a good thing!) to give a purpose and interest to their members using Facebook, Zoom, WhatsApp and other types of media to keep in touch. Yet others have embraced “the War Effort” mentality and done sterling work in the Community.

A small selection of what members have been up to is below in this Newsletter.

But first a few comments on the situation as we see it affecting members in the near future as we attempt to re-introduce members into the new world of our U3A.

Hiring rooms

If “social distancing” at even 1 metre apart is to continue in enclosed spaces it is unlikely that many groups will be able to meet in Group Leaders’ homes. We have agreed to finance the cost of room hire from September 1st to December 31st in the first instance, with ongoing review of the costs. All attendees must pay £1 per session and monies must be submitted to the Treasurer monthly. Group Leaders are responsible for ensuring the premises are “Covid Safe” and keep an eye out for emails from us with additional advice as it becomes available.

Outdoor activities

The advice from both the Government and the Third Age Trust is unclear. One piece of advice is that up to six people can meet outdoors, but another implies that up to 30 can meet. We advise that if groups wish to organise a walk, a cycle ride or another outdoor activity they maintain a distance of at least 2 metres and wear a face covering if this is not possible.

50p attendance fee for U3A activities

We are waiving this for the time being but from September 1st all attendees should pay the 50p (or £1 if using a hired room) unless the meeting is via remote media.

While we are learning how to operate in the future, please remember to take care in all you do.

Best wishes to you all, and thank you for your patience and support.

Lesley Mason (Chair)

Renewals Update

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your subscriptions by post without the usual Monthly Meetings to pay directly and get your new cards. Thanks also to those who renewed by direct bank transfer – it worked pretty well though emailing new cards was quite a long-winded operation. As said in your renewal letter, we will review the financial situation once we are something like “back to normal” and consider whether we need an adjustment to future membership or group attendance fees.

There are still about 150 people (a quarter of the membership) who have not yet renewed. Please do so as soon as possible – as you can see from this newsletter there is still much to be enjoyed as a member of our U3A even during these trying times. If you have any queries about renewing please email me at treasurer@newmillsu3a.org.uk or telephone 01663 733275.

Margaret Weaver, Treasurer

Normal

“Great to be getting
Back to normal.”
What is normal?
The old normal
Or the new
Normal, normal.?
Well, whatever’s normal.
What we used to do
Before.....
Yes, but that’s not normal any more.
Oh then:
To hell with Lockdown!

C. Philip Kendall 18.06.20

Le Zoom

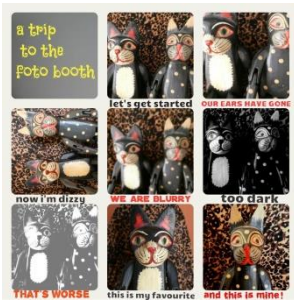
Our French Conversation group has now successfully completed four sessions using Zoom. When it was first suggested my first thought was “what’s Zoom”. But one of the members volunteered to run the first session and it went surprisingly smoothly. We’ve taken turns in hosting the subsequent meetings with members joining in from France and New Zealand. We have spoken French during most of the meetings but have also allowed ourselves time to catch up in English, especially finding out what lock-down has been like for those in France and New Zealand.

We look forward to being able to meet again at New Mills Golf Club sometime in the future but for now we will keep on Zooming!

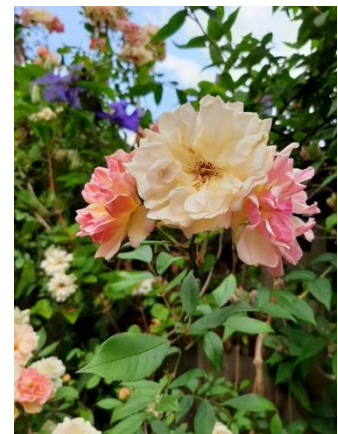
Wendy Cheshire

PHOTOGRAPHY 2

Photogroup 2 have kept themselves busy in the last 3 months. On 3rd April John Pope set up a private Facebook group so that, for our monthly meetings, we could post pictures and make comments remotely. We have run the group on the last Friday of the month from 10:30 to 12:30 (just like our usual meetings at the Spring Bank Arts Centre). John has organised these with a strict timetable allowing each member to post and comment. Everyone gets the chance to “like” one picture and that becomes our “Picture of the Month”. We have run meetings in April, May and June with the topics “Wooden”, “Home” (in the current situation) and “Liquid”. Here are some of the results:



In order to keep up our Facebook skills we are also posting our “Wednesday Flowers” pictures every week. Here are some examples:-



How long we will go on with this no one knows. But we are certainly enjoying our new method of communicating.

Alan Franklin

SINGING FOR FUN – ZOOM TUNE?

The group is an “indoor” one with some risk of spreading the virus, so sadly hasn’t been able to meet during lockdown – but the good news is that their tutor Rose is working on developing a Zoom session so that the singers can keep their voices in fine fettle.

Linda Whitaker

Skipping Rhyme

You can't hold my skipping rope
You can't join our game;
Teacher said: "Come back to school."
But it's not the same.

Chorus: You're not in our Bubble
 You can't be our friend;
 We don't want no trouble'
 Lockdown's at an end.

My Dad, he's a Fire Fighter,
My Mum's N H S;
Teacher says our Bubble
Needs to be one less.

Chorus: You're not in our Bubble
 You can't be our friend;
 We don't want no trouble
 Lockdown's at an end.

Suzie she's a Stay-at-Home
Scared to come to school;
No room in our Bubble
Four – No More's the rule.

Chorus: You're not in our Bubble
 You can't be our friend;
 We don't want no trouble
 Lockdown's at an end.

You can't hold my skipping rope
You can't join our game;
Your Mum's made your silly mask
And it don't look the same.

Chorus: You're not in our Bubble
 You can't be our friend;
 We don't want no trouble
 Lockdown's at an end.

A BUSY – BUT PRODUCTIVE - LOCKDOWN

As Covid-19 spread through Britain and care staff faced increasing problem in obtaining protective equipment, a group of **Sustainable Hayfield** members decided to help.

High Peak Scrub Hub was formed with the aim of supplying scrubs, laundry bags, aprons and face masks to staff working in community settings in High Peak. These items are not PPE and not for nursing those with Covid-19 but to help staff break the transmission of the virus between care settings, the community and their homes.

Supplies went to surgeries, schools, care homes, food banks, local shops and the Salford Royal and Christie hospitals. In the first 8 weeks over 4,500 items had been produced.

Belonging to the Scrub Hub gave a purpose to lockdown life and lots of laughter. Our mishaps were posted on our Facebook page - garments sewn up the wrong way, the elastic shortage, blunt needles, running out of thread, lights blown and the sleeves from a different sized pattern than the rest of the garment. That was an interesting one!

Our 175 members cut out, sewed, crocheted and cycled through the High Peak to deliver supplies. Pennie Roberts and Lauren Lejamble kept all our records, scheduled supplies and organised deliveries. Whatever suitable materials we had were made use of. An appeal for fabric brought a supply of sheets to be turned into bags and aprons. Aldi made a generous contribution of 100 packs of fat quarters for masks and headbands. We were very grateful for the financial support from Hayfield Parish Council and Derbyshire County Council via Beth Atkins to enable us to purchase elastic and other essentials.

Instructions on how to make a face mask are at the end of this newsletter.

Christine Wass

GARDENING GROUP

The group has kept in touch by our group e-mail and had a variety of replies. Eileen sent photos of our most stunning plants. Others wanted plant identification and Sue sent a brainstorming quiz! Another member has a gardening blog. Some members circulated photos of their most stunning plants – here for everyone's enjoyment:



.Jean Hutton

CRYPTIC CROSSWORDS

Group members have kept their brains in good order with a monthly Cryptic sent via email.

Thanks to Maggie Evans and Kath Garside

OH LOOK.....!

Oh look! There is a van outside
Hermes or DPD?
Or maybe it is Yodel
With something nice for me.

I send off on the internet
And pay for postage too,
Because I like deliveries –
There's little else to do.

I think lockdown is boring
I've even joined "A. Prime",
So the vans keep coming
To while away the time.

Oh goodie! It's a parcel!
The man has rung our bell!
He left it on the doorstep
And "social distanced" well.

When will the world be normal
With other things to do?
Till then I'll surf the internet -

And send a van to you?

C P A K 19.04 20

OUTINGS AND HOLIDAYS

It was very disappointing that so many outings we had been planning and booked had to be cancelled due to lock down. Hopefully next year we will try again to visit Liverpool, Amazon tours, Churnett Valley Railway and Nostell Priory. Our visit to the new RHS Garden 'Bridgewater' is already rebooked for 1st July 2021.

Our July holiday to Northumberland was also cancelled. This is now rebooked for August next year making it possible to attend the outdoor show Kynren at Bishop Auckland. Those booked on the holiday have been informed and all places are taken at present.

With regard to our visit to the show in November at Thursford there is no news so far but it would be surprising if they are able to put on such a large performance this year.

So we must continue to be patient, stay safe and look forward to 2021.

Barbara and Pat

HOW TO MAKE A FACE MASK

Close-woven cotton fabric works well – white on the inside, coloured on the outside, The WHO is recommending a 3rd layer. Each piece 9" x 6". 2 pieces of 1/4" wide elastic about 6" long.



Place right sides of fabric together with elastic loops in between the front and back and the 3rd layer, if using, at the bottom. The elastic needs to lie on the inside of the fabric sandwich along the short edges with ends at corners. Pin ends of elastic in place. Sew all way round leaving a 2" opening at one side. Backstitch at corners and beginning and end. Clip across corners. Turn right side out.



Press - avoiding elastic. Press in edges of opening and sew to close up. Press folds as shown to help position pleats.



Make 3 horizontal pleats so overall dimensions of mask are approximately 8 1/2" x 3". Sew all round mask to hold pleats.



Finished!

These are simple face coverings not medical grade masks. They should be washed at 60 degrees after each use with normal washing.

Thanks to Christine Wass for these instructions.