

February 2021

WELCOME

Welcome to the Bridport u3a Newsletter for February 2021. You can now find this and all previous Newsletters on our website under News.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to comment on our Newsletters, and we welcome all suggestions. If you have anything you would like to be included in future Newsletters, please send your submissions to newsletter@bridportu3a.org.uk and we will do our best to use as many as possible.

MISSING EMAILS



During the transition early in January to our new website, emails to all addresses @bridportu3a.org.uk did not get delivered. If you are waiting on a response from anybody you are not being ignored, it is likely that the person you sent it to did not get it. If this applies to you, please could you resend your email, as all addresses are now working properly. We apologise if this has caused problems for anybody.

YOUR u3a NEEDS YOU!

This is an urgent appeal for help.

Bridport u3a is run by the members for the members. We have no paid staff. Everything is

done by volunteers. Without volunteers we cannot function.

At our AGM this year (May/June date tba) 3 of our Officers will be standing down after many years service. This means we will have vacancies for a Chairperson, PR person and Groups Co-ordinator. Importantly, we are simply not allowed to operate as a u3a if some of these Officer roles are not filled, so it is over to you, the members, to step forward if you want to keep your u3a. If there is no response, Bridport u3a will cease to exist after the AGM.

Because these are official positions, there are role descriptions available on the u3a Trust's website, or they can be emailed to you on request from newsletter@bridportu3a.org.uk. If you would like an informal chat with the current post holders to find out more about what is involved, please contact them to arrange a telephone conversation, details on contact page of website.

Without your help, there will be no u3a. Please consider volunteering if you can.

MEMBER RENEWALS

This is an early reminder that your membership renewal is due next month. It will remain at £15 per year.

We understand that many of you do not want to pay for membership whilst we cannot meet in person, which is something we are all looking forward to doing again. However we do have a good online offer in place for members during this pandemic. We have more than 30 groups operating albeit differently, a regular programme of monthly talks, and a monthly newsletter to keep you all informed, together with our new improved website. This is more than any other local u3a, several of which have been closed

completely since last March. It is thanks to our team of hard working volunteers that this is all in place, and we have been able to pay for additional technology to support these activities. Without your membership subscriptions we too would not have been able to fund these services, and would have to close, so I ask you please to continue to support us through your membership subscriptions, and 'normal service will be resumed as soon as possible'

Thank you to all the members who have paid their subscription for the current year, and for continuing to support us in these difficult times. Your membership subscription is our only source of income, and without that we would not be able to offer any groups, now or in the future.

JUST FOR FUN

(answers are at the end of this Newsletter)



Given the ongoing travel restrictions and the thwarted desire for travel, this month we are taking a round-the-world treasure hunt. Can you identify the countries?

1. Your journey begins in a London square, a column tall, a gentleman fair, with lions afoot and battles won, which country did this square's name come from?
2. We travel far away to a watery location with a beautiful bay. Away from the shore and under the sea lies beautiful treasure, alive and free. Which country do we need to dive down under for clue number 2?
3. On we must go to continue our goal, to a city where you might like to stroll. Look for a pyramid down below, a Da Vinci smile, there you must go.
4. Next we head East. Here you will find a majestic place, a white marble building, a true masterpiece. A setting of gardens, a famous dome, and within those who once ruled from their throne.
5. Next to a place with its head in the clouds, with one in particular standing proud. Its cold up here so wrap up warm, take a deep breath as the air is thin. You are on top of the world, but don't look down.
6. Head to a place of many delights, a precious bridge, a winding street, but across the bay lies prisoners' fate. A place of character, diversity and fun, hop on a tram to find this one.
7. Let's head on without delay, an historical city, many sites to be seen, look up to the ceiling – a painter's dream. A country known for its style and fashion, and for art loving people this place is their passion
8. Now we travel far back in time, a burial place underground to climb. Here you will find objects of all kinds, even furniture, clothing and treasures sublime. Do you know where to go? The writings on the wall.
9. Nearing our journey's end, one last trip before we are through. The next treasure you are set to find is certainly the largest of its kind. A thundering sound heard from afar and a misty spray rising into the air. A treasure that is fit for a queen, do you know where to go and what is to be seen?
10. The next clue is for a city you are going back to, and a treasure that is blue white and red, but be careful not to lose your head.
11. Your journey ends in the Tower here, but you still must search for the treasure within. You are looking for a star from Africa, but in what regal emblem will it be found?

AT HOME GROUPS

As I am sure you understand, it is difficult for your committee and Group Convenors to keep all activities running at the moment. Meantime, many groups have been meeting online (often via Zoom) and a wide range of new groups have been set up specifically to run online, such as our 'At Home' groups, which include:

Art History
Birdwatching
Board Games
Broadcasting
Classical Music
Coffee Time Discussion Group
Creative Writing
Exploring Art
Family History Group
Haiku
History
IT Self Help Group
Knit & Natter
Limerick Club
Dorset Museum
Non-Fiction Club
Opera
Political Discussion
Puzzles for Fun
Thomas Hardy Poetry
World Service Archive
Monday Coffee time Chat

Please see our website for further information

NEW AT HOME GROUP

A new Poetry & Verse group has been established, where a weekly topic is suggested and members invited to share their poetry, short verse, one liners and riddles, as they prefer, by Saturday. All previous verse is available to view online. There is no pressure to submit, and no critique if members' submissions. For more information, to contact the group Convenor Linda Moore and to join the group please visit the Groups page on our website.

FEBRUARY MONTHLY MEETING

Our February talk is as advertised in your booklet, *The Making of West Bay Discovery Centre* by John West at 2pm on Tuesday 23rd February, via Zoom. Members will be sent the joining link a few days before the event.

Our March talk is also as advertised, on Tuesday 23rd March, a talk by Debbie Birtwhistle on the *Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance*, online via Zoom.

GROUP NEWS

NEW As we will continue to be operating virtually for some months, it would be much appreciated if Group Convenors would contact any of their members not connecting with the group using Zoom or other technology, to see if they would like help to engage online, and to signpost them to the IT Support group for any additional help necessary.

Some of our other groups are managing to continue online, or, when possible, with reduced numbers. Please see our new and improved Groups page for information on how to contact Group Convenors and for information on groups that have vacancies, and the latest information available.

Please note, the advice from government is changing all the time, so it is important that you each keep up to date with regulations as they apply to you. As part of the wider u3a movement, we must take our guidance on what we can do from the Third Age Trust, not least because not complying with their advice means our insurance is invalid.

The Third Age Trust has a link to Covid-19 advice on u3a activities. A direct link to the most recent advice is available here

[Covid 19 Advice – Click here](#)

From 5th January we are once again in a national lockdown, so no groups can meet face to face.

SHORT COURSES

Our next Short Course will be by Zoom on Wednesday 10th February at 2pm, covering how to take good photographs with a smartphone. The presenter will be Julian Elliott who is a professional photographer. There is no need to book, joining details will be sent to all members a few days before the event. {Newsletter hopes to see some of the fruits of the participants for future editions please}

If you have any suggestions for other one-off short courses that you would like to see, please email groups@bridportu3a.org.uk.

NEW WEBSITE

Our new website (bridportu3a.org.uk) is live! If you haven't already had a look, please do so, and let us know your views.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY

Now that all the hard work is over, and recognising that there will always be improvements and additions needed, Tony is looking for someone to assist with website administration. This is a great opportunity for someone with basic computer knowledge but no knowledge of websites who is keen to develop their skills, although someone who already has skills would be welcomed too. You would be expected to deputise for Tony when (and if) we let him out to go on holiday! Email Tony on webmaster@bridportu3a.org.uk or call on 01308 456223.

GROUP SPOTLIGHT

Each month we would like to run a more detailed story on one of our groups. If you would like your group featured here please send information to newsletter@bridportu3a.org.uk

This month we look at the Singing Group, a band of about 60 friendly, happy and enthusiastic singers who had been meeting fortnightly for the last six years or so. That was before the Covid restrictions that impacted particularly severely

on singing. Our members can't wait to return to singing and the enjoyment that we had.

Unfortunately, as well as Covid worries, now our Musical Director has stepped down so, when we do get together once more, we will need someone to lead. It is anticipated that we will have to rebuild our membership at first so initially we will be looking for someone who can play our keyboard and lead us in some music. Does this sound like a skill you have or do you know someone who may be interested? Even on a temporary basis? Of course, we have no idea when this will be but it is good to plan. Please contact Heather on singers@bridportu3a.org.uk if you can help to keep our merry band of singers happy.

MONTHLY LIMERICK CHALLENGE



There was a good response to our first limerick challenge last month, so here are a selection of those we received, in no particular order:

*I'd like to fly off on a plane
To Italy, Turkey or Spain
But planes are not flying
It's no use me trying
Perhaps I could get there by train (CR)*

*I'd like to fly off on a plane
One that is heading for Spain.
The weather's so fine
And I love Spanish wine
- But I've heard there is sometimes rain! (SC)*

Each month the Newsletter will bring you a suggested first line for a limerick, and publish some of those submitted from the previous month (using contributors initials only).

If you want to participate, please create a limerick with the following first line:

There was an old lady from Eype

Please send your contributions to limerickclub@bridportu3a.org.uk by 23rd February and a selection will be printed in the next Newsletter.

An 'almost' limerick that made me smile this month and has been doing the rounds on the internet:

Aide Memoir by Brian Bilston

*Thirty days has September,
April, June and November.
Unless a leap year is its fate,
February has 28
But all the rest have 3 days more,
Excepting January, which has six thousand
One hundred and eighty four.*

MONTHLY LOCAL PHOTOGRAPH

Each month we will publish a photograph of a local scene. Please submit your photographs to newsletter@bridportu3a.org.uk and let me know when and where it was taken, and if you want to be acknowledged as the photographer or remain anonymous.

This month a snowy scene which was gone the next day.



NATIONAL u3a

Did you know that Third Age Matters is also available as a text-only download that can be read by text-readers, so anybody with a visual impairment can still enjoy the national magazine? The link is available here.

[Third Age Matters – Click here](#)

More information about national online groups, the latest u3a Covid guidance, projects, research and much more can be found in the national u3a Newsletter, which you can sign up to here.

[Newsletter sign-up – Click here](#)

ZOOM & OTHER TECHNOLOGY

Love it or hate it (and many of us feel both in the course of a Zoom session!) it is a free, advert-free, safe and accessible way to keep in touch with friends and family, and with our own social groups while we cannot meet face to face.

In addition to local support, Zoom offer a number of short helpful online video tutorials to show you how a number of different aspects of the software work, which are ideal to familiarise yourself with the product before you try to use it.

[Zoom tutorials – Click here](#)

Also you can contact our At Home group, IT Self Help Group, and our own members will be able to give you whatever assistance you need.

There is a wealth of information to help you get to grips with Zoom, available from both the Trust (u3a.org.uk) and Bridport u3a, including online tutorials, and one-to-one help. If you are struggling with Zoom or just don't know where to start, there is help available for you. If you need help contact us for signposting to the right sources of help for you.

There is also help available with a range of technologies, either from the above sources or from Dorset Digital Champions helpline on 01305 221048 (select option 2).

FUTURE-PROOFING BRIDPORT u3a & NATIONAL u3A DAY

Whether in person or online, the Third Age Trust has decided that National u3a Day will go ahead on June 2nd this year, aiming to recruit new members into the u3a movement. Please put this date in your diary and we will keep you updated when we know what restrictions will still be in place so what will be permitted.

OUTSIDE u3a

Please note There is a different listing in each Newsletter so for other sources please refer to previous editions, available in the News section of our website. Also, some entries are time-sensitive, particularly free give-aways, so action these promptly if you are interested.

Eventbrite has long been used for event bookings, but who knew there are so many free events covering all sorts of topics. Just got to eventbrite.co.uk and in a bar near the bottom of the screen, towards the right side, there is a button labelled Free. Once there, you can limit our choices to selected topics, which is a good idea with over 5,000 choices when I last looked. Or just sort by date. There are lots of art gatherings, well-being sessions, and I just attended a Manchester-based Fashion Forecast event.

MITx has lots of free events for MIT, mainly science and political matters, but some outliers too.

[MITx link – Click here](#)

For dog owners, Forthglade (a Devon based dog food company) are running a monthly photo competition for the cutest dog, with different prizes each month.

[Dog photo competition – Click here](#)

This is an interesting satire by **Hogarth on false perspectives**.

[Hogarth link – Click here](#)

Flashbak have interesting old photographs, including some amazing coloured ones of the Russian Tsar's last ball.

[Flashbak Photos link – Click here](#)

For those of you interested in photography, here is a useful article about **how cameras and lenses work**.

[How cameras work link – Click here](#)

These are glimpses of peoples' homes which are **portals to the past**.

[Portals to the past link – Click here](#)

Threads magazine (US based, sewing) has **3 free apron patterns** to share, because we are all meant to be doing more cooking at the moment apparently.

[Threads Magazine link – Click here](#)

This is a great introduction to the **Japanese art of Kintsugi**, make-do-and-mend without the budget!

[Kintsugi link – Click here](#)

If you always wanted to learn **how to knit**, here is a full beginners guide.

[How to knit link – Click here](#)

The **Poetry Archive** is a good source of all things poetry

[Poetry Archive link – Click here](#)

Bridport Library Service has free e-books, audio e-books, e-magazines, e-newspapers and ancestry resources that library members can access from their own devices. Membership is free too.

COMPETITION WITH PRIZES

We have recently been contacted by King Lear Prizes, a national creative arts competition launched to encourage people over 65 to produce new works of literature, drama, poetry, music and art during the pandemic. There are over £2,000 worth of prizes on offer, with winners picked by a panel of experts including Giles Brandreth and Julian Lloyd Webber. Closing date is 19th March. There is a cost of £5 per entry.

For further information visit the King Lear Arts Competition website at www.kinglearprizes.org.uk

King Lear Arts Competition – Click here

Until next month

Stay safe

Bridport U3A Committee

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN QUIZ

- 1 Spain
- 2 Australia
- 3 France
- 4 India
- 5 Nepal
- 6 USA
- 7 Italy
- 8 Egypt
- 9 Zambia
- 10 UK
- 11 Sovereign's Sceptre