

Learn, Laugh and Live!



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

BOURNEMOUTH

June 2020

Keeping in touch through the Lockdown



The Photographic Group have created an exhibition of their work from earlier times. More Photos on the back page!

Lookout for your **Bournemouth U3A emails** to keep up to date with all important information.

If you are not receiving these and wish to do so, please contact Pat Ley (chair@bournemouthu3a.org.uk) or Julie Williams (publicity@bournemouthu3a.org.uk)

Also, you can visit our website www.bournemouthu3a.org.uk where you will find all our important updates.

For those of you who wish to keep up to date with our news and do not have online access, why not ask a friend, or family member, to check our website for you?

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Our Office, and hence our telephone number, is closed for the duration.

Notes From The Chair

Hello everyone,

I hope this Summer Newsletter finds you all in good health and that you're managing to keep sane, and keep safe, through this very unsettling time.

We are currently working on our new Brochure and are delighted once again that it will list a wide range of Groups to choose from. However, in these very uncertain times, it is impossible to predict when our Groups, as well as our social events, will commence. It is so disappointing to miss the hustle and bustle of the Summer Gala, always a memorable occasion, especially the cakes! Likewise, it's regrettable that there will be no Group Leaders Lunch this year.

We have already decided that membership activities are unable to start in September as usual (see centre pages). However, I would like to thank those Group Leaders who have been keeping in touch with their Groups online. I'm sure these internet sessions have been a most welcome innovation to all involved. Also, thank you to Mavis Jackson, who has done a wonderful job of creating and managing our new Facebook page, another excellent initiative.

The internet is a great way to keep in touch with family and friends. I'm sure it has been a life line to so many of you who have been isolated in your homes for many weeks now. Maybe some of you have recently acquired a device to keep in touch with families and friends online. If so please let me know at chair@bournemouthu3a.org.uk if you have new e-mail address and I will ensure we add your details to our data base. And please don't forget to visit our website, bournemouthu3a.org.uk which has up to date information as well as details of various on-line activities.

Looking ahead, and after it becomes possible to have meaningful discussions with our accommodation providers, I very much look forward to bringing you some news regarding the commencement of our Groups and activities. Until then, please keep safe, and stay well!

Pat Ley

(See more information on the Centre Pages)

News from the Groups

Details of groups planned for 2021

Esther Tomlinson

Spring Term: Two courses on alternate Tuesdays 10.15 - 11.45 at MCC

Both groups aim to finish the course started in Autumn 2019. There will be a brief summary of what had been covered in previous terms. :- Newcomers are welcome.

The Oldest Stories Ever Told

People have always been curious about how this world began. Returning to the starting point of our journey along the Fertile Crescent, in Mesopotamia, we shall discuss the various stories and myths of creation and compare them with each other.

From Ur to Jerusalem

Archaeology has discovered the amazing architecture and treasures of cities in the Assyrian, Neo-Babylonian and Persian empires. There will be five more Power Point Presentations which give an insight into the history and culture of the area.

Renaissance - Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.00 at MCC :-Newcomers are welcome.

The Renaissance straddles the outgoing Middle Ages and the beginning of the Modern Era. In the two terms last year we looked at the new ideas that were developed in the Renaissance, based on the writings of the Ancients (Greeks and Romans). We will start this Spring term with a short summary of the major views that changed so much and had such an impact on our world today, and then look at the scientific revolution and the necessity of addressing matters of society, politics and state in the 16th and 17thC, finishing with an outlook at the world.

Summer Term: Two exploratory philosophy classes

Philosophy of the Mind - Tuesday 10.15 - 11.45 at MCC

This is another mysterious area we shall explore. Here we face more questions, which arise out of the following two statements:

I experience the working of my mind, but not its being.

I can see the being of the brain, but its working does not tell me what it is about.

In all this uncertainty we can be encouraged: Our brain enables us to re-orientate, if and when we use it. Let us practice this!

Philosophy of Time - Wednesday 10.30 - 12.00 at MCC

Our recent experience of lockdown suddenly presented us with a lot of time spent at home. Was time passing slower or faster? To quote Carlo Rovelli, " we still don't know how time actually works. The nature of time is perhaps the greatest remaining mystery, " though there are others. "Do we exist in time, or does time exist in us?" We shall enquire and discuss, and let us be open to a variety of suggestive answers.

•Both Tuesday groups will count as one choice and both Wednesday groups will

International Folk Dancing Group no. 37

The International Folk Dance Group has kept in touch through email - quizzes, video clips of Ballet and of amusing incidents. We have also had (forwarded from Israel) a class of Israeli dances, for those who have room to dance indoors, or in the garden for those who don't mind entertaining the neighbours. My thanks to Sue Godwin for sending out all these emails. **Janet Mason**



Group No 120 – Items made with 1 or 2 Needles

Hello everyone, just an update plus a photo of some of the group members with some of the hats we have made this year for Poole Maternity Unit. We are helped in making these with our friends from Winton Library Craft Group. A variety of items have been made this year for themselves. Knitting has continued during lock down. I know everyone is OK but we cannot wait to return to class for a good natter and update. Keep safe and well.

See the Picture inside the front cover,

The Privilege of Living in the Digital Age

Some groups are managing to stay in contact via a software system called “Zoom”, particularly the discussion groups such as the Philosophers.

The Group Leader acts as co-ordinator and hosts the software on their computer. They use the software to generate and distribute an entry code via e-mail by which the participants can enter the discussion. Once logged on, all participants are displayed visually on all screens and can participate in the discussion whilst sitting at their computers. The group leader can then chair a discussion in the normal way. I find this very realistic, to the point where I feel that I have had a morning away from home – something we could all benefit from.

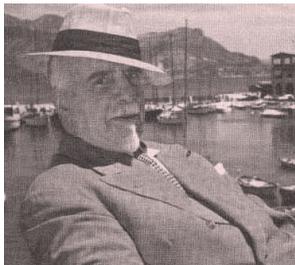
Another piece of software is available at “lichess.org”. This is an online chess game. When you go on-line you get the choice of playing against the computer or playing against a friend. If you select a friend it generates a code that you can copy into an e-mail and send to your opponent who, on receiving your e-mail, can click on the code to gain access to the game. The computer displays the chess board to both parties and you play as normal, using the mouse to move the pieces. You need to use “Facetime” or telephone to maintain a conversation with your opponent.



I have found this a pleasant way of maintaining social contact with the grandchildren.

If you are aware of any other social software let me know and we can put the message around.

Editor (newsletter@bournemouthu3a.org.uk)



'Bel Canto or Can Belto?' Sir Tommy & the Joys of Music.

100 years ago, conductor **Sir Thomas Beecham**, when asked what he felt about opera as a music genre/art form, thought for a moment and said, "Opera? Ha! Sex and death!"

That is a typical understatement from a conductor/impresario who, in his operatic career, made some of the most notable recordings still considered among aficionados to be definitive, eg a recording of 'La Boheme' with, of course, the finest singers of the day, the Swedish great, Jussi Borling and Victoria de los Angeles the Spanish Diva, plus the Met's finest baritone Robert Merrill. Tommy would not have tolerated the presence of a 'stage director' with a 'concept of relevance and contemporaneity'. But, when Beecham the Maestro was in charge, he elicited great, heart-stopping performances from his stars.

Tommy Beecham, grandson of the founder of the Beecham's Pills company in Liverpool, had of course his own idiosyncratic style which did not always meet with general approval of musicians or singers and he worked with the finest of his day – Lauritz Melchior (the voice of South Pacific), Lotte Lehmann & Kirsten Flagstad the renowned Norwegian Wagnerian -

"If I were a dictator, I should make it compulsory for every member of the population between 4 and 80 to listen to Mozart for at least 15 minutes daily.

But he was not a fan of chamber music, "Beethoven's late Quartets were written by a deaf man and should only be listened to by a deaf man!"

"I much prefer Offenbach to Bach often!"

Nor was he a respecter of reputations. Of Vaughan Williams' Pastoral Symphony, his quip was, "A city life for me!", or of Elgar's 1st Symphony – "The musical equivalent of St Pancras Station!"

He seemed to have a natural affinity with the melodrama and complex collaborative process of mounting such a stage spectacle as an opera. But he was flamboyant in everything he did!

At Covent Garden he conducted UK premieres of Wagner's 'Die Meistersingers' and Richard Strauss' 'Der Rosenkavalier' plus two of the most radically new pieces in the repertoire 'Salome' and 'Elektra' so he was by no means a populist. He was tainted by association however, with the Third Reich when he conducted a concert in Berlin for Hitler and his vile gang.

Having set up the Beecham Opera Co in 1905 and his own orchestra in 1909 he went on to establish the London Phil in 1932 and the Royal Phil in 1946.

A life dedicated to bringing music to people. On one occasion he sat beside a lady he had met before and asked if she was well, "Oh very well" said she." but my brother has not been too good lately."

"Oh, very sorry to hear that- and what is he doing now?" asks Beecham.

"Oh, he is still King", said the Princess Mary.

Mitchell Robertson

Poems by Deirdre Foster

LOCKDOWN BLUES

The snail retreats far into its multi-coloured perfect small
space
Twisting its body till it fits
Now the humans across continents try to do the same
Some manage, most fail
Lockdown for humans need to learn from the snail create its
harmony.



HYACINTH

You choose that winter to give, as a gift, a hyacinth.
Newly budding, blue, now I imprisoned in a room
Watch it waiting for summer, seeing it fade in the light of each new
day.



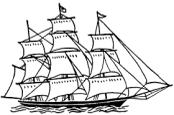
INSTRUCTIONS FROM YOUR POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE EVENT OF A NATIONAL CRISIS

Take exercise once a day
Shop only for essentials
Daily exercise consists of chasing shadows of flying blackbirds
catching the darting wings across the pale sunlit room
Shopping for essentials is scanning supermarket shelves
for that last egg.



LOCKDOWN AT SEA

Mariners from Mizen Head to Finisterre don't dare
to mayday when winds batter boats or fogs dismay
and deceive coastal lookouts
lie idle only manned by shags and herring gulls
our seafarers though remain safe shielded by that mystery the
mermaid of the oceans.



LOCKDOWN IN MEMORY OF TED HUGHES

Humans have had it their own way for too long said crow
it's time we played a trick on them, all of them
The bats listened to crow
The snakes also, They hatched a plan it was not difficult
They took to the wing while stalking where humans played
They danced with humans. A dance of disease
The humans fell and the birds in the air laughed as one.



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From the Chair of Bournemouth U3A, Pat Ley.

Hello again,

Hopefully, the majority of our members will have already read the following message, which was emailed to our online members in May. For the benefit of our members who do not wish to receive emails, or do not have an email address, this important message is repeated below.....

In the aftermath of the newly laid-out guidelines published by the Government on Monday 11 May 2020, and after digesting media reports of their content, it's clear to me that the "new normal" for us all needs to be a "covid-secure" normal. Several Committee members contacted me the same day with similar sentiments.

More specifically, the official document states that the over 70s [that is, most of our members] are clinically vulnerable to this coronavirus. And the revised advice for this age-group is now: "Stay at home as much as possible. If you do go out, take particular care to minimise contact with others outside your household" [HMG CP 239 Annex B]. The over 70s have to use "more caution than the general public" was the concise summary by the Chief Medical Officer for England at the Downing Street press conference that same Monday evening.

Beyond this advice, there is the extremely vulnerable group with specific underlying health conditions who should continue with 'shielding', and they are "strongly advised to stay at home at all times and avoid any face-to-face contact" – with very limited exceptions.

So with some reluctance, the Committee has come to a clear and unanimous decision.

Put starkly, as trustees of our charity, we are simply unable to provide the necessary "covid-secure" spaces for our members to meet in for our usual weekly activities. We just do not have the resources to provide adequate PPE (and other equipment) when risk assessments indicate that it is needed.

I sincerely regret that there is so little good news on the horizon regarding the resumption of our traditional weekly U3A activities as we look towards the coming months. However, if there is a beam of sunlight, then let us all be encouraged by a handful of our enterprising Group Leaders who are already running their Groups online.

These Group Leaders may well be signposting the way ahead for the U3A movement more generally. Further information about such online Groups will be publicised as the Autumn Term approaches.

The Committee will continue to talk over outline plans for a resumption of general U3A activities sometime in the future as the pandemic emergency runs its course. But I would like to assure members that when such a resumption becomes possible, we will make any necessary adjustment to the registration fee.

So for the next few months, the “new normal” for our U3A is a “covid-secure” normal – beginning with the Committee whose consultations are all online.

The progress of this pandemic is challenging us all. But somehow, I do hope you will find some enjoyment in simple ways – an online celebration here, the sight of a new bloom there (even if it is through a window), and for most of the time there is the possibility of listening to some of our favourite music. **Warm Wishes, Pat Ley**

There exists a strategic opportunity to play a part in the development of our local Bournemouth U3A.

Expressions of interest are invited for the role of **“SHADOW SECRETARY”**.

What will you be doing? The role involves shadowing the current Secretary, Howard Fincher.

The Secretary provides administrative support within the Committee, as it arranges membership activities for around 1,100 late life learners in the Bournemouth part of the BCP Council area.

The role would be an appropriate preparation for election to the office of Secretary in the future.

You are likely to possess at least ONE of the following attributes ...

- to be an adaptable team player,
- to have confident basic IT skills,
- to be able to author clear written communications,
- to be well-organised and have an eye for accuracy and detail,
- to have an understanding of governance and data protection issues,
- to have had similar administrative experience in your paid working life,
- to have an appreciation of the role of volunteer charities as social enterprises.

The Chair (Pat Ley), and the Secretary (Howard Fincher), are each willing to have informal conversations with interested people.

Please e-mail chair@bournemouthu3a.org.uk or secretary@bournemouthu3a.org.uk to arrange an initial exploratory chat by telephone or Skype (or equivalent).

Notes from The Facebook Group

We have 99 members who have joined the Bournemouth U3A Facebook Group Page. Members enjoy sharing photos of their gardens, photos taken on their daily walks, links to songs and entertaining videos on YouTube etc.

I have shared links to online wildlife trusts live webcams and have enjoyed watching Badgers in Essex, Ospreys in Wales and even three owlets in the Barred Owl nest-box in Indianapolis. Members daily upload or comment on other members' posts. To reassure people who are considering joining, I check every application that each person is either a member of Bournemouth U3A or has been invited to join by an existing member. I also monitor every post and comment. No posts with a political content are allowed. Many have found the page a helpful way of passing the time, keeping in contact and even making friends with members they would not usually meet. Why not check it out for yourself to see if it is for you. All contact details remain private unless you choose to publicise them.

The link for the page is: www.facebook.com/groups/921421178287596

My songwriting group, A Lilt Of Songwriters, has successfully managed to meet via Zoom. We have just held our third meeting and even a member who has been trapped in quarantine in Morocco since 1st April has joined us. I am finding it easy to share the screen with a PowerPoint presentation whilst still maintaining visual and audio contact with participants. This allows links to webpages and links to videos on YouTube. Everyone can view and hear these and remain connected to each other and are able to chat to each other.

The Poetry For Pleasure Group members I have managed to email each week with one or more links to poems on the internet often with very enjoyable videos to watch and with recitations being made by recognised actors or by the poets themselves.

The Gospel Goldies, my Gospel and Inspirational song singers, I have also managed to email weekly with links to Gospel and Inspirational songs. In addition, I have sent links to videos of BBC coverage of Captain Tom Moore's story and 100th birthday and links to songs from the forties relating to VE Day's 75th anniversary.

If anybody wants help to set up their own group online, I am not an expert but have learned by trial and error, often more error than trial! However, I am willing to share what I know and am happy for anyone to contact me.

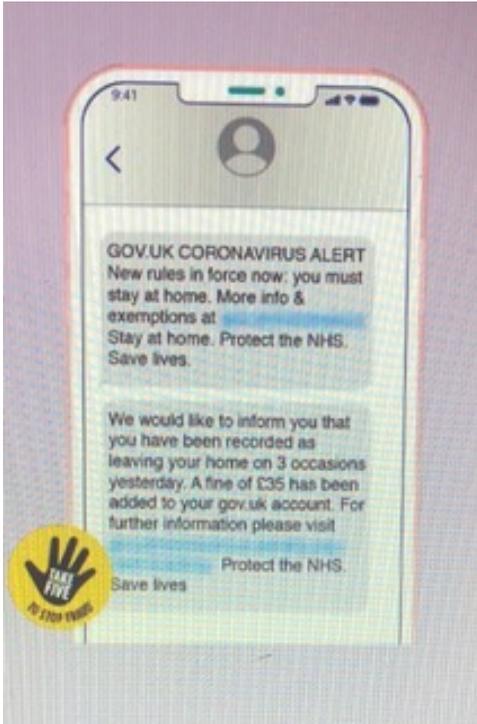
Email mavisellenjackson@gmail.com

Keep Your Distance from Scammers!

Some of the Committee went online in mid-May to take part in a Zoom session presented by the Nat West Bank using the title “Friends against Scammers”.

After emphasising that scammers have increased their activities during this pandemic emergency, the presentation illustrated the various methods commonly used.

Their action plan for includes the following “5 Top Tips” for fraud protection:



1. BE EXTRA careful if you receive any phone calls, texts or emails from anyone claiming to be a bank or other trusted organisation. A genuine bank or organisation will never contact you out of the blue to ask for your PIN, full password, card reader codes, passcodes, or to move money to another account. Personal information is yours. Don't give it away!

2. NEVER click on a link received in an email or text that then takes you to a website requesting personal information or login details. (Always go via a search engine or direct to the company website.)

3. WHEREVER possible, use a different phone to make a call to check the validity of a caller. Scammers can block your phone so that if you use the same phone to redial the number you may still be connected to the scammers. If you cannot use a different phone, call a family member or friend whose voice you will recognise before calling your bank or any

other organisation.

4. NEVER allow remote access to your computer by any third party. Scammers will often ask you to download an app, or will send you an email with a link such as Team Viewer.

5. WATCH out for poor grammar or spelling on emails/printed material/letters.

6 TAKE 5 ... Stop and think about what you are being asked to do. If concerned, stop, and talk to your family or a friend. Don't be embarrassed to talk about it!

7. ALWAYS contact your bank immediately if you think you've been scammed, once you've established your phone is no longer connected to the scammers of course.

I am embarrassed to say that I fell victim to a scam from someone purporting to be from my bank. I took the precaution of writing down the telephone number of the of the caller as it appeared on my phone. Being suspicious, I called that number back afterwards and was connected automatically to my genuine bank to be advised that the scammers had cloned their phone: I was refunded the £500 that had been taken from my account. **Editor**

“Just wondered if anyone else has a car that does 3 weeks to the gallon?”

Olive Cooper

Companion Pieces has continued this term through a weekly newsletter and study guide, covering the works by Pinter, Athill, Donne, Joyce and others we had planned on our exploration of the theme of 'Betrayal'. Short written responses to the texts and questions from one week are circulated with study material for the next. Increasing numbers of group members are also in touch with each other for phone conversations as well as we share permission to make contact.

Post Script has also relied in group members pairing up to work by phone or WhatsApp. In the first week specially written short scripts for duologues and monologues are circulated for rehearsal or learning (if wished) at home. A quick contact allocates roles, and a week later actors try the pieces out over the phone or whatever other means they wish, discussing their performances and trying them out in different ways. Then we start the fortnight rotation again. The short scripts are mostly connected with local places and history, or literature. There's one taken from dialogue in Hardy's 'Tess...' and one from a short poem, another about the founding of Milton Abbey in the tenth century, one about the old Ringwood-Christchurch railway line closure, one sees us alongside staff at Kingston Lacy in 1901, and another deals with Churchill's near fatal fall at the age of eighteen in Branksome Dene Chine. It is possible that we might be able to use other technologies to make scripts with three and four characters possible, but we'll see how we get on with these initial arrangements before branching out.

STOP PRESS

Members will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Donald Sheppard, a keen and knowledgeable musicologist who ran music appreciation classes for many years, broadening the knowledge and experience of so many of us for whom Friday afternoons will never be quite the same. A more detailed obituary will be included in the next issue of the Newsletter.



TRIBUTE TO THE NHS by Matt Kelly, 2020

I'll tell you a tale, that's been recently written
Of a powerful army, so Great it saved Britain
They didn't have bombs, and they didn't have planes
They fought with their hearts and they fought with their brains.

They didn't have bullets, armed just with a mask.
We sent them to war, with one simple task.
To show us the way, to lead and inspire us.
To protect us from harm and fight off the virus.

It couldn't be stopped by our bullet proof vests.
An invisible enemy, invaded our chests.
So we called on our weapons, our soldiers in Blue.
"All Doctors, All Nurses, Your Country needs you."

We clapped on our streets, hearts bursting with pride.
As they went off to war, while we stayed inside.
They struggle at first, as they searched for supplies.
But they stared down the virus, in the whites of its eyes.

They leaped from the trenches and didn't think twice.
Some never came back, the ultimate price.
So tired, so weary, yet still they fought on.
As the virus was beaten and the battle was won.

The many of us, owe so much, to so few.
The brave and the bold, our heroes in Blue.
So let's line the streets and remember our debt.
We love you, our heroes. Lest we forget

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Paul Brannan.

Paul was a group leader for over 15 years leading both Philosophy and Shakespeare groups, which gradually reduced to weekly meetings to study Shakespeare's plays. These were held in his own home with his dear wife Eleanor greeting members with cups of tea and coffee.

Paul began his U3A 'journey' in September 1982 where he was a founder member of a London U3A and subsequently founded Banstead branch, Surrey in 1985. Moving to Oxford, he greatly enlarged the range of subjects/interest groups there before settling in Bournemouth with Eleanor.

On retiring he said he thoroughly enjoyed his time with U3A and had met many lovely human beings. On behalf of the Committee and all his group members we offer our condolences to Eleanor.

BOURNEMOUTH U3A COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS 2019/2020

CHAIRMAN	Pat Ley
VICE CHAIRMAN	Vacancy
TREASURER	Rod Jackson
SHADOW TREASURER	Bob Hucklesby
BUSINESS SECRETARY	Howard Fincher
MINUTES SECRETARY	Keith Pitman
OFFICE-MANAGER/MEMBERSHIP	June Arthur
PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATORS	Graham Maughan, Jennie Pudney
PUBLICITY MANAGER	Julie Williams
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN	John Oram
SOCIAL EVENTS CATERING	Margaret Ronchetti
IT/WEBMASTER	Pat Ley
EQUIPMENT CO-ORDINATOR	Jennie Pudney
Non-Committee Roles	
SJI Representative	Jennie Pudney
Newsletter Editor	Keith Pitman
Brochure Production	Jennie Pudney
Publicity Assistant	Mavis Jackson
Registration Secretary	Angela Heasman
Auditor	Vacancy
Social-Theatre	Mitchell Robertson
Social Outings	Alan Kneller
Database Assistant	Anita Kane
Mail Chimp Manager	Anita Kane
GL Induction/Library Contact	Stuart Sherring
Publicity	Richard Smith/Mavis Jackson
Office Rota	
MONDAY-Anita Kane, Margaret Garman	THURSDAY - Mary Lapish, Joyce Bicknell, Angela Heasman
TUESDAY-June Arthur, Colin Grimmatt, (reserve Rob Ellis)	FRIDAY - Gabriella Svidran, Irene Roberts, Christine Moran, Ann Lewis
WEDNESDAY - Jennie Pudney, Sue Godwin	RESERVES - Margaret Ronchetti, John Oram, Pat Ley, Robert Baggs

NOTICE FOR GROUP LEADERS

Induction Meeting at WLIB on Friday 30th August

** This is Cancelled **

Pre-Programme Meeting at FMH on Weds 19th Sept.

** This is Postponed and a new date will be advised.

Portable Appliance Testing

This will have to be re arranged once our office is re-opened. All Leaders who had arranged to have their own equipment tested in March will be contacted.



Obituary: Betty Potter

Many of you will remember Betty Potter who was an active member of the Bournemouth U3A for approximately 25 years - almost a founder member!

Betty enjoyed the Social Dance class, the International Folk Dance class, the English Folk Dance class, the Olde Tyme Songsters class as well as many more over the years.

Sadly, Betty passed away on the 16th of April, four months after her 100th birthday! Her special birthday was celebrated with a party, attended by a few of her U3A friends and also her family - a very lively event!

During her stay in the nursing home, Janet Mason took her dancing class, in their colourful costumes, to the home to entertain Betty and the other residents and staff. Sheila Welch also entertained them on another visit with her songsters.

Betty had always lived life to the full and had a long and interesting one. When we visited her she would keep us amused with her many stories.

Betty was a wonderful lady and she will be greatly missed.

Valerie Powell

Pictures from Lockdown Through the Lens! See Photos on Back Page

Fun Photography group: Leaders, Pat Gibson & David Cox

Within a week of the Spring term ending, self-isolating for our age group started and any plans for holidays, visitors etc. cancelled. Panic buying began! Life as we knew it changed overnight.

It was soon obvious that our Summer term would be cancelled but we were determined our Fun Photography group would continue in some form! Via telephone conferences, we devised our 'Lockdown Through the Lens' programme, whereby we would give members a weekly project, all do-able from home and strictly Sunday to Sunday. Members submit their weekly photo to David electronically who would then forward the result to all the whole group online; also giving them the next challenge!

The results have been brilliant and everyone is enjoying keeping 'connected' in this way. All the photos are being stored both online and on a memory stick so that we can all enjoy a slide show when 'normal services are resumed'!

Here are some example photos from the first four weeks of the programme, The topics were 'Going Green', 'The View From My Window (see front cover), 'My Favourite Lockdown Meal' and 'Wonderful Water Distortions':-



Topic 1. GOING GREEN

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/kiJsSwfk8cmyPNSe8>

Topic 2. MY FAVOURITE LOCKDOWN MEAL

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6Jvx36rm1RxcXhd9A>



Topic 3. WONDERFUL WATER DISTORTIONS

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/aHLAK6ovHTwujpYu6>