

Welcome to the LYME REGIS U3A – the Monthly Newsflash with the added extra MAY“CHEERS” attachment

MAY 2020

For **Membership** matters please contact Membership Secretary Graham Pitts:
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For **Newsletter and Newsflash** contact Sue Wilson newsletter@lru3a.org

Firstly have you had a look at our new website - all up and running - with very grateful thanks to Webmaster John Marriage and various committee members who have done a great deal of work on the content and the final “polish”.

<https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/>

Look for the **SOS** page – Save our Sanity – where we have listed various projects, surveys, interests and distractions. And see more in the attachment to this Newsflash – MAY “CHEERS”

“Thanks for all the links in SOS-they are invaluable. No need to get bored “ - Audrey

and of course, a huge thank you to Jenny Finch who has looked after our presence on the web for many past years.

Don't forget you can find all the updates and news from U3A head office and read the latest U3A Newsletter - copy and paste this link: <https://u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

GROUP NEWS from some of our ‘active’ groups!

I asked Keith to give a simple explanation of Zoom for any Groups thinking of starting. Penny Rose Groups Co-ordinator

My experience in setting up and using ZOOM for French Conversation Group.

We have managed a quite successful French Conversation Group Meeting this week using ZOOM. Only one person needs to join and sign up with ZOOM.

This was very easy and free!

I followed their instruction to “host” a meeting and was able to set up and schedule a series of regular meetings. I was then able to invite others to join the meetings using a single email, from inside ZOOM.

The invitees were able to join the meeting by clicking a link on that email without having to join Zoom themselves in advance.

We had seven participants for our first meeting using a mixture of devices with sound and webcam, laptop, pc, and tablets.

Using Gallery View let us see all participants simultaneously. It took a little while for us to get used to taking turns and not try to speak at once, but we are used to doing that in a room together normally.

I think that the maximum practical number for us would be about a dozen (We would have divided up for this number in our normal meetings)

Understandably there was rather a lot of English used this time as we were in lockdown and had not seen each other for some time.

ZOOM is supposed to limit meetings to 45 minutes free, but it allowed us to continue after that.

Most people felt that an hour was sufficient time for the meeting, so we are going to try meetings of about this length weekly, instead of our normal 2 hours every fortnight and see how we go. Keith Robson 01297 442183

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY had a very successful meeting - Thank you John Marriage for setting all this up!
Penny Rose Groups Co-ordinator.

On Friday April 17th the **Science & Technology Group** had its first full-scale online meeting, attended by over 60 people. The subject, which had actually been fixed months before the outbreak of coronavirus, was Steve Coles speaking about **Infections of the Respiratory Tract**. Steve adapted his talk heavily to cover some of the science of the current situation. The talk was recorded, and U3A members can request a copy of the video by e-mailing webmaster@lru3a.org. Be aware that it is a large file (150Mb) so you need a good broadband connection. The meeting was hailed as a great success, so we plan to continue monthly if we can. The next session will be on Friday May 15th, 10:15am. All Lyme U3A members are welcome, the details are on our new website at <https://www.lymeregisu3a.org/scitec.html>

Note that you need to register in advance, so do check out the website in good time.

We used Webex rather than Zoom, as it is better for larger groups/longer sessions. If any group leader wants advice on doing a similar thing, by all means e-mail John Marriage - webmaster@lru3a.org

BOOK GROUP 2

This month we have been reading *Citadel* by Kate Mosse. It is a long book, so we have been grateful to have extra time to complete it, especially as many of us are spending much of our time in the garden. We discussed having a virtual meeting using Zoom but decided to share our opinions by email messages instead. Members of the group will send me their comments as they finish the book and I will circulate them to the others in the group. *Dawn Armstrong*

MAKING MUSIC

The Making Music group are "meeting" via Zoom on their regular Wednesday morning meeting time and we find that if the two piano keyboards play the main tune the rest of us can follow the conductor to play our own parts, although the rest of us are all muted to avoid the time lag on Zoom. It is good to meet up and chat face to face as well.

Roll on better times and meeting face to face. *Rob Walker*

FRENCH FOR FUN

We are currently continuing with 'French for Fun' using Zoom; most of the group are now joining in (we now have 9 Zoomers). We organised some 1-1 sessions with those who were interested but had not used it before, using the telephone to 'talk' people through the connecting, etc., so that they were confident with it before the meeting. As the time limit is 40 minutes (on the freebie sessions) we are having the first part from 10.00 to 10.40, then having a coffee break and coming back for the second half at 10.55, and this seems to work quite well. As usual, I send out the articles that we are going to look at a couple of days before, and I'm making sure that we have two separate (and fairly easy) things for the two halves. (In addition to the usual articles, we have read and listened to a jolly song about Corona virus precautions 'Reste a la maison' and seen a television report from Belgium about televising school lessons !) The response has been very good, even from those who are novices. People seem to be enjoying it and as we are all good friends it is so nice to 'see' everyone and keep in touch. *Kay Luckraft*

GARDEN LOVERS have set up a Gardeners' Questions panel of four members to answer gardening questions. Questions should initially go to *Mary Bohane* at vice-chair@lru3a.org

MEDITATION

The Meditation group is not online. I send a simple exercise every time the class is due for members to carry out in their own time. *Jo Smith Oliver*

GERMAN CONVERSATION

we are trying to write a piece to the German group each Wednesday on a theme - in German, of course! I have just registered for a free future learning course on German in the workplace which I will recommend to the group. It is an Open University 6 week course. *Audrey Standhaft*

CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing Group is functioning using emails to communicate our stories monthly. *We still have a vacancy in the group. Anyone interested should contact me by email initially, via the website. John McCallum.*

TENNIS

The Tennis group is in regular contact by emails and the banter and laughter can be heard throughout the region. We exchange videos, recipes, books, gardening tips and seeds and plants, walking ideas, skipping, hulo-hoops as well as the unprintable! It is a great way of keeping together during this very weird time in our lives. At the end of the day, we all need each other. They are a great bunch of people and I am very proud of them! The kindness, care and genuine friendships shown by the tennis group uphold the true spirit of U3A.

Joyce Beadle

POETRY READING

Five of the Poetry Reading Group continue as before but without the live meeting for reading and discussion – or the tea and cake afterwards. We continue to have a chosen poet and one free choice which is circulated and can be read in our own time at our own pace. Feedback is optional. The chosen poet for May is the Welsh poet Gwyneth Lewis. Other poets chosen this month are Edward Thomas, Philip Larkin and John Drinkwater. *Any U3A member with an interest in poetry is welcome to join us temporarily.* *Kevin Benfield*

DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THE LIBRARY???????

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Your Library Service Online

The buildings may be closed, but there are still lots of services you can access from home. Visit the [website](#) to see what's available for you and your family.

Don't have a library card?

While the libraries are closed, you can [join online](#) and get immediate access to our eBooks, Audiobooks, Digital Magazines and Digital Comics.

You will be given a temporary membership number and your library card will be sent to you when libraries reopen.

Copy and paste this link to join up -

Dorset <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/libraries-history-culture/libraries/libraries.aspx>

Devon <https://www.devonlibraries.org.uk/web/arena>

See the attachment to this email - MAY“CHEERS” for various projects, surveys, interests and distractions.

Thank you for the contributions from the local membership towards the May“cheers” attachment with this Newsletter. Please keep your contributions coming to lighten our hearts and our mood during this difficult and very unusual time.

Sue Wilson newsletter@lru3a.org