

Chairman's Thoughts**Reflections on Lockdown**

How will we remember the spring of 2020?

Isolation from family and friends, endless updates and grim statistics, anxiety for ourselves and others, empty days, social distancing and supermarket queues, no football on the box, Boris' bluster and blunders?

But also: sunny days and starlit nights, quiet streets and clean air, gardens in bloom, birdsong and daily walks, Zoom, families playing in the park, individual acts of kindness, a slower quieter way of life?

We'd love to hear your thoughts - email or phone Pat (her details are on pages 8 & 9).

Ian Ross, Chairman

We have one new member this month - Roger Towers.

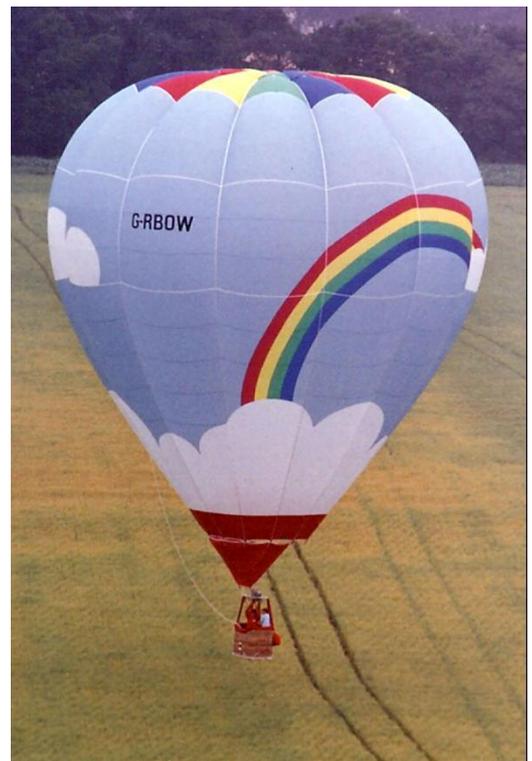
Bill Teasdale sent in a photo taken in 1989 of a 'Rain-beau-lune' (Rainbow balloon) while he was enjoying a balloon flight out of Southampton Common which is just to the north of the city of Southampton (oddly enough).

It was the site of an annual flower festival (which ended in the 1990s) and the balloon flights were a sort of side line.

This newsletter again contains photos, most associated with walks and nature. May's newsletter prompted many of you to dig up old photos and take new ones.

I was unable to include some photos that were sent to me in the newsletter - these have been posted on our website.

Thank you.



GIFT AID

From our Treasurer, John Twydle:

Dear Members, thank you to all those who have signed gift aid forms with your membership.

Each year, for the 377 members of our 593 that signed a gift aid form, I do the paperwork to claim gift aid on your subscriptions. That work starts after 5th of April each year and is normally completed mid May.

I am delighted to report that HMRC have just given us **£1,596.79** towards our funds. If you are unsure if you signed a gift aid form or now wish to do so, please contact me and I can confirm your gift aid status and provide a form if relevant.

My e-mail address is treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Brain Teaser

(sent in by Colin Morgan).

See Page 8 for answer.

$$\text{Car} + \text{Car} + \text{Car} = 30$$

$$\text{Car} + \text{Bus} + \text{Bus} = 20$$

$$\text{Bus} + \text{Plane} + \text{Plane} = 09$$

$$\text{Bus} + \text{Plane} \times \text{Car} = ?$$



Photo: John Twydle

How well do you know the station names of the London Underground?

1. 🚰 🚽
2. 🤪
3. 🔪 🔥
4. 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑 🧑
5. 🎀 🚗 🚗 🚗 🚗 🚗 🚗 🚗
6. 🟩 🔍
7. 🐘 🏰
8. 💰
9. 🥥 🐷
10. 🐓 🍺
11. 🌴 🌷 🌹 🌻
12. 🖋️ 🐑 🐮 🐷
13. 🐄 🎪
14. 🇬🇧 ❌
15. 🇨🇦 🚰
16. 🐑 🌳
17. 🧱
18. 🏹 🌊
19. 👑 ❌
20. 🇬🇧

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY SURVEY

When you have a few moments to spare from your various online groups, online personal development classes, photography, baking, walking etc., 'Get Berkshire Active' needs some help:

..... we are a charity with a social purpose to transform lives through Sport and Physical Activity.

We have recently released a survey to understand Berkshire's physical activity habits during the Covid-19 pandemic to help us shape our support programmes now and in the future. We have had a fairly good response so far but would really like some more responses before the survey closes soon.

If you are able to share this link with any of your members I would be very grateful. Many thanks for your help.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeZXsoRuWT8s9W5fr28EqTEgTVyAvRim03NDf6I9lahdUzMQQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

CHELTENHAM SCIENCE FESTIVAL

2nd to 6th June

The Cheltenham Science Festival has gone virtual. Below is the link to the programme which has lots of interesting lectures

<https://www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/science-home/whats-on/grid>

Busy, busy, busy

I'm loving this time in, and have decided I shouldn't be out so much in the future though I suspect that once things get back to normal and the leisure centre reopens, I shall resume my busy life.

For me there aren't enough hours in the day. After Spring cleaning the house and getting the garden straight, including repainting all the fence panels and trellises, I'm reading books I never had time to read, doing various keep fit classes with people from Mr Motivator to Joe Wicks, doing ballet classes with the Royal Academy, singing with Gareth Malone, and singing and playing my guitar which I haven't done for years! I'm also making bread again since a friend brought me some flour! I walk the dogs every day, and still chat to people from a distance! I'm loving it!

I have tried to join Skype groups as well as Zoom, but they both seem to be beyond me!

I've even taken up hula hooping again!!

Pauline Hasan

Wildlife in a Holyport pond

Photos: Elaine Wood



Are terrapins considered a threat to our ecosystems? Obviously they don't like goldfish!



NEWS FROM OUR GROUP CONVENORS

- Both **Spanish for Holidaymakers & Spanish Conversation** groups now hold regular Zoom meetings at our “normal” times. We try to chat a bit in Spanish, although we have all been doing similar things(!) and have no holidays or outings to discuss, and then look at some of the reading materials and language exercises that have been circulated in advance. It is good to have some regular activities in our diaries. The meetings are flowing much more smoothly now that we have realised that we can’t all talk at once.
- The **Poetry** group continues to meet every Tuesday morning on Zoom. We’ve discovered that, in some ways, things are better when we Zoom. We’re now meeting weekly instead of monthly. And because we are sharing a screen, we can read and watch together – performances on YouTube of a poem we are studying, for instance. See photo elsewhere in newsletter.
- A group comprising some members of the **Sunday, Monday and Beginners' Bridge** groups is playing online bridge via Bridge Base Online. They are finding this works very well, especially when combined with a 4-way WhatsApp voice call. If anyone in other Bridge groups would like more information, please email Susanna Jones on susannavj@hotmail.com.
- The **Aviation** group continues to issue occasional newsletters, and advise of Museum lectures which occur from time to time.
- **Ancient Literature** (Mick Stringer) has been getting to grips with Ancient Sparta via Plutarch's lives of Lycurgus and Agesilaus (in translation. I think the Greek would be beyond us!). Our first Zoom meeting took place on Thursday (21st) and went very well. Incredibly, every single member of the Group participated! So we'll now be having regular Zoom sessions at our usual meeting time on our regular meeting days (3rd Thurs), when we will be reading more of Plutarch's lives.
- The **Latin** group (Mick Stringer, 07836 211314 or mick_stringer@hotmail.com) is now having regular Zoom meetings on the usual days - 2nd & 4th Mondays. As well as progressing through our ‘Reading Latin’ textbook, we are enjoying trying our hands at translating some pieces of Catullus and Ovid. Anyone with some knowledge of the language, however rusty, is very welcome to join us, as it's no problem to send out the material.
- The **Science** group continues to meet successfully with Zoom.
- **French 2** - 4 of the group continue to play online French Scrabble. The whole group meets fortnightly on Zoom for more formal French conversation and text discussions.
- **German (Advanced)** is now meeting via Zoom and meetings have had a good take-up. So good to “see” everyone again!
- **German Conversation** - We keep in touch by email. It was decided not to do Zoom as not all of us are online and also there was a comment that we would only talk about the coronavirus and there is enough of that in the news.
- The **Photography** group continues to hold a Zoom meeting once a month.

MAGPIES COMMUNITY CARE

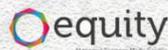
Hub support for
vulnerable residents in
our local community

Services provided by
trusted safe resources
(DBS checked)

01628 367875

Community help
hotline open from 9am-5pm
seven days a week

- Pick up supplies
- Pick up your prescription
- Walk the dog



COMMUNITY
TRUST



Magpies FC have established a framework, consisting of around 120 volunteers, to support vulnerable residents in Maidenhead and Windsor. You might have heard them mentioned on the 'One Show' and Radio Berkshire. All volunteers hold DBS clearance and are able to assist with shopping, fetching prescriptions, befriending and even dog walking. A Helpline is available 7 days per week (9am to 5pm). I manage the Helpline on two half-day shifts and have experienced how those self-isolating are keen to talk and appreciate offers of help.

Please feel free to call or to pass details onto those in possible need. Magpies Community Care can be reached on (01628) 367875.

Nigel Roper

Happy participants of the Poetry group (JIC you were wondering, all were happy to be included in photo)



Photos from riverside walks



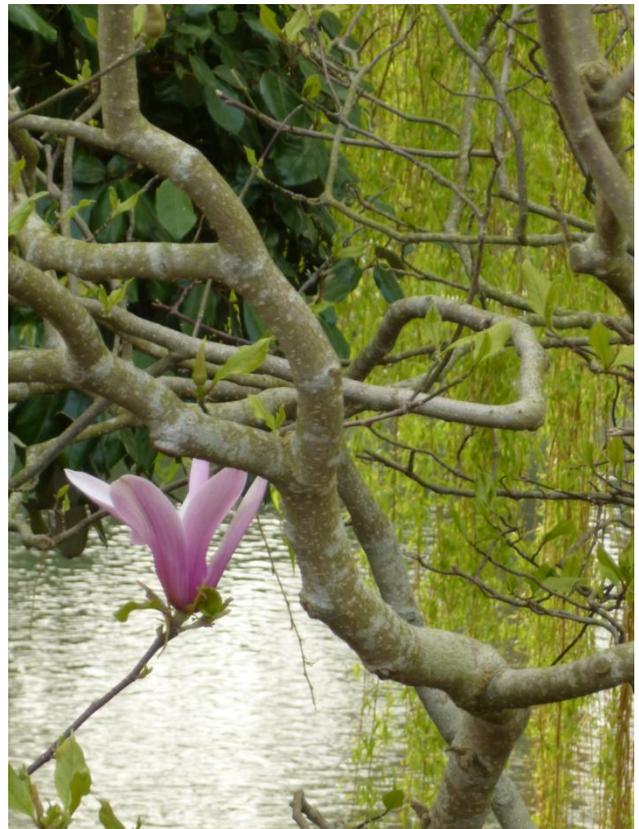
Photo: Jenny Leverett



Photo: John Twydle



Photos: Mo Wright





Photos: Marguerite Shaw



Photo: Mo Wright

NEWS FROM THIRD AGE TRUST

Bitesize National U3A Newsletter

The Third Age Trust has decided to issue a shortened version of their national monthly newsletter, aimed at those who do not have access to a PC. Those of you who receive our newsletter by post will also receive a copy of this national Bitesize version and it will be emailed to other members at the same time as this newsletter. It will also be posted on our own Maidenhead U3A website.

National website

There is a great deal of information on the national website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

This web page has many sections amongst which are:

- ✓ Photography: what makes a good photo?
- ✓ Quizzes: U3A Quiz - Week 6
- ✓ Keep Learning: Ideas to Keep Learning 11
- ✓ NatWest and U3A: Talks and Lectures
- ✓ Maths Challenge: weeks 1-7
- ✓ U3A Members Scrub up to help combat Covid
- ✓ British History: VE Day - your stories
- ✓ Learn how to Zoom

Are you at a loose end?

Why not join the Saga **Not Going Out Club**? Find out more by contacting Jean Myhill on 01189 034769 or go to <http://saga.co.uk/ngoc>

Submissions to Newsletter

Please email/send me anything that you would like me to consider for the next newsletter by 23rd of the month.

Thank you.

Pat Laković (newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk ; 01628 782038 / 07789 482632)

Answers to last month's puzzles (at least the ones I and 1 other member worked out)

Dingbats

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Sand box | 9. Split level | 17. Mind over matter |
| 2. Man overboard | 10. Double doctorate degree? | 18. He is beside himself |
| 3. I understand | 11. Neon lights | 19. Backward glance |
| 4. Reading between the lines | 12. Three eyes are better than two | 20. Between life & death |
| 5. Long underwear | 13. High chair | 21. ?? |
| 6. Crossroads | 14. Twice | 22. Space programme |
| 7. Downtown | 15. Touch down | 23. See through blouse |
| 8. Tricycle | 16. 5 feet underground | 24. Just between you & me |

Bookshelves

The English patient had caught it on the beach. I should have stayed at home, she said. Now she was in quarantine in the dark house of splendid isolation. Still, hope springs eternal. With a little bit of luck, common sense and personal hygiene, the corona book of horror stories must end soon. Always remember - clean hands save lives and when in doubt, don't go out!

Answer to Brainteaser on page 2 is **15**.
2020 June Newsletter

Committee Members & other U3A links

Chairman	Ian Ross	chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 626849
Treasurer	John Twydle	treasurer@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 621644
Secretary	Mo Wright	secretary@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 630023
Membership Secretary	Linda Main	membership@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	07962 255743
Groups Coordinator	Kathy Bell	groups@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01189 343965
Speaker Organiser	Philip Ratcliffe	speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 671220
Newsletter	Pat Laković	newsletter@maidenheadu3a.org.uk	01628 782038

Website Editor Nigel Roper web@maidenheadu3a.org.uk 01628 636893

Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead U3A www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk

Twitter twitter.com/MaidenheadU3A

Thames Valley Network www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Third Age Trust www.u3a.org.uk



Dragonfly by John Twydle