

Items for the newsletter should be emailed to

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

Deadline Monday 17th August

Message from the Chairman

Greetings everyone I hope you are all safe and well.

As the lockdown eases and we are able to resume more of our usual day to day life the committee are looking at different ways we can support our members and groups.

A questionnaire has been sent to you to try to find out what our members think about the current circumstances and what preference they would have as to the way forward.

It is clear that meeting in groups is not going to happen in the same way for some time so we need to look at alternatives.

We are conscious that some of our members are socially isolated and rely on the groups to meet other people. So, it is important that we try to help these members as much as possible.

Please take the time to tell us your views; this will help us plan for the next few months at least.

Many thanks

Take care

Chris

RADIO WAVES

The Radio Waves group decided that this Coronavirus thing would not stop us getting together so it was decided to get together using Zoom.

For those of you not familiar with Zoom, it is basically an app that enables several people to link together by phone, tablet or computer and have an "on-line" meeting. The app enables you to both see all the participants and have a chat together from the comfort of your own home.

So, on Friday 26th June at 10.30 am the link up with our Radio Waves gang commenced. Now, you would think that attendees of a group called Radio Waves would have the technical knowhow to perform this link up with ease. Not so! It took the group at least 15 minutes to get everyone linked in causing much hilarity in the process.

After not meeting for several months it was good to both hear and see everyone and we all contributed by telling all that we had been up to in the lock down. From cabinet refurbish to gardening and the rest, everyone had been keeping busy and most of all keeping both sane and safe.

It has been agreed that the meeting was such a success that we would repeat it soon, albeit with a more structured agenda - but without taking the fun out of it. To all you other groups out there that have yet to meet up, Zoom comes highly recommended so why don't you give it a try?

Roger Bacon

EASTWOOD & DISTRICT U3A AGM

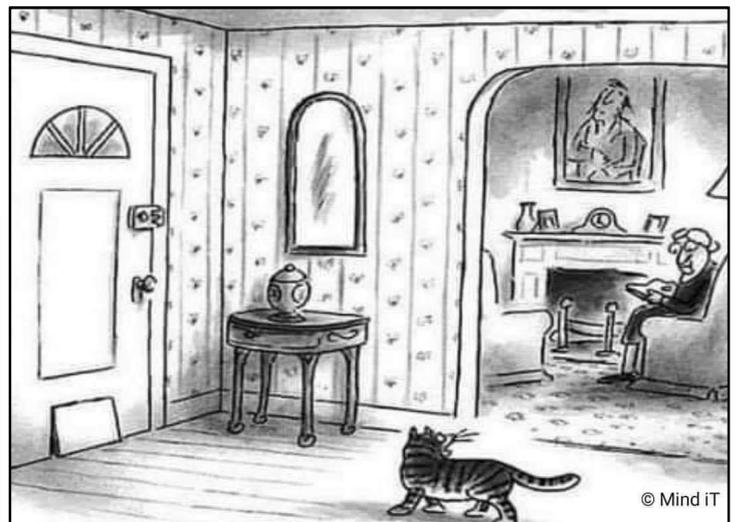
WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER

to be held on Zoom

All members will be notified formally and those members who wish to take part in the Zoom meeting must inform the committee when requested to do so. They will then be invited.

On the day of the meeting, if the meeting is not quorate it will be adjourned to another day and time.

All members will be given 21 days' notice of any future meeting. If at the adjourned meeting a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall be a quorum.



*I'm going out,
Do you need anything?*

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Membership Secretary membership@EastwoodU3A.org

Executive Committee Members:

EastwoodU3A@gmail.com

Website: www.EastwoodU3A.org

I had an early (5.00 am) walk up Long Lane, Moorgreen yesterday. The early morning sunrise looked fabulous accompanied by the dawn chorus. There were numerous Whitethroats, Yellowhammer and Blackbirds. A Buzzard was regally sitting in a tree with Blackbirds squawking, giving him what for. But the most amazing thing I saw was seven hares in the crop fields. I have only ever seen the odd one or two before.

Paul Millington



Susan Hill



I have been busy on my knitting machine during lockdown! This is my latest creation. I usually sell my cushions for charity but I have no idea when there will be a craft fair when I can display my stock and make some more money for them.

In the meantime I will go on knitting ... if anyone would like to see my stock do get in touch.

Pat Collins



HISTORY OF ENGLAND.

On the 2nd July we held our second History of England Zoom meeting with 10 of our members participating. We discussed the life and time of Edward IV, 1461-1470, 1471-1483 and the many battles which were fought in the War of the Roses.

We heard how Edward married Elizabeth Woodville, a widow, in secret, to the annoyance of Richard Neville (the Kingmaker) who was negotiating a marriage for Edward to a French Princess.

We learnt how to make a rush light which was used instead of candles as candle wax was expensive.

Also, although it happened earlier than the period we were discussing, it seemed relevant to compare the similarities of COVID 19 to the Black Death and with those thoughts we ended our meeting.

I now look forward to our next meeting in August when we will be discussing the life and times of Richard III.

Barbara Bailey

FACEBOOK – U3A: Eastwood & District

Many members are on FaceBook and use it regularly. Does anyone have the interest, skills and enthusiasm to set up a FaceBook page for Eastwood & District U3A - to help us keep in touch with each other and pass information on easily? If so, please contact me or any committee member.

Many thanks *Chris Niven*

Where is your next travel destination?

- Las Kitchenas
- Los Lounges
- Santa Bedrooms
- Porto Gardenas
- Los Bed
- Costa Del Balconia
- St Bathroom
- La Rotonda de Sofa

QUESTIONNAIRE

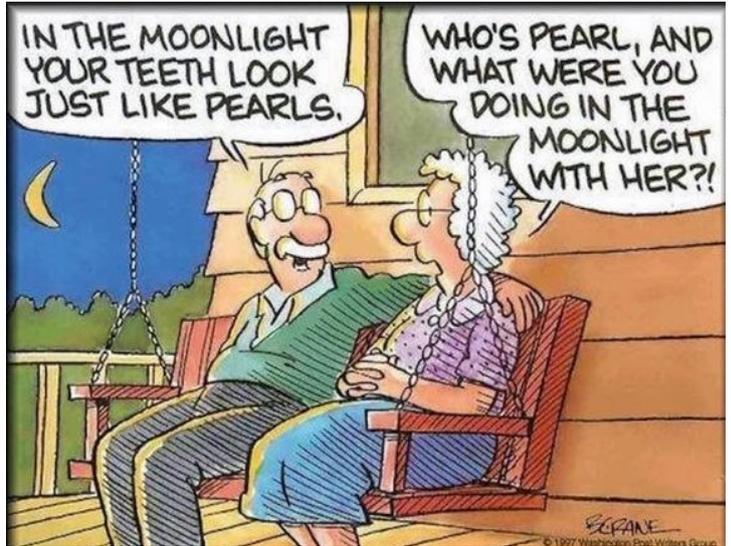
You will have recently received a Questionnaire either by email or posted to you with the Newsletter.

It would be much appreciated if you could find the time to completed and return.

To those of you that have already returned the completed questionnaire many thanks, your input is much appreciated.

Your Committee are looking at every way in which we can support members and continue with our U3A at this difficult time, and the Questionnaire, will hopefully help us in undertaking this.

Janet O'Neill



Tom Hickingbottom

VIRUS !

Out of China, news of deaths received with consternation. A deadly virus on the rampage? We need affirmation. Surely this can't concern us. That's not our expectation. Our British lives continue without any alteration. Going shopping, meeting friends, there is no hesitation. A week goes by but now the news provides more information.

We have cases of the virus. It's Covid infiltration. But still the ministers shake hands; they think there's no foundation that Covid 19's coming here; no need for legislation. But deaths and cases all increase, we're feeling desperation.

Then comes lock-down. Stay at home to stop more infiltration.

No going for coffee with your mates brings severe indignation.

Do not cough or sneeze on others, that's the proclamation.

Stand at least two metres distant. What a situation! No hugs and kisses for the family. We need determination to fight the virus. Please be wary; keep your motivation. Twelve weeks of this! But now the rules can have some relaxation

'cos deaths are down and we can meet outside; what jubilation!

The shops are open but keep the rules or back in isolation Our lives have changed until a vaccine brings us liberation.

So keep alert and don't give in to maudlin desperation. The sun still rises every morning. Cause for great elation! The new norm's here; we must embrace it for our own salvation.

Come serve the wine, enjoy good things! Make life a new sensation!

Pat Potter

REFLECTIONS

A few reflections on how life has changed no matter where we live. These reflections came from a friend living in Canada via his friend in Australia.

The same the world over.....so.....does any of this seem familiar?

Can we uninstall 2020 and reinstall it again? I think it has a virus.

After years of wanting to thoroughly clean my house but lacking the time, this week I discovered that wasn't the reason.

You're not stuck at home, you're safe at home. One word can change your attitude and one cough can change your life.

Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to prevent COVID-19 but to stop you eating.

Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?

I swear my fridge just said: "what the hell do you want now?"

Sue Rowlett

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday.

He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 72.

My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this month's newsletter. Please send your contributions for September to:

newsletter@eastwoodu3a.org

If you want more newsletter(s) I need more contributions!

I was visiting my daughter last night when I asked if I could borrow a newspaper.

"This is the 21st century" she said "We don't waste money on newspapers. Here, use my iPad."

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

NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

The National Trust have opened over 130 gardens and parklands but you have to book in advance. Booking opens on Fridays for the following week.



Kedleston Hall Gardens

THE GARDENER'S LAMENT

A greenhouse full of aphids, slimy slug spit on my sprouts,
I wait with pellets ready for those sneaky snail louts.
Pods wriggling with maggots, baby carrots full of holes,
My lawn's like many mini alps from all those bloomin' moles.

The icebergs oh so pretty with their nibbled, patterned borders,
My garden is a playground for insatiable marauders!
So I am trounced, defeated in this herbivorous melee,
Reluctantly throw in the trowel they've won, they've got their way.

I've done with Baby Bio and with Bone and Fish and Blood,
Caterpillars on my caulies and rot on a lonesome spud.
Blight blankets fresh young runner beans, black flies crawl over kale,
So hoe and spade and garden fork are sold at the car boot sale.

I buy my veg from Morrisons, it comes home clean, unsoiled,
Well-scrubbed and chopped in plastic bags just waiting to be boiled.
Perhaps it isn't British but with that I have no morals,
The dinner's cooking in a jiffy, while I sit on my laurels.

My sink is always dazzling and my plughole's clear and flushing.

No need for sucking plungers - my waste pipe's always gushing.

I revel in the time I save not strimming, digging, hoeing.
It gives me chance to lounge around and write this little poem.

Shirley McIntyre

U3A LITERARY AND POTATO PEEL PIE SOCIETY (AKA) BOOK CLUB

The Book Club continues to share its views and opinions by email and Zoom meeting held on the first Monday of the month. Although we all enjoy the written reviews sent out by members, it is not quite the same as the spontaneous banter previously enjoyed at our meetings in the library. The good news is that following the partial re-opening of the Eastwood Library, they will be able to resume the collection and issue of selected books after 14th August, although meetings will still not be allowed. This will no doubt come as a relief to our members who have been finding the task of recommending an individual choice for the monthly read an onerous one.

Reviews of two of our recently read books:

The Hunting Party by Lucy Foley

Set in Loch Corrin in Scotland, an exclusive Highland Wilderness Resort of 50,000 acres and an hour's drive to the nearest railway station. The resort, run by Heather and Doug, both characters escaping from a trauma in their past, is so exclusive it only takes 4 parties a year. The action takes place over a wintry, snowy, New Year's break.

The book is written in the style of Agatha Christie. A group of friends, connected by the fact that most of them were at Oxford together, most of the characters have a motive to kill the victim and the killer turns out to be one of the least likely personalities. There is an ongoing theme of continuing friendship, which makes one wonder why people who no longer seem to even like each other would meet up yearly for a holiday.

A gripping murder mystery cleverly constructed. There are multiple narratives and dual timelines in the story. Each chapter is narrated by one of the protagonists, dropping clues on the way as to what is going to happen. We know that there is going to be a murder and by the actions of the characters we soon get to guess who this is going to be. We get an insight into past events and there is a gradually unfolding picture of the characters, many of whom have very few redeeming features. There is a feeling that the reader is gradually being teased by the author.

It is fast paced, atmospheric and easy to read and I would give it 8/10 .

Pauline

The Image of You; I thought I knew you but you're a liar by Adele Parks

It is not the sort of book I normally choose, but that is one of the reasons I like the U3A Book Club. It started reasonably well and had a fantastic twist at the end, but I found the middle part very stodgy. The story revolves around identical twin girls and their relationship with each other and with partners and family. The twins appear to have polar opposite personalities and interests, less common than ones who have similar personalities and interests. Other themes of the book appear to be honesty and loyalty within relationships and internet dating as compared to other forms of starting a relationship.

I probably would rate this book as 5/10 because of the rather stodgy middle, although the ending rated higher.

Jane

Two other books recommended by members at our last meeting are **The Stone Diaries by Carol Shields** and **Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens**.

Stay Safe and hope you enjoy these recommendations.

Sue Draper