

CHAIRMAN'S THOUGHTS

As we all know, an assortment of restrictions have been imposed across the home nations and Europe to combat a second wave of Covid. Everywhere governments are trying to balance the nation's health and economy. What surprises me is that no country has placed much emphasis on locking down / shielding the elderly, retired.

We are by far the most vulnerable to serious illness and death. We will take up most hospital beds and block treatment of other serious conditions. In the UK, we receive a state pension and in many cases generous occupational pensions, so will not need further state aid. Locking us down would have little impact on the economy.

Obviously there are problems like multigenerational households and there would need to be some dispensations to facilitate essential childcare and protect mental health. But all the measures governments are imposing have their own problems.

Tell us what you would do if you were Boris.

Ian Ross, Chairman

UPDATE ON 2021 MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support our Maidenhead u3a during 2020 - it is very much appreciated. Although meeting up in person has been difficult this year, we know that many of our groups have continued to "get together" in a variety of virtual ways. As we get closer to finding a vaccine for Covid 19 the outlook for 2021 is looking much more promising.

Our local u3a committee has been discussing how to reflect the limited activity we have enjoyed during 2020 in the forthcoming membership renewals, which are due in January 2021. Whilst some of our costs have been reduced we still have to pay our contributions to u3a centrally, for activities up to lockdown and the ongoing cost of our newsletter.

We have therefore decided that for one year only, we will reduce the cost of membership to just £8.

However, some of you may wish to continue to support our u3a by paying the usual fee of £16 and if this is the case it will greatly help towards funding future activities. As usual you can pay by standing order, direct debit, cheque or bank transfer - gift aid is recoverable on all subscriptions paid by members who have completed a Gift Aid form. Those who pay by standing order or direct debit may choose to leave their current £16 payment in place, but this is entirely optional. Further details will be included in our January newsletter.

Linda Main - Membership Secretary
John Twyde - Treasurer

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

Welcome to Julia Metcalfe and Brian Reed who joined us in October.

80th ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF BRITAIN

A Spitfire at Lee on Solent
on 16th September



A Hurricane at White
Waltham Airfield, 19th
September

Photos by Bill
Teasdale

AVIATION GROUP OPEN MEETING

After a couple of recent successes with Zoom, the Aviation Group is hosting its first external presentation at 2.30pm on 12th November, when Alastair Hodgson, curator of the De Havilland Museum will speak to us about the museum, its exhibits, and recent refurbishment of the premises at London Colney.

Details to join the Zoom meeting are: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85985605847>

Meeting ID: 859 8560 5847

You can 'enter' the meeting from 14.15. The meeting is open to up to 100 people, so please register with John Twyde who is managing the virtual aspects of the meeting at johntwyde@sky.com or by telephone him on 01628 621644.

LONDON to BRIGHTON VETERAN CAR RUN

This event always takes place in the first weekend of November, and is open to all vehicles made prior to 1904. As it runs from London to Brighton, there are plenty of places that people can stop and view the vehicles as they pass. Some of the support vehicles are as varied and interesting as the event vehicles themselves! The event is still scheduled to run this year on 1st November.

Jean says that a good place to see the cars is at Cuckfold in Sussex. She says that this offers timeless views (apart from the odd white line!) that serve as a backdrop to the vehicles.

Jean Exler (Photography group)



1895 Salvesen coal-powered steam car. It has a driver up front and a boilerman keeping the fire stoked.

Monthly meetings to go online?

Due to the coronavirus, we had to abandon the u3a monthly talks at SportsAble for the time being. However, we are looking into the practicalities of having a virtual meeting, or at least a monthly talk, over the internet. There are a number of people who offer a recorded or live talk (at extra cost) on all sorts of topics.

If you have any thoughts on this subject, including whether you would be likely or unlikely to watch such a talk, or any preferred topics, please email Philip Ratcliffe at speakers@maidenheadu3a.org.uk. If we go ahead, the first such talk will take place at the usual time of the monthly meeting either in December 2020 or January 2021. Watch this space!

POEM PAGE

Poems by persons younger than the average u3a member.

C19

by Natasha Warren

This morning I was woken up at 5.35,
With a 2 year old saying 'milk' lying next to my
side
Milk is what he got, sleep I did not,
Having cuddled and comforted him for how long,
I've now forgot

The weekend is here, whoop whoop we all say,
But for many it's just like another day.
A day of each other, no extra faces,
A day like any other scanning 'track and traces'

2020, you've not beat me, not yet I admit,
I hope the day will not come when I simply say I
quit.
But the hum drum of it all, is beginning to wear
thin,
Especially with the weather setting in looking
grim.

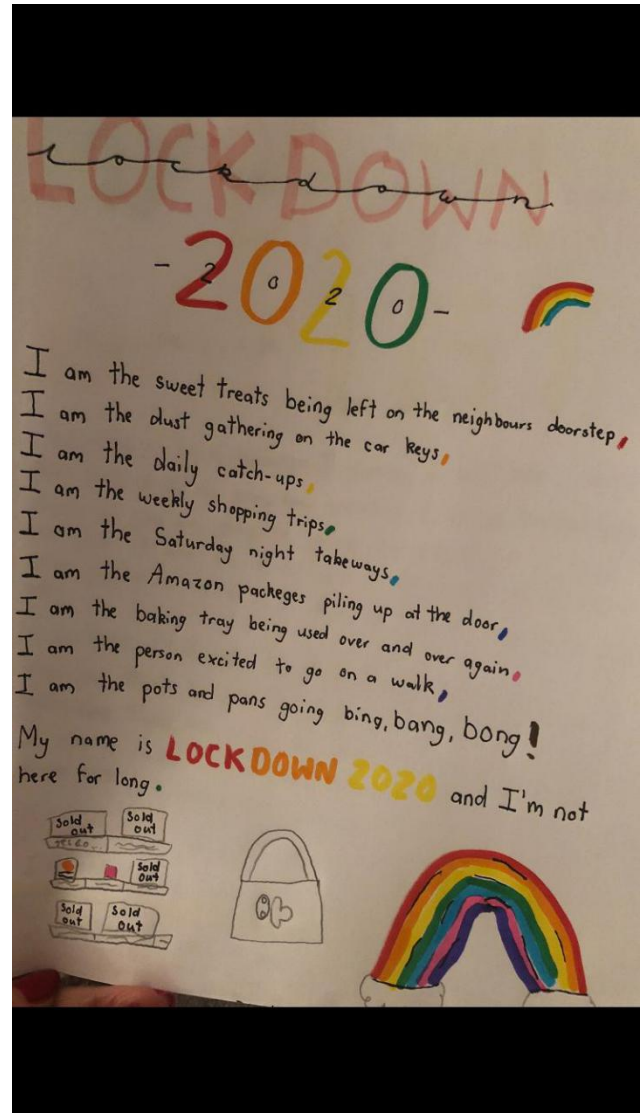
There is comfort in knowing that you're not in it
alone,
Although not everyone's experience of the time is
known
Some have seen it as time with family together,
Some have felt like it's gone on forever.
For some it has brought us to the end of our
tether,
Despite the initial fantastic weather!

So however you feel, whatever Covid has brought,
Remember a time when life was less fraught.
A time full of hugs, a time spent with friends,
A time we will have again when this ends.
Maybe our perspectives on life will be different,
Maybe we'll all change beyond recognition.

But whatever life brings, it's the lows that make
highs,
Even more exciting, well I guess through my eyes.
It's these challenges we face, day in, day out,
That reminds me what it is all about.
About growing, about joy, about faith, about
love,
About persevering through strife when it might
seem too tough.

So Covid it looks like you're here to stay for a
while,
I'll let you know now, you won't break my smile.
There will be bad days I'm sure, but that's
nothing new,
And it's easily solved, I'll just make a brew!

Lockdown 2020



By Maisie Cook, Jean Gale's 9 year old granddaughter

Autumn's Passage

As unseen clock constricts the veins
Roots withhold their sap.
Spent leaves in rusted edges turn
and loose their seasons grip.

Tis a sign that Autumn's come
And we can watch until she's done

Each tree waits in patient turn
Exclusively to present.
Each leaf selects a time
To unfurl its parting gift.

The low departing sun
Shines through shimmering leaves,
Beaming blinding bright translucent light
In a hundred burnished shades,
Catching all afire through yellows & golds,
to coppers, bronze and reds

Warm comforting breeze
Shakes loose the garments of a summer done.
Wisps of branches begin to show,
Forewarning of stark winter to come.

Her shed cloak litters the ground,
Russet colours cover the green.
An Artists pallet splashed around,
Great sweeps of leaves are seen.

Piles in corners flurry
And nervously tussle at steps.
Others along streets scurry
And bustle and scuttle in heaps.

Thinning trees the skyline reveals,
Urban scars no longer concealed.
Dark branches, skies a grey,
Better contrast the diminishing display.
Ever changing as a twilight turns,
New demonstrations day by day.

And when all have had their final fling,
To empty branches, solitary leaves oddly cling.
While below, damp, time and rot take their toll.
Movement and colour cease as all returns to soil

Tis a sign that Winter's come
We have watched during Autumn's run.
Her leaves to roots, their goodness bring
And we can wait till all revives again in Spring.

LET'S ZOOM

Are you sitting silently in your room?
Get ready! We're going to Zoom!
A new age has begun
but let's have some fun!

See those friendly faces
laughing loving gazes
having fun family quizzes
enjoying the children whizzes!

Let's zoom in sharing worries.
Give thanks to neighbours and Waitrose lorries,
Covid will not stop us wishing
despite distancing and no kissing.

Let's Zoom out to future distance
and with strength and patience
there will be salvation
in thankful vaccination.

Bryan Robinson

Protest Song

Government murk! Government murk?
Should we or shouldn'tv we
Go back to work?
All of your orders
Now give us such trouble.
Just how many people
Can make up a bubble?
May I or mayn't I
Go visit my friend?
When will these conflicting
Messages end?
If one lives alone
And one also is single,
How in God's name
Are we able to mingle ?
Does anyone know
What we can or can't do?
I'm muddled and puzzled !
I bet you are too.

Ann Hay

National High Street Research Project

At the beginning of August I received a general request from the national u3a for volunteers to join a research project to find out how the current Covid 19 epidemic will affect shops in the high streets of UK. The volunteer was required to investigate the shops in a local shopping street of their choice, recording the names, activities and a few other details by 30th September 2020 and to then repeat this in 2022. It was suggested that it would be preferable to work with another member of the local u3a. I was not sure if another u3a member from Maidenhead would be involved, so I made a start by recording the number, name and activity of all the shops in Maidenhead High Street from Chapel Arches to the Methodist Church.

A few days later, I was fortunate to discover I had a fellow volunteer in Pat Laković. By now we had received detailed information from u3a as to the requirements of the project, so we set off on Saturday, 12th September to record detailed information on all the shops including those which had closed. On Sunday, 13th September I photographed every shop in the High Street.

Our next task was to fill in the required details of each shop in a pre specified format with multi-choice options, including the addition of photos. This data entry task took the longest time. Below is a typical example of what we were asked to submit - I have chosen Greggs.

Your name:	Pat Lakovic	Date of survey:	12 September 2020
Location name:	Maidenhead	Street name:	High Street
House no:	43	Postcode:	SL6 1JF
Shop name:	Greggs		
Description:	Takeaway, fast food chain		
Council:	Windsor and Maidenhead		
Context:	Urban / town centre		
Locality type:	Part of longer street		
Street type:	Road with through traffic		
Premises description:	Single unit		
Who does it cater for:	Unisex		
Premises shape:	Part of a long row		
For food premises only:	Takeaway		
Current condition:	Open for business		

There are public parking spaces on street nearby. There is a bus stop nearby.



We surveyed a total of 97 shops and establishments; 14 units had closed. It will be interesting to repeat this project in two years' time in 2022 to see how our High Street has changed, when we'll survey the High Street again & I'll write another report. *Chris Sayers*

WALKS IN NOVEMBER

Message to all walkers We need your input on walks and offers to lead some walks during the next few months. Please contact John Twydle on 01628 621644.

Details of walks this month are:

Tuesday, 3rd November: OCKWELLS PARK led by Pam Tyrrell 01628 627509
Short 2 mile walk around Ockwells Park, Cox Green. Meet in car park for 11.15 start. It could be muddy in parts so come prepared! The café has been open so far this year for drinks and light snacks. Please advise Pam if you plan to attend.

Monday, 23rd November: 11.00 for a 11.15 departure, led by Anne Clark.
Park in overflow car park at Stubbings Nursery for a 2 mile walk across farm land to the north of Stubbings to Burchetts Green. Follow Burchetts Green Lane southwards towards the A4. Enter the Thicket just before the junction walking parallel with the A4 for approx. 200 yards before turning north along the boundary walk to return to the Nursery via the lodge.
Lunch is available for those who want it in a covid secure environment at the nursery cafe. If you plan to come, please let John Twydle know on 01628 621644.

NEWS FROM OTHER GROUPS

All group information & convenor contact details are available on our website, www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk Contact Nigel Roper (details are at the end of the newsletter) if you don't have a user ID.

- > **Ancient Literature:** the group will meet by Zoom on the 19th November. We have begun reading Apollonius of Rhodes' Argonautica - the story of Jason and the Golden Fleece, written in the 3rd century BC. As he embarks on his journey, Jason tells his mother, "To mortal men the gods allot woes which cannot be foreseen: despite the pain in your spirit, have the courage to bear your share of these." Quite appropriate for our times too.
- > **French Improvers:** The group is continuing with Zoom meetings fortnightly. Evelyne (convenor) has now learnt to share her screen AND the computer sound so we can listen to French speakers!!!!
- > **Latin:** the group's next Zoom meetings will be on 9th & 23rd November. We have started to read Ovid's Pyramus and Thisbe, on which Shakespeare based the play of the "rude mechanicals" in a Midsummer Night's Dream. Nice to know that we are sharing the Bard's reading list, but we are still looking for someone to play Wall.
- > **Lunch Club:** On Thursday, 22nd October, the Lunch Club had its first get-together since February at The Ferry in Cookham. Everyone attending really enjoyed themselves. The Club plans to meet next month on **Wednesday, 18th November** at the Belgian Arms in Holyport. Call Linda on 01628 671766 or 07740 853952 or email her at freelin@talktalk.net for more information.
- > **MOTO:** On 18th October, Veronica very kindly hosted a get-together at her home for 5 other people. It was lovely to catch up with the others and hear all their news.
- > **Science:** On Thursday, 19th November at 14.30, Chris Moss, a member of the Green Party and Bourne End u3a member, will make a 20 mins presentation by Zoom. This will be followed by a discussion. Zoom details will be sent out on the day.
- > **Spanish for Holidaymakers:** The group expects to continue via Zoom throughout the winter. Kathy (convenor) has just learnt how to play Spanish songs from YouTube via Zoom so the group will now be studying and translating the words of songs before listening to them. Some light relief instead of the much missed coffee break.

Ann Hay has compiled a new quiz for November

(Answers to the October quiz are at the end of this newsletter)

1. What is the name of Lt. Commander Data's cat?	11. From which port do MacBrayne's steamers usually sail?
2. Who played the first film Tarzan?	12. What was the nickname of cricketer J.W.H.T. Douglas?
3. At what time of year is pace-egging traditionally performed?	13. From which material was the Mosquito aeroplane mainly constructed?
4. Which two gifts should first-footers present?	14. Alter one letter to change a ritual suicide into a comfortable seat.
5. What was Professor Dumbledore's first name?	15. What is a Tam o' Shanter?
6. Who was the blind sea captain in Llareggub?	16. What is the capital of Sierra Leone?
7. Which Shakespearean King ordered his wife to make him Horlicks (or Ovaltine)?	17. What is the name of Aleksandr Orlov's henchman?
8. To what race does Gul Dukat belong?	18. Who composed the Firebird Suite?
9. What was the trade of Francis Flute?	19. What is the stage name of Robert Zimmerman?
10. What do Maddy Prior, Joan Baez and Julie Felix have in common?	20. In which country is Ouagadougou?

2021 Diaries

We have **30** diaries to give away. If you'd like one, all you need to do is ring Mo Wright on 01628 630023 and she will post one to you. First come, first served.

Did you know? (courtesy of Jean Exler)

The first Zebra crossing was trialled in 1946 in Slough, sporting blue and yellow lines! The colours were changed to black and white in 1949. It got its name from then MP, James Callaghan, who commented that the markings made it look like a zebra!

To amuse(?) you (courtesy of Mal Geary)

- √ I, as Company Chairman, award you this superb mantelpiece gold clock on your retirement after 45 years' loyal service. It goes for 8 days without winding. How long will it go for if you wind it?
 - √ If you see me leaving this group, please add me again. It's just that I'm so desperate to go out!
 - √ I'm starting to like this mask thing. I went to the supermarket yesterday and two people that I owe money to didn't recognise me.
-



South East Region

AUTUMN GATHERING

Wednesday, 4th November

Back to the Future - Normality Restored?

A virtual meeting via Zoom starting at 10.00am

You must complete an application to register for this meeting. This can be found at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SE-Region-application.docx>

For details of the programme, go to:

<http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/SE-Region-Gathering-Programme.pdf>

GEOLOGY OF THE THAMES VALLEY

And why we don't have volcanoes

A virtual 2 day meeting using Zoom with Dr Jill Eyers
18th & 25th November from **10.30am** to **12.30pm** each day

Dr Eyers studied geology achieving her doctorate in 1992. Since that time, she has lectured for several UK universities including Reading, Oxford and the Open University. Dr Eyers is a regular contributor to archaeological television programmes as well as BBC Radio Oxford, Berkshire and London and an author of many books and dozens of professional papers.

You can find more details and the application for at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/?p=1056>

ART vs PHOTOGRAPHY

Wednesday, 16th December

@ 10.30am & 12.30pm

A talk by Keith Appleby using Zoom

This event consists of a lecture in two parts (see session times above) kindly presented by Keith Appleby. Keith taught Art and Design and Photography before managing a large Creative Arts Faculty and he taught Photography to degree level. He now sculpts three-dimensional work in wood and exhibits regularly with the Oxford Sculptors Group and Henley Arts and Crafts Guild.

The objective of this event is to provide an understanding of the interactions between Art and Photography.

Keith is a u3a member so there is no charge for the day.

For more details and an application form go to <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/?p=1029>



National News

From Hilary Jones, Vice Chairman, Third Age Trust



The first ever u3a radio podcast officially launched at 2pm, 29th September directly after the national AGM. The national office learning team have been working with member volunteers who are skilled in broadcasting and you can keep listening to u3a radio wherever you are as it is delivered as a recorded podcast.

This pilot will feature a series of interviews and features from across the movement - all themed around looking forward. We are very excited about this project which we aim to grow and develop over the coming year. There will be another pilot before Christmas. We hope you enjoy our first broadcast. The u3a YouTube Channel is found at <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheU3a/>

If you have an interesting story to tell - get in touch - you can email us at communications@u3a.org.uk or phone the national office at 01352 780324.

Submissions to Newsletter

If you wish to send me photos, please ensure that they are no more than 500kB each. Also, please do not email me .pdf files for the newsletter as I cannot get my open source software to insert these files without considerable additional effort. Accepted formats are .docx, .doc, .jpeg & .xls or .xlsx.

Please email/send me comments or 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 Ann Hay's October Quiz

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 1. Portsmouth | 11. Porthos |
| 2. Tennis | 12. Never Jam today |
| 3. Some Like It Hot | 13. Sextus Tarquinius |
| 4. Bones in the ear | 14. A moss |
| 5. The nuthatch | 15. A marble |
| 6. E. L. James | 16. Seaweed |
| 7. A hairless cat | 17. Mother-in-law's tongue |
| 8. Spain | 18. 4, Privet Drive |
| 9. On the moon | 19. A cricketer |
| 10. Sale Sharks | 20. "I've got a horse!"(he was a bookie) |

Committee Members & other u3a links

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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

Dahlias at Greys Court

Mo Wright

