

WELCOME

Welcome to the Bridport u3a Newsletter for November 2020. We hope you like the new format, and thanks to Robin for volunteering to do it.

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.

MEMBER RENEWALS FINAL REMINDER

Firstly a big Thank You to all our members who have paid their annual £15 subscriptions promptly this year, and those of you who paid after our last Newsletter reminder. If you have not paid, your subscription for 20/21 is now overdue and we would invite you to consider renewing by the end of November 2020. Payments can be made by bank transfer to our account, Bridport & District u3a, sort code 40-13-28, account number 71444603. Please ensure your last name and membership number are given as the reference. Alternatively you can pay by cheque; further details are on our website. For any queries, please contact our Membership Secretary Diana Coleridge on 01308 424431.

This is a final reminder for this year. Please be advised that anybody who has not renewed by the 30th November 2020 will be removed from membership.

JUST FOR FUN



(answers are at the end of this Newsletter)

Here are some brain teasers for you.

1. What do the babies of a mouse, a mole and a shark all have in common?
2. Some months have 30 days; some have 31. How many have 28?
3. What is black and white and red all over?
4. 20 pigeons were sitting in a tree. A man shot a pigeon with his gun. How many were left in the tree?
5. Is it legal for a man to marry his widow's sister?
6. How many times can you subtract 10 from 100?
7. What goes up but never comes down?
8. The peacock is a bird that does not lay eggs. How do they get baby peacocks?
9. An assistant in a butcher's shop stands five feet ten inches tall and wears size 13 trainers. What does he weigh?
10. You participate in a race. You overtake the second person. What position are you in?

AT HOME GROUPS

As I am sure you understand, it is difficult for your committee and Group Leaders to keep activities running at the moment, but we all hope that 'normal service will be resumed as soon as possible'. 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
- Creative Writing
- Exploring Art
- History
- Limerick Club
- Dorset Museum
- Non-Fiction Club
- Opera
- Political Discussion
- Puzzles for Fun
- Thomas Hardy Poetry
- World Service Archive
- Monday Coffee time Chat (NEW see below)
- IT Support (NEW see below)

Please see our website for further information

NOVEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

Our November monthly meeting is as originally scheduled, at 2pm on the 24th November by scheduled speaker Francis Burroughes who has agreed to do his

presentation for us using Zoom, entitled "Don't put your daughter on the Stage" which is a humorous presentation about the many amateur productions he's presented; more information about login details will be sent nearer the time, there is no need to pre-register.

Advance Notice: our December event will be the Christmas Quiz, which will be delivered online via Zoom. More information in next month's Newsletter.

GROUP NEWS

Our At Home Groups are identified separately above.

Some of our other groups are managing to continue online, or, when possible, with reduced numbers. Please see our Groups page for information on how to contact Group Leaders 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 latest update was received on 2nd November, following the Government and NHS announcement that England will be going into lockdown from Thursday 5th November for four weeks:

"All u3a face to face activity in England should cease over this period in line with the guidance. Please do check regularly on the national website u3a.org.uk to keep up to date with any changes."

At the foot of every website page, there is a link to Covid-19 advice on u3a activities. A direct link to the most recent u3a advice is available here: [Latest Covid guidance - 30 Oct 2020](#) .

GROUP LEADERS REQUEST

Can we please ask all Group Leaders to respond to the requests for information that have been emailed to you. We are waiting to launch our new website, and want the most recent information for it, so Members can see what is happening in each group. If you do not respond we will assume your group is disbanded and information will not be included on our new website. Thank you.

NEW GROUPS SPOTLIGHT

Following the recent talk by Ian Waller 'Everyone Has Roots', there has been interest expressed in establishing a new At Home Family History group. If this is of interest to you, please contact groups@bridportu3a.org.uk.

A new group At Home group was launched on Monday 2nd November at 10.30, the Monday Coffee Time Discussion group. The weekly 30-60 minutes Zoom meeting will discuss a range of topics (no politics) but is particularly focused around TV and Radio broadcasts from the preceding week. If you are interested please see the website for further information.

Another new At Home group started on Thursday 5th November at 10.30, the IT Self Help group. They will meet via Zoom on the first Thursday of every month, and will help to resolve any IT issues for members who attend. Please contact Mick Holgate in the first instance on techsupport@bridportu3a.org.uk or phone 01308 420301.

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.

COMING SOON.....

After much work by Tony, we are very nearly ready to launch our new website. We are just doing a final check and waiting for updated information (HINT: if you have been asked for information and you have not yet supplied it there will be nothing on the website) and then we are good to go. No date yet, but keep watching.....

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 for Screen Readers](#)

At the recent national AGM, the new u3a branding was launched, designed to be more 'vibrant' and appealing. We are using it at the head of this Newsletter. If you read Third Age Matters, you will know that for several years there has been a debate about whether the use of 'University' in our name is deterring some people from joining the movement. You will not be surprised that there is no change. It is hoped that by being 'just' u3a (like the BBC not being the British Broadcasting

Corporation anymore) the debate will just go away. We will wait and see.

More information about the AGM, rebranding, national online groups, the latest u3a Covid guidance, research and much more can be found in the national u3a Newsletter, which you can sign up to here: [u3a Newsletter](#)

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.

Did you know 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 HAVE YOUR SAY

As notified in the previous Newsletter, we are setting up a short-term working group to look at how we can improve Bridport u3a for our members, both during the ongoing pandemic and we cannot meet like we used to, and for the future when we can return to some semblance of 'normal'.

Following our request for volunteers for this group, I can now tell you the members will be

Paul Tebbutt, John Grantham, Diana Coleridge and Karen Herbert.

The National u3a conducted research into what changes members nationally want to see over recent months and have published their findings in a brief report, which you can find on the national website, with a short summary printed in your most recent Third Age Matters magazine. This will also feed into our local review.

The key areas we have identified to work on initially are:

- Establishing and maintaining connections without the ability to meet face-to-face
- Use of online tools and social media accessibility issues, both physical and online
- Diversity: how do we reach everybody
- Communication, and the ways to keep our Members informed and involved

If you want to contribute your thoughts and ideas to this group, please send your comments to newsletter@bridportu3a.org.uk. Progress updates will be published in future editions of the Newsletter.

OUTSIDE u3A

Many global institutions have provided free online content during the ongoing pandemic. Some that you might be interested in are:

Denman, the WI college, has a wide range of interesting talks, craft workshops, cook-alongs, and personal well-being courses available online (Zoom) to everyone, whether or not you are a member of the WI. And yes, this includes for men too! These are not free, most cost £5 for 1-2 hour sessions, and your Editor confesses to becoming addicted to them! Click on [Denman - Whats On](#) to see what is available.

For crafters amongst us, all of this year's shows, exhibitions, fairs, etc are cancelled, but most of the national organisers are instead offering online workshops and demos instead. Most of these can be found by googling the name of the event, which will take you to the link to both the workshops, and usually, to an 'exhibitors' area, frequently with a discount code for online shopping for the duration of the event. For example, ICHF run the Creative Craft Show, and a number of crafting workshops are available, most at £8 for the full session. See [Creative Craft demos](#)

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.

PLASTIC FREE BRIDPORT

The Mayor of Bridport is promoting the move to becoming plastic-free in Bridport, and we have agreed that this is a good aim, and we will be supporting the initiative. As you know, after member pressure was brought to bear, Third Age Matters no longer comes out in a plastic wrapper, and your own u3a does not use plastic cups and cutlery at meetings, but uses real teacups etc. We will be reviewing all of our activities to see what can be done to further reduce the use of plastics within u3a Bridport, and would encourage everybody to think what personal actions can be easily taken to support this initiative.

ANSWERS TO JUST FOR FUN QUIZ

1. Their young are all called Pups
2. All of them
3. An embarrassed zebra
4. None, they all flew away when they heard the bang
5. No, he's dead
6. 1, next time you are subtracting from 90
7. Age
8. The peahen lays the eggs, not the peacock
9. Meat
10. Second. You are not first, you have taken the second person's place.

Until next month

Stay safe

Bridport U3A Committee