Our pioneering band of Young Researchers have now moved into their formal examination years and have less time to engage in research projects. Nevertheless, they have not disappeared from the research scene and members are active in different settings such as the RVA Youth Social Action team and in supporting a new younger research group at JMA. The new young researchers have expressed interest in a bike club and helping the Whitley Researchers in their planning to undertake a Whitley based project looking at promoting increased cycle use in the local community. It only seems right to make our world a safer and healthier place when so many have lost their livelihoods and so many lives lost.

All our young researchers are interested in helping develop the Fobney Lock site as a local environmental and educational resource and we hope in the near future to renew our efforts in this direction as COVID-19 eases. This will tie in with the community cycle project given that Fobney is easily accessed on two wheels if not two legs. Coupled with Fobney and cycles we still intend to hold a pop-up bike repair event courtesy of Cranbury College.

We do live in unprecedented times and there is no shortage of efforts to make sure that we record as best we can the experiences – of tragedy, resilience and triumph - that individuals, families and communities have been through. To this end we are attempting to collect the stories that we all have about how our lives have been so radically transformed. One way is photography and JMA and the young researchers are now considering how best to organize this vital record – with a focus on people living alone and families.

One of the most fundamental changes is in our schooling – how do children continue to learn without access to their schools and teachers? One way is remotely through on-line programmes and to aid this we have invited schools – some with children of essential workers attending and others supporting learning from home – to take part in a creative writing competition focused on secondary school students. One challenge is a story line for a group to take on and the other an individual entry around what it might be like to be 18 years old. Several JMA students have already accepted the challenge and submitted entries.

John Ord