



Weston Turville U3A Newsletter

May 2020

Learn, laugh, live, learn.

Chairman's bits: Happy Tenth Anniversary to everyone. Weston Turville U3A celebrates its tenth anniversary this month but sadly we are not able to celebrate as we had planned. However, we will as soon as we can. In the meantime "Stay Alert".

A few facts from when we started in May 2010:

- # The "Flash Crash" wipes off a trillion dollars from the stock market in 36 minutes.
- # 'Nude, Green Leaves and Bust' by Pablo Picasso sells for \$106.5 million.
- # The Eurovision Song Contest is won by Germany – Lena with Satellite.
- # Mandi Simons takes the initiative to found WTU3A - thank you Mandi.

This is quite a contrast to May 2020 which will be remembered for just one thing.

I hope we are all getting used to modern technology to help stay connected with family and friends. My diary is a weekly repeat of Zoom meetings with the family and Face Time with friends over a pre-dinner drink (or two) of gin and tonic. Even birthday parties are being enjoyed using technology.

I'm amazed at how quickly the weeks are flashing by – has time been speeding up or am I in a dream world? As we move forward to better times, please stay well and keep safe. I look forward to meeting everyone again when we meet again.

Changing address? Please let membership secretary Carol Johnson (membership@wtu3a.org.uk) know if you are changing or have recently changed your address. With our membership renewal date now being later than usual it is essential that Carol is kept in the picture so your Third Age Matters magazine gets to the right address.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Garden Visits The Thenford Arboretum visit has now been rearranged for Friday 14th May 2021 so make a note of it now, Further details will be out at the start of next year.

The group leader is Mary Duly on: gardens@wtu3a.org.uk

To brighten things up a bit during this period, Mary has sent links to a couple of garden-related web sites so at least you can see some flowers even if you can't visit any gardens. These are: www.secretldn.com/netherlands-tulip-fields-virtually and www.theenglishgarden.co.uk/gardens/virtual-garden-tours which mentions Highgrove which is another destination for next year.

Remember to check the website www.wtu3a.org.uk for more up to date information and for any old newsletters and articles. Use the Search box or tag words on the right of the page. WTU3A has its own Facebook page with lots of photos on. Search for it, ask to join and within no time at all you could be viewing the albums.

Patchwork & Quilting Maureen Reeves' Reflection on Lockdown

The Patchwork & Quilting group held its last meeting on 3 March not knowing when we would be able to get together again. Fortunately, the activities of our group are things we can do at home alone and with plenty of online resources we can find new projects and can keep motivated. Many of us have a substantial "stash" of fabric and the opportunities for online shopping are still open to us so no need to "file away" the sewing machine.

At the start of the crisis our priority was to find where we could buy eggs, was midnight the only time to get a Tesco delivery slot, should we dig up the lawn and grow vegetables. But gradually we have got used to the new normal.

Our generation of "baby boomers" have for years been the main stay of voluntary organisations enriching our community and providing vital support to those in need and helping our own families with child care but that role has changed, we are now the vulnerable ones and that is hard to accept.

We all know the vital role the NHS staff and other key workers are playing to combat this disease and the Thursday night clapping is a token of our appreciation but over the last couple of months a small army of volunteers across the UK have been helping in a practical way and our sewing skills have been put to good use. To reduce contamination a bag for NHS staff to take home their scrubs which can be put straight into the washing machine was the first project, well making quilts we knew how to cut and sew a straight line, easy. Headbands with buttons by the ears to put the face mask elastic over saving sore ears, we've got some fun fabric we could use for that; and now the dress makers amongst us are making scrubs. So, we now feel even when safe at home, we can still make a contribution.

Through the Facebook page Sewing for the NHS Beds, Bucks and MK, we have provided scrub bags, headbands, and now scrub hats to our hospital staff, GP practices, prison and Care homes staff using materials which has been donated by the local community. So when a few weeks ago we had request for 5000 scrub bags from Wexham Park hospital, we put peddle to the metal - our extreme event.

History Repeats Itself (or does it?) This poem was apparently written in 1869 and rewritten during the 1919 pandemic. However a website that looks at the accuracy of such things thinks it was written in March 2020! Nevertheless it is still thought provoking:

This is Timeless

**And people stayed at home, and read books and listened
And they rested, and did exercises, and made art and played
And learned new ways of being, and stopped and listened. More deeply
Someone meditated, someone prayed, someone met their shadow
And people began to think differently, and people healed
And in the absence of people who lived in ignorant ways
Dangerous, meaningless and heartless
The earth also began to heal
And when the danger ended and people found themselves
They grieved for the dead and made new choices
And dreamed of new visions, and created new ways of living
And completely healed the earth just as they were healed**

Finally *If it is true that stress brings on weight loss, why the hell am I not invisible?*

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