

## TO MEET OR NOT TO MEET - THAT IS THE QUESTION

Our Chair, Les Chandler, tells us what's on his mind this month



In 1915 D H Lawrence met Aldous Huxley at a house party in Italy. Lawrence was gazing at the Moon. "Amazing isn't it?" he said as Huxley joined him. "Incredible to think it's nearly 240,000 miles away" said Huxley. "Huh!" said Lawrence "it's typical of you scientists to destroy the magic and reduce something so beautiful to mere numbers". The discussion went downhill from there and they parted in disgust. Ten years later they met again. To the amazement of them both the two men

revealed that they had been profoundly affected by the other's comments at that fateful first meeting. "You taught me there is magic in knowledge" said Lawrence. "You showed me the value of wonder" said Huxley. They became firm friends from that moment.

This exchange taught me the benefit of listening to and understanding differing opinions. And it comes to mind as the U3A decides whether to restart face to face meetings. Arguments range from "It's not worth the risk" to "I don't want to waste the time I've got left waiting for the virus to go away". I understand both these points of view. Meeting face to face is potentially hazardous at the moment. But when the Bridge Group met for the first time since March the joy on people's faces told its own story: you can't beat real interaction. All of which suggests we should proceed - but with caution.

Settle U3A has taken this on board and is looking to restart group meetings where a detailed risk assessment has shown that we can do so safely. Members can then make their own decision whether or not they take part.

An interesting development is the use of 'blended meetings' where a group meets both in person and via Zoom. This approach is being trialled by the Great Lives group in September. If it works we might be able to extend it to other groups, meeting the needs of both the adventurous and the cautious. I think Lawrence and Huxley would approve.

Les

## Learn, laugh, live Settle District U3A

### MONTHLY MEETING

2nd Thursday of the month, 10  
for 10.30am

**10th September by Zoom**  
**Hearing Dogs for the Deaf**  
a fascinating and entertaining  
talk from **Mike Coote** and  
show-stealer **Puppy Watson**.



Next meeting **8th October by Zoom**.

**Under the influence**  
by **Andy Smith**



Andy shares anecdotes and sings songs with guitar and ukulele, pleasant and relaxing!

**DON'T FORGET OUR NEW GROUPS**

**Bible Study Group** *Jeff Taylor*  
**Enjoy Baking Again** *Felicity Hey, Anne Webster*. Contact  
[groupcoordinator@settledistrictu3a.org](mailto:groupcoordinator@settledistrictu3a.org).