

Chairman's Thoughts

In the January newsletter, I speculated on what the new decade would bring. Well, we didn't have long to wait! Who would have anticipated our present plight three months ago? I have lived in Uganda, where malaria, typhoid, cholera and polio were rife, but successful vaccines had rendered them fairly harmless. I have seen disgusting wet markets in China and am not surprised they are a likely source of the virus. Let's hope a new vaccine will soon consign coronavirus to the history books alongside so many other diseases.

Meanwhile, I congratulate all those groups who have kept going and the U3A motto "Learn, laugh and live" was never so relevant. Stay healthy and keep smiling.

Ian Ross, Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

We have one new member this month - Joan Dennison.

Thank you to those who offered to keep in contact with new members but no new member took up our offer. However, there is an online scheme in Burnham where you can sign up to become a telephone buddy or request to have someone call you for a friendly chat. If you are interested, go to <https://burnhamparish.gov.uk/buddy-up>

This newsletter contains lots of photos; many have been taken by Photography group members. One of the group's members suggested taking photographs using mirrors for reflections; others used water. Other pictures were taken on members daily walks and in their gardens.

Jill Waites (Nature Ambling enthusiast) has sent some suggestions of the various wildlife you can look out for in your garden (if you have one) or when you go on for your daily walk. A few of her suggestions are shown on page 5. If you would like more, please phone Jill on 01628 628993.



LOCAL NEWS

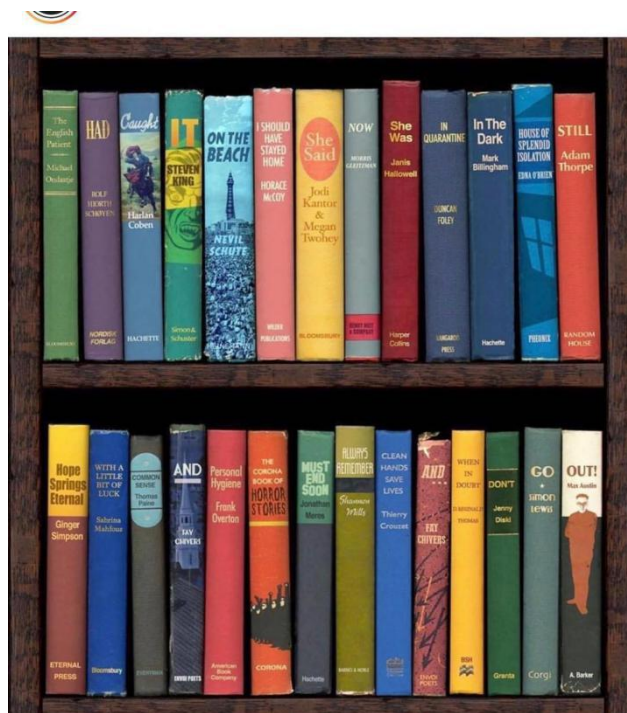
- Barrie Williams & Kathy Bell are keeping the **Spanish Groups** going by sending out short stories to read and exercises to do. They have now had very successful Zoom meetings with several groups and they now plan to “Zoom” every two weeks at the time they would have normally been meeting, at least for a chat at coffee break time and to go over some of the work that has been done. The feedback has been very positive.
- **The Carpet Bowls** group is keeping in touch via telephone and email and is planning a skittles meet at a local pub later in the year. Members have also taken part in some village hall “horse racing” evenings.
- Several of the **Bridge Groups** are trying to set up online games but some are finding the technology challenging.
- **The Aviation Group** is ticking over by sending out emails from time to time containing links to internet items. They are trying to build up a catalogue of these so that they can send out at least two a month.
- **Popular Music and Scrabble** are just keeping in touch by telephone for the moment.
- The convenor of the **Cribbage Group** has been in touch with members via email and passed on information about online cribbage games. Cribbage Pro Online is an app that can be purchased for £1.99 for mobile phones and Cribbage Classic Online can be found at cribbageclassic.com
- **Ancient Literature** is keeping going via email and they are reading a selection of Plutarch's lives and the convenor recommends an excellent website Perseus, which has translations of ancient texts.
- **The Latin Group** (Mick Stringer, 07836 211314) is finding life easier as they use a text book. Every two to three weeks the convenor circulates the texts to read and the exercises to attempt. *Numbers are NOT restricted while the group is online so anyone interested is invited to join in.*
- **The Creative Card making Group** of 8 keep in touch by phone or email and one member has suggested that they try to make a card every week and send a photo to each other on Fridays. The convenor has made about 20 new cards and knitted a Nativity set, Cinderella, elephant and penguin which she will have on her stall at the next monthly meeting!
- **The French Improvers** members are reading and translating a booklet written by the convenor about her childhood in French Algeria and she is available, by email for now, to help and support. Anyone else can have a go if interested; they can contact her on email at evelynewiththey@hotmail.com and she will send you a copy of her book.
- **The Science Group** has just had a meeting by Zoom, with at least 11 participants. In addition to that if a member finds an interesting article or topic, it is being circulated to the group. Our topic last week was ‘Can bacteria talk?’.
- **French 2** - 4 of the group have been playing online French Scrabble using only email notifications of moves. This week they used Zoom for the first time with the result that most members of the group will now meet fortnightly on Zoom for French conversation.
- **German (Advanced)** - members have been challenged to write a little essay about their personal hero/heroine. The convenor has had a lifelong allegiance to Girl Guiding so she wrote about the life of Lord Baden Powell and his sister Agnes who founded it.
- **The Photography Group** is holding a Zoom meeting once a month.



Some Simple(?) Puzzles

INTERPRET THE FOLLOWING:

1 SAND	2 MAN BOARD	3 STAND I	4 R E A D I N G
5 WEAR LONG	6 R ROADS A D S	7 ↓ T O W N	8 CYCLE CYCLE CYCLE
9 L E V E L	10 O M.D. P.H.D. B.S.	11 K N E E L I G H T S	12 I I I O O
13 C H A I R	14 D I C E D I C E	15 H O C O T ↓	16 G R O U N D F E E T F E E T F E E T
17 M I N D M A T T E R	18 H E ' S / H I M S E L F	19 E C N A L G	20 D E A T H / L I F E
21 G.I. C C C C	22 — P R O G R A M	23 P R O G R A M	24 Y O U T O U C H M E



Please email me your answers - I hope they match mine although I can't figure out one clue on the left! The answers will be given in June's newsletter.

P.S. If you don't use email, give me a ring & I'll give you my postal address.



THEATRE TRIP REFUNDS

- Windsor has finally paid up refunds for 'The Sleeping Beauty' tickets. By now you should have received your monies for the theatre and coach (where applicable) from John Twydle. Please let Mo know if you have not received your money(ies).
- As far as 'The King and I' is concerned, the Ambassador Group is taking quite a time. Mo will chase them again.

Please contact Mo Wright if you need any more information.

Her contact details are: 52 Lyneham Gardens, Maidenhead SL6 6SJ T: 01628 630023



SPRING WATCH

Jay



Long tailed tit



Brimstone butterfly



Green veined white butterfly



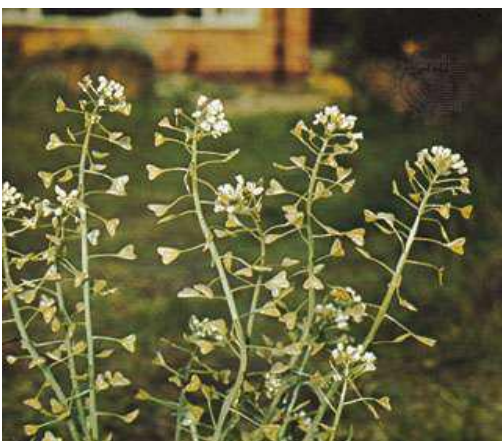
Wasp



Pipistrelle bat



Shepherd's purse - flowers all year



Garlic mustard - flowers April to June



Perspectives of the Lockdown

(Words in italics are those of Editor)

- ◆ I didn't want to do Zoom - didn't think it appropriate for *my group*. (Have done it with the family and an art group - I look terrible!) *Here! Here!*Anyway, I spend lots of time staring into space and falling asleep! And baking banana bread (not too successfully but the birds like it).....
- ◆ These are unprecedented times and difficult to comprehend. However I hope that the community spirit that has emerged will always remain with us.
- ◆ We have been keeping in touch with friends and family using Zoom and Skype and WhatsApp and also online Bridge. About to embark on online Canasta. We have worked out ways to play Trivial Pursuits, 20 Questions, and Yahtzee. *Husband* has done story telling videos for the Library Facebook Page, and we have both videoed ourselves telling stories for our granddaughter to share on WhatsApp. Our biggest Zoom has been a “cousins” get together which involved people in Canada, Scotland, Macedonia and England! It was hectic, but it worked. We have also found lots of local footpaths for our daily walk, and also log onto HasFit for a daily exercise session in front of YouTube at home (they do some for Seniors and Beginners!). Cooking has changed now that popping out for the odd ingredient is not possible – back to our mother’s style of make-do-and-mend!! I believe there have been a lot of born again gardeners too! The Rock Choir is running online sessions too.
- ◆ once permission is granted, let us have a summer (*winter?*) party to celebrate with dancing and music.
- ◆ Meanwhile the treadmill is getting heavy use from both *wife* and I, and *wife* is brightening the place up by practising her flower arranging....
- ◆ Most of the MOTO group have been tending their gardens. One lady has a Skype tea party every weekend with her family who live in London; she is also devising menus. I am doing French online, it is called Duo Lingo and it is free..... I have been sorting out cupboards, clothes and shoes, handbags as well. Trouble is my spare room is a mess with things as I cannot take them anywhere.



And with apologies to the gentlemen in our midst..

"Time for us girls" by Pam Ayres

I'm normally a social girl
I love to see my mates
But lately with the virus here
We can't go out the gates.
You see, we are the 'oldies' now
We need to stay inside
If they haven't seen us for a while
They'll think we've upped and died.
They'll never know the things we did
Before we got this old
There wasn't any Facebook
So everything was told.
We may seem sweet old ladies
Who would never be uncouth
But we grew up in the 60s -
If only you knew the truth!
There was sex and drugs and rock 'n roll
The pill and mini skirts
We smoked, we drank, we partied
And were quite outrageous flirts.
Then we settled down, got married
And turned into someone's mum,
Somebody's wife, then nana,
Who on earth did we become?

We didn't mind the change of pace
Because our lives were full
But to bury us before we're dead
Is like a red rag to a bull!
So here you find me stuck inside
For 4 weeks, maybe more
I finally found myself again
Then I had to close the door!
It didn't really bother me
I'd while away the hour
I'd bake for all the family
But I've got no flaming flour!
Now Netflix is just wonderful
I like a gutsy thriller
I'm swooning over Idris
Or some random sexy killer
At least I've got a stash of booze
For when I'm being idle
There's wine and whisky, even gin
If I'm feeling suicidal!
So lets all drink to lockdown
To recovery and health
And hope this awful virus
Doesn't decimate our wealth.
We'll all get through this crisis
And be back to join our mates
Just hoping I'm not far too wide
To fit through the flaming gates!

NEWS FROM THIRD AGE TRUST

National U3A Day

It has been decided to postpone the first national U3A Day from 3rd June to 1st October 2020 (once that date is confirmed as safe and appropriate) which is International Day of Older Persons. The private (this means that you have to apply to join the FB group) U3A Day Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/485363562065891>) has a wealth of ideas and discussion points and is a very positive community.

Resources & Advice

Resources and advice updated on the national website at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

National U3A Newsletter go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

The Trust is using its National Newsletter to keep members informed on the latest government advice concerning Covid-19. It is also filled with information, stories and advice from across the U3A movement on how to keep safe and occupied during this difficult time.

- Fill in your details on this web page to receive U3A updates, both regional and national.
- Check your email inbox after signing up: you will receive an email asking you to confirm your subscription. If you don't receive this email, please check your junk mail box.

The U3A South East Region has started to issue a fortnightly newsletter; the first one has been posted on the Maidenhead U3A website.

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)

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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

Finally, a great crested grebe nesting off the end of Ray Mill Island.

