



April Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings fellow U3A members. It seems extraordinary that we are already lining ourselves up for our Annual General meeting. Of course it has not been a full year since our last AGM as Covid tended to affect how things worked out. In getting back to April we will be in a better position to resume normal service as and when we are able.

Sandra is doing an excellent job in keeping us informed and 'in line'. Administration has always been a great challenge for me so it is a great relief to have someone who knows what needs to be done and actually does it. Thank you Sandra.

It is with regret that I am stepping down before my actual term of office is completed. This is because my health is somewhat unreliable and there is no way that I can guarantee to be up and running for our meetings – not even on zoom! Mercifully I still seem to have all my faculties, though I suspect that I was never blessed with the full set. Being vulnerable has much to teach us and I am hopefully learning increasingly to recognise how fortunate I am in every passing moment. Learning how to invest in 'Being' requires a certain amount of application, I find.

I will really miss the privilege and honour of knowing that, even if I do not do it very often, I can sit at a machine and be in contact with all our U3A members via email. Eliane is happy for me to continue contributing my 'Musings' via the newsletter and this I have every intention of doing and of course once we can meet in reality I shall be there as often as I can.

Though asking for nominations we know that there are members who are willing and able to fill the vacant posts so the future of our U3A is assured for now.

Hopefully we will all meet up in reality sometime later in the year.

Meanwhile here is to our next AGM!

All good wishes

Brian Gill

Brian Gill – Chairman

OXTON & PRENTON U3A

AGM THURSDAY 29th APRIL 2021

By now the majority of members will have received notification of our AGM. Obviously this will be held via Zoom as we are still not allowed to currently meet. Tony has sent out details of the Zoom particulars if you haven't received them please contact him on groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

This AGM will be extremely important as we struggle to recruit Officers on the Committee, we will need to appoint a Chairman and a Secretary and at least 2 Committee Members in order to carry on with our Group of any nominations will be forwarded to you shortly.

We will also need to vote on extending our individual membership.

Our greatest hope is that if all goes well we will be able to resume meeting again in the autumn. I know I have sorely missed our meetings, walks, social events and everything that the U3A filled my life with and I can't wait to see you all again.

So please look out for correspondence from me in your inbox, we will need you to express your vote on any propositions, full details of which will be in the email.

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and by now have had your second vaccines, and I look forward so very much to meeting up in the future.

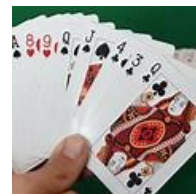
My very best wishes to you all and thank you for your continued support. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sandra Lakin

Temporary Secretary

BRIDGE GROUPS

Tony Swarbrick would like anyone interested in joining on-line Zoom groups for Bridge during this time to e-mail him at: groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk this works quite well and started up during lockdown; Tony will explain and advise on how to go about it.



BOOK GROUP

Monica Price is still running her book group on line.



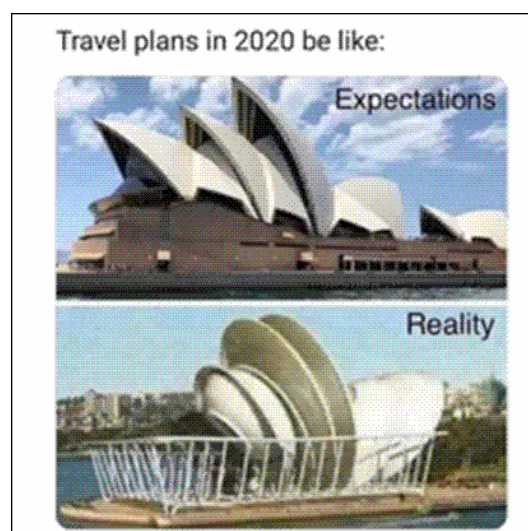
ART APPRECIATION GROUP

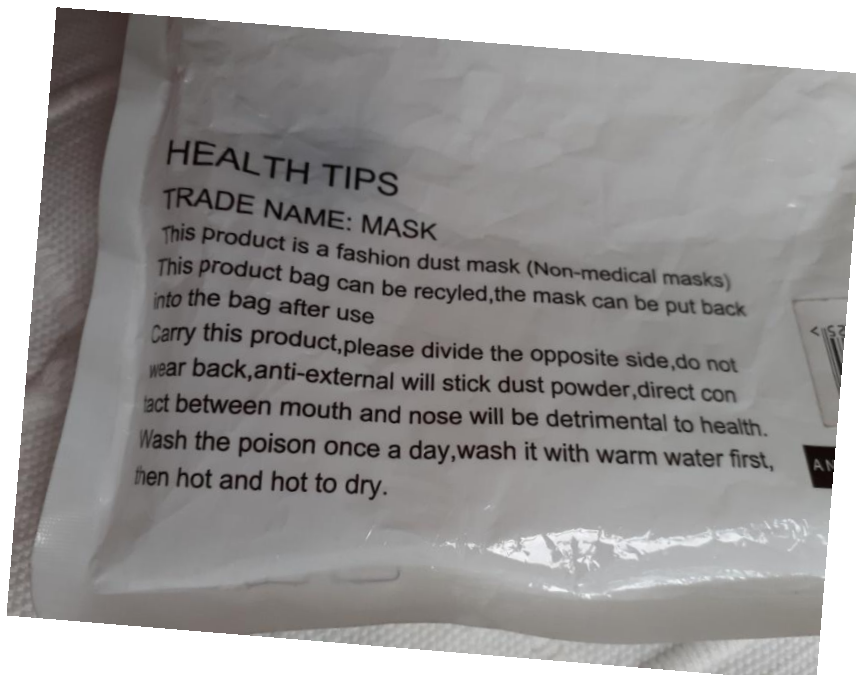
Bernadette has recommended checking out the National Gallery where there is a choice of virtual programmes and some interesting talks about a selection of paintings and painters to be found on line.

nationalgallery.org.uk/events/courses



Some Lockdown Humour During 2020!





Just after the first lockdown I spotted this one on sale in Grange Rd. and had a little chuckle!

Ed.

Saint George Patron Saint of England Aril 23rd

On April 23rd in England we celebrate St. George, Patron Saint of England since the 12th century when Edward 111 created the Order of the Garter. This was many years after his death in 303. He was widely invoked during the Crusades as an aid to battle and was a popular saint as his reputation for holiness and virtue spread across Europe in the 9th century.

He was born in Cappadocia, now part of Turkey, to father Gerontius, a Christian Greek serving in the Roman army. His mother, Polychronia, came from an area that is now part of (Palestine) Israel.

St. George never visited England and little is known for certain about his life, though he is Patron Saint of several countries as well as England, including Georgia and is venerated as one of the auxiliary saints. Tradition holds that he was a Roman soldier who was tortured and decapitated under Dioclitian's persecution of Christians in 303.

The dragon is thought to represent the devil. St. George offered to slay the dragon if the citizens consented to convert to Christianity and be baptised. Fifteen thousand men, including the King of Silene converted and George then killed the dragon with his sword. The corpse was then carried out of the city on ox-carts.

St. George's Day used to be a Bank Holiday celebrated with parades, dancing and flags flying. Red roses are sometimes worn in the lapel. Perhaps we could revive some of the old customs – happy St. George's Day!



A Photo taken in Monet's Garden by Pauline Horner



All I can say is that it was a lucky shot. I walked out of Monet's house which overlooks a large garden. As I came out the gardeners switched on the watering system and I caught the rainbow colours in the sunshine.

For anyone who hasn't been, it's a great place to visit. I did it that first time on a weekend trip and it was amazing.

Pauline Horner

Little Theatre Repairs

You might be interested to see some 'before and after' pictures showing part of the repairs after the fire damage caused by the arson attack on the Little Theatre.



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www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events **Regional Web site**

: *AND FINALLY*

At last the careful wind down of lockdown has started and we can walk with or meet, up to six family members or friends outside. Wearing of masks and social distancing still have to be followed but we can walk a bit further afield – a change of scenery. Soon we will be able to eat outside, weather permitting!

There is light at the end of a long tunnel and we can begin to think of when our U3A can return to normal activity. As you know we have our AGM on April 29th and you will be hearing from Sandra regarding how you can join our Zoom AGM. We have to ratify Committee members including new placements, so if there are members wishing to put themselves forward you need to let us know ASAP.

At the moment it looks as though we should be able to resume normal meetings in September; before then our group activities will depend on how the dismantling of lockdown is progressing. Possibly by June smaller groups could meet outside or at someone's home. Easter is a time of rebirth – a very apt time to start coming out of lockdown!

I would love to hear about your experiences over the last year; new hobbies, perhaps a new language learnt? Please send me a short piece about your experiences during lockdown that might help, or be of interest to members who will each have their own memories of it.

Have a very happy Easter and look forward to times getting better as we go into summer. I have my second jab on April 1st - can't wait!



Eliane Davie - Editor

