



*Learning is forever*

**WARKWORTH**

**Bi-monthly Bulletin — May 2020**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

We are experiencing a totally new phenomenon in our lives due to this Covid-19 pandemic. There is loss of most of our freedoms, isolation from our friends and loss of liberty to mingle in groups, to drive except for essential services, to travel, to swim, to go boating, to go to a restaurant and even to meet with our own family members unless those members are in our 'bubble'. Of course we are fortunate to be able to see people using Skype, Zoom, Facetime or WhatsApp, as long as our computer or other device is working. However, this is not the same as being in the physical presence of others.

There is some uncertainty as to the time frame of the alert levels, so that planning for the future is difficult. Meantime, appointments with hair dressers, optometrists, dentists, medical specialists and others are all postponed. Fortunately General Practitioners are still working although with some differences. For many the loss of jobs is the over-riding anxiety. For those who live from week to week paying rent and food with not much left over, this is a disaster. For those with highly skilled jobs and big mortgages, the loss of income is also a disaster. For all those involved in tourism including pilots, engineers, cabin crew, hotel workers and all the tourism services the future is uncertain.

We share with others around the world our deep gratitude for those essential front line workers in health services and food retailers. Others working in essential services include rubbish collectors, recycling services, postal services, couriers and many others.

Meantime we can appreciate the quietness, the birds, the clean air and the friendly waves and offers of help from neighbours.

This pandemic will pass eventually. Our health services will not be overwhelmed by numbers of seriously ill patients, and travel will resume. The economy will recover. We will all have learned something about what is really important in our lives and for the world. There may even be fewer bombs dropped and improved health services for everyone in countries which did not have that before. There will be increased respect for science and scientific research as we wait for a vaccine or effective treatment to be developed. In the future, we will all appreciate the freedoms we have taken for granted all our lives.

Best wishes to everyone,  
Mary Miller

**New Members**

A warm welcome to our new member  
**Noeline Walsh**  
who has joined since February 2020

A very big thank you to **Ian Lewis** who has produced our very interesting, informative and professional newsletter for a few years. Sadly he has resigned as editor to pursue other matters. I would like to thank him for his great help in producing this bulletin. Don't worry, he will still be at our meetings, he hasn't deserted us.

Helen Whiteley



We all miss the face-to-face contact with our families, friends and groups at the moment. Many of you will already use Duo, Skype, FaceTime etc. ZOOM is a newish one that's very popular, free, easy to use and set up. Lots of the younger generation are already avid users.

Below are two links to help you on your way to connect with your favourite people using ZOOM:

The first click-on link is a 22 minute explanatory YouTube clip by an enthusiastic, knowledgeable Canadian:  
<https://youtu.be/s5VU8cmEnTs>

After you have watched that open the next link which tells you about setting ZOOM up (easy):  
<https://www.howtogeek.com/661924/how-to-set-up-a-zoom-meeting/>

You will be impressed!

**Alan Spicer**

8 Ways to Secure Your Next Zoom Video Call  
<https://www.howtogeek.com/668477/8-ways-to-secure-your-next-zoom-video-call/>

### **General Meetings**

Unfortunately we were unable to have a meeting in April and hear Professor Ralph Cooney. We are sure that he will be ready and able to speak to us on another occasion. Our next meeting will be some time in the future – hopefully not too far away. Watch this space!

### **Report on Clubs and Groups Day**

On Saturday March 14 there was a Community Clubs and Groups Day which drew a good crowd in the Warkworth Town Hall. Warkworth U3A had a stall with 2 big banners to draw the attention of the public. Volunteers from our membership on the stall included Glenda Came, Ian Lewis, John Williamson, Jean Mason, Alison Grant, Alison Coates and Mary Miller. Quite a few more of our U3A members were on other stalls for the day and it was good to share experiences with them. A number of individuals expressed an interest in U3A and we were able to give them great new brochures prepared by Ian, including local photographs. Alan Spicer and Glyn Williams took photos. There was a tremendous community feel in the air as we realised how many people give time and energy for the benefit of all age groups and interests in this area. Unfortunately Covid-19 lockdown intervened before the next U3A meeting could occur, but we hope to see some of those who were interested as new members in the future. Thanks to all who took part in the day and to those of you who visited our stall.

As we are not able to get together for group meetings right now it has been suggested that group convenors contact their members and encourage some form of interaction around the time of their regular meeting day each month. Some suggestions are:

One person doing an online presentation on a topic they have researched with feedback encouraged from the members.

Individuals sending in interesting snippets to be shared.

Someone making up a quiz to be sent to members. Answers to provided later, during the month.

A challenge to group members to do or make something related to their group asking members to share their results during the following month.

Sharing photos related to a certain topic.

Communicating with each other through Zoom.

So, Convenors, can you keep in touch with your group, and encourage ongoing contact amongst your members??

We all have more spare time at the moment. We can use some of it to keep on learning and staying in touch.

**Alison Coates.**

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Here is an interesting idea.

I am a member of the U3A in the UK. Many of us are among the group that was asked by the government to stay at home for several months. I live alone and within days, I felt depressed, lonely and cut off from society. I wondered what I could do to help others who felt the same, and started to put short stories on my website. It grew and became Writers Against Covid-19. Each day, a new short story is published on the website, selected to bring a smile to the face and lift the spirits.

These stories are particularly suited to older people. I have chosen the sort of stories they would enjoy.

The stories are on

<http://www.louisemoss.com>

I would also be pleased to hear from any writer who can write a short story to put a smile on people's faces.

Best wishes

Louise Moss

