

# BOURNE U3A NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

WEBSITE : - <https://www.bourneu3a.org.uk>

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER 1100094

## *Chairman's Chat*

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March we will have been living through restrictions or lockdowns for exactly one year. Our world has shrunk, our social lives have been curtailed, and plans put on hold. It is fair to say that most of us are fed-up. Yet we are still here, receiving food deliveries, or making hurried sorties to the few open shops and supermarkets for essential supplies. People march determinedly around town getting their daily exercise before returning to the confines of their homes, while others have embarked on a raft of home improvements or garden projects. New hobbies have been found and old ones resurrected. We have survived despite living through a science fiction-like dystopian nightmare.

The last year has taken a toll on people's mental health, but most of us seem to be remarkably philosophical and just get on with our daily lives. I have wondered where that resilience has come from. Being a stoical nation helps, but I think the real strength comes from personal relationships: the support of friends, and acquaintances; being able to exchange words with neighbours over the garden fence; telephone calls with family. Hopefully, the U3A has played a part with Newsletters, the occasional phone call from another member, and monthly Zoom meetings.

At our monthly Zoom meetings, I have been struck by how eager some members are to call out "Hullo", or "How are you?" to friends and acquaintances before the meeting starts. I always feel a pang of guilt when I mute everybody and stop those, so brief, personal interactions. I suspect many of us attend the monthly Zoom meetings not just to hear the talk, but to catch a glimpse of people, often acquaintances as much as friends, that we would meet regularly in the Corn Exchange. Remember when, at the end of the meeting, most of us had tea, coffee, and maybe a biscuit at the back of the hall while catching up with the gossip?

The formality of a Group or General meeting does not lend itself to those kinds of personal moments, so the Committee is extending the use of our Zoom Pro licence. Any Group can use the Zoom Pro licence (contact a Committee member if you want to know how), but we are now opening it to individual members who just want to chat with U3A friends: perhaps the people they would normally chat with at the back of the hall after a general meeting. You will find details elsewhere in this Newsletter, and I hope it will help some of us soldier on during the next few months, and, hopefully, the end of this pandemic.

**Malcolm**

*Committee Page*

## Zoom Pro for Informal Groups



Fancy afternoon tea with some U3A friends, or a catch up over a glass of wine? Perhaps just a chat over a cup of coffee but put off by the 40 minute restriction imposed by Zoom? Well, Bourne U3A's Zoom Pro licence is being used successfully by seven groups and the Committee have agreed to allow it to be used by individual members to meet other U3A members socially.

All you need is to get a group of friends (we suggest a maximum of six) to agree a time to meet and then email Tony Gray - [treasurerbourneu3a@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerbourneu3a@gmail.com) – and ask him to set up the meeting. He will send you the Zoom invitation link and you can pass it on to whichever U3A members you want to chat to. You can invite non U3A members if you wish but remember they can only attend two meetings before paying their membership fee to join Bourne U3A. The only restriction is that established U3A Groups have priority. If a group like Science and Technology already have that slot booked you will have to find an alternative time.

The Committee hope as many members as possible take advantage of our Zoom Pro licence to maintain those social links that are so important to all of us.

### **STOP PRESS - ATTENTION GROUP LEADERS**

We have several of our Groups already using the Zoom system to keep the Group together and to provide much needed Social Interaction for our Membership.

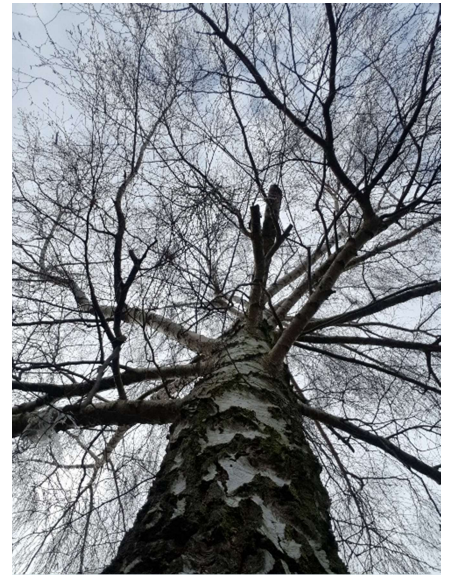
There is plenty of scope for this number of groups to increase. To help achieve this one of our members, Phil Adams has created a set of instructions for the Zoom system which describes, with screenshots, the complete process of using Zoom.

The instructions start with downloading Zoom onto your computer and cover the requirements at all levels of interest from those who just want to attend one of our general or interest group meetings (your group members) right through to how to schedule and run a meeting (this could be you or anyone else in the group with a little IT ability.)

**The instructions are available on the spanking new Bourne U3A website, (which is well worth a look anyway).**

We are all hopeful for a clear pathway back to a form of normality soon, but unfortunately nothing can be guaranteed and so it is still worth spending some time in mastering Zoom, after all the U3A is all about learning!

For all Group Leaders If/when you want to run a meeting for your group email [treasurerbourneu3a@gmail.com](mailto:treasurerbourneu3a@gmail.com) and the current logon/password information will be supplied.



### ***Photography Challenge***

The challenge was to take photos on the subject of “**The view as seen by a small animal**”. Selected as the best were those above from Sandy Love, Sarah Roberts & Dianne Hinchliffe. Other photos were sent in by Val Shuell, Jacqui Lining, Patricia Benn and Jackie Searl.

**The new challenge is " Signs of Spring " (entries by 06-04-21)**

**The next challenge is " Brings Me Joy" (entries by 03-05-21)**

Entries to :- [vasmroberts@gmail.com](mailto:vasmroberts@gmail.com)

### ***Group News***

#### **DRAMA WORKSHOP GROUP.**



**(Note the following article was written a little while ago but technology caused a bit of a delay)**

The drama workshop group held its first (and only) meeting in Wake House in October, meeting all Covid regulations and still having fun.

As well as charade style improvisation exercises the workshop also went back to the origins of theatre. We indulged in reading scenes from Sophocles Greek tragedy Antigone. It seemed appropriate to do so in these Viral Times as actors in Greek theatre all wore masks.

We had hoped to stay in Tier 1 and continue to meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month to hone our skills and have a laugh with words and sketches.

Sadly it wasn't to be (or not to be) and we now await our vaccines and the all clear to resume meeting face to face (or mask to mask).

Here's to a less dramatic 2021 with plenty of our own drama to fill our workshop fun.

Malcolm Ranson      Group Leader

### **CREATIVE WRITING GROUP 1.**

The members continue to share and enjoy each other's poems and stories. Our theme for January was "Hope" and for February it is some aspect of February or a free choice.

#### **HOPE**

Pandora's Box, the story tells,  
Held all the evils known to Man,  
The droughts and famines, Nature's Hells,  
And endless floods since Time began.  
Foul murder reigns; war follows war.  
We wonder always how to cope.  
Despair is building more and more -  
But in the Box lies healing HOPE!

Janet Dowse

### **CREATIVE WRITING GROUP 2.**

Thanks to Zoom, we have managed to keep our group active throughout these turbulent times.

Each month we set ourselves an exercise for review by the rest of the group.

Recent subjects tackled include “ Bourne in the 22nd century”; “2020 without Covid”; “Procrastination”

We also attempted to describe our own face. Definitely not for the faint hearted!

At all times, we try to write correctly, be that grammatically or by using techniques advocated by professional writers.

Above all, we aim to bring out everyone's creative ideas,

If the above approach appeals to you, please get in touch. We are a very friendly group and are very supportive of everybody's efforts.

John Boss      Group Leader

### **WINE APPRECIATION GROUP 3**

For our February Zoom meeting, our chosen theme was St. Valentine's Day. Choice was limited to red wine from either France or Italy. Strictly forbidden was any boasting about cards received.

For the record, five chose French and three Italian. A rogue Spanish Rioja was instantly disqualified. As you can tell, in these troubled times our group is less concerned with the intricacies of bouquets and grape variety. Rather we concentrate on keeping the group to-gether and offering support to individual members.

John Boss      Group Leader

### **RAILWAY GROUP**

We recently hosted our third speaker via Zoom. This time, the talk was given by the deputy editor of Heritage Railways Magazine, who told us of how he became interested in railways and how he ended-up in his present position. He also told us of the processes through which the magazine goes each month and his role in them. Gareth told us of his beginnings in south Wales and surprised us by revealing that his first language was welsh. (His English is now pretty good, thank goodness!)

He was awarded a degree from Birmingham university in public transport management and undertook a number of jobs before arriving in his present position, including driving buses, editing a Bus and Coach magazine – but he always wanted to get into the world of railways. His opportunity came when he learned that one of the key people at Heritage Railways was about to retire and so made a grab for the position – which he was awarded.

Gareth's talk was somewhat different from our previous two speakers but was nevertheless fascinating. I suspect that most of the audience had little or no idea of what went on in "the magazine world" with designing each edition, meeting strict deadline dates and encouraging submissions of stories and photographs from rail enthusiasts throughout the U.K. Gareth emphasized that he was not "a desk jockey" and was frustrated by not being able to get out and about to do his job – doing things by 'phone was dispiriting and he cannot wait for the end of lockdown.

For those who have not yet been on Zoom meeting, I can recommend it highly as the next best thing to meeting face to face. Being a pay-as-you-go Group, people who attend the meetings are asked to donate by bank transfer to our U3A account to cover the speaker fees. Treasurer Tony Gray is happy with this arrangement which seems to work well.

We have speakers in the pipeline for April and May If you would like to attend, please send me your e-mail address ([derwent39burke@gmail.com](mailto:derwent39burke@gmail.com)) and I will send-out a zoom invite a few days before the event.

Tony Burke      Group Leader



## A LITTLE BIT OF HUMOUR

### Lockdown Monopoly



### Customer Service?

#### Samsung Electronics

Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand who you are talking about.'

Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'

Operator: 'I think it means the telephone plug on the wall.'

BOURNE U3A COMMITTEE 2020 – 2021			
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I welcome reports of Group activities with photographs, if applicable.

**The copy date for the April issue is  
9am on Saturday, 27 March 2021**

Please e-mail your copy and pictures to [editorbourneu3a@gmail.com](mailto:editorbourneu3a@gmail.com)

or post to *Paul Smith, 21 Northfields, Bourne, PE10 9DB*

*I reserve the right to either bring this date forward or retard it if my personal  
circumstances dictate.*

### ***Local Charity Events***

*These events are neither organised by the U3A nor are they for commercial gain. Any member may  
suggest a suitable entry for this page on similar lines but publication will be at the discretion of the Editor.  
There will be just one page per month.*