

Coronavirus versus WW2

It has been a strange August, what with Covid ups and downs, the continued suspension of most of our activities, searing heat and torrential rain, government U-turns over exam results and general disarray. I hope some of you have managed to get away on holiday without having to self isolate on your return!

Since we have quite a lot of members with early memories of the Second World War, I invited your reflections on the comparison with coronavirus in the last newsletter. I'd like to thank Douglas and Malcolm for their very different perspectives below and I hope they will inspire others among you to reach for your pens or keyboards and share your thoughts and stories with us.

Ian Ross, Chairman

I was born in 1932 and so grew up during those war years, experiencing disruptions to schooling as well as being bombed out of our home through a direct hit during the blitz and dodging doodlebugs towards the end of the war!

The war certainly bears comparison with the pandemic in that it too was an overarching obsession for the nation and indeed much of the world. There was too at that time a strong unifying community spirit engendered by our fighting for our future against a common foe. Some have attempted to invoke that spirit in present times, but there are important differences. The foe this time is not so easily identified and pinned down and suspicions about responsibilities for spreading, or failing to control, the virus and differential impacts on different groups of people, are leading to splits between nations, and between different groups within nations, rather than community cohesion.

There is also another more profound and far-reaching difference. Then, we could all look forward to the end of hostilities and hope, not just for a return to normality, but for a better future. Our generation has indeed enjoyed, on the whole, good times since the war, but what can the younger generations now look forward to and what can we do to give them some hope?

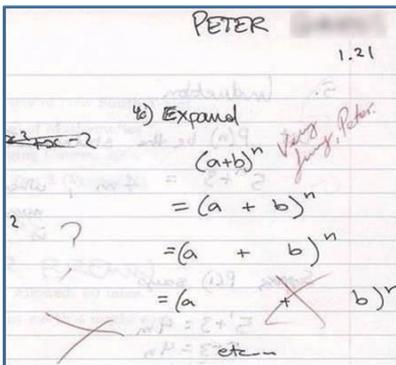
Douglas Talintyre

The war years for an under 6 year old were utter boredom with occasional air raid siren action to liven things up a bit. I claim a medal for Morrison shelter duty in clearing up soot blown down the chimney from a near miss.

First school was St Joseph's Convent in Cardiff. Sister Agnes was a strict teacher. "You boys will be naughty and be punished. In case I don't catch you, God sees everything", pointing to the crucifix on her ample bosom; "His punishment will be hundreds times worse than mine." A friend brought a pre-war Dinky toy to school to show us - strictly forbidden, of course. Sister Agnes never found out. God's punishment never happened. The first tiny seeds of doubt were sown. Could teacher, the fount of all knowledge, be telling lies?

Malcolm Geary

On a lighter note I never know whether or not these are made up, but in any event they made me smile.



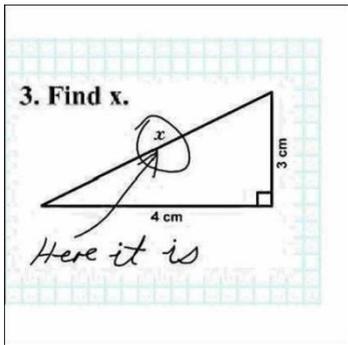
Why would living close to a mobile phone mast cause ill health?
You might walk into it.

How does Romeo's character develop throughout the play?
It doesn't, it's just self, self, self, all the way through.

What is a vibration?
There are good vibrations and bad vibrations. Good vibrations were discovered in the 1960s

What happens during puberty to a boy?
He says goodbye to his childhood enters adultery.

Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?
At the bottom.



New member:

David Treder joined us in August.

MORE MEMORIES

The item about Vera Lynn reminded me of when I left Australia in 1962. Those were the days. Friends and families were allowed on board to see your cabin and other facilities.

When I left England in 1954, my mother and I shared a cabin with 4 stranger women. We kept our clothes under the bunks in cabin trunks. I still have mine. Once a week we had access to the baggage room when we could go and get things out of the bigger trunks. Our washing was put in sacks and done for us, probably washed in salt water. The bath water was salty.



Leaving Melbourne



Sydney Harbour Bridge

In the northern hemisphere when it was summer we had ice cream in the afternoon, a luxury at that time. Soon after we passed through the Panama Canal and crossed the equator we entered the winter season and we were served beef tea with "pulled bread", the centre of loaves pulled out and baked like rusks. Lovely.

Shirley Hitchcock



MOTO 'get together' on 23rd August. John kindly offered to let the group use his garden. The weather was kind as well.

Great news for Rummikub enthusiasts!

I'm delighted to advise that The Shire Horse has agreed for us to resume Rummikub with the same two morning sessions per month on 2nd and 4th Fridays.

HOWEVER Start time would be earlier at 10am finishing promptly at 11.45am. This is to enable their staff to clear and re-sanitise the tables ready for their lunch time trade.

Before I organise the logistics, including refreshment issues, it is essential for me to know if the level of interest is such that we would go ahead.. I therefore need to know:

- > those of you who wish to participate
- > those of you who would prefer to wait until 2021
- > those of you who would like to be removed from the register

Please email / text or call me your position(s) in order that, as your Convenor, following government guidelines, I can prepare the requirements safely with The Shire Horse for a mutually agreeable month when we can resume.

NB: I will respectfully presume that those who don't respond have chosen to be removed.

Kath Evans

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WALKS IN SEPTEMBER

Message to all walkers We need your input on walks and offers to lead some walks through the next 9 months. Please contact John Twydle on 01628 621644.

Details of walks this month are:

1. **Thursday, 10th September:**

Meet at the car park at The Palmers Arms (**SL4 6QW**) at 9.45 for a 10.00 start.

Note earlier start so the car park is free for Lunch guests.

4 mile level walk along Jubilee River to Eton Wick and then across Dorney Common to the river and back.

- > So we can manage numbers, please register your interest with John Twydle on 01628 621644 or 07786 854920.

2. **Wednesday, 16th September:**

Meet at the NT car Park at Cookham Moor at 11.00 for a 11.15 start.

1.9 mile level walk to the end of Strand Water and return.

- > So we can manage numbers, please register your interest with John Twydle on 01628 621644 or 07786 854920.

3. **Tuesday, 22nd September:**

Short walk from Guards Club car park to Boulters and back via Taplow Riverside.

Level walk, 2.3 miles. Meet at 11.00 for an 11.15 start.

- > So we can manage numbers, please register your interest with John Twydle on 01628 621644 or 07786 854920.

CARPET BOWLS 'IN PERSON' GROUP TO RESTART

The whole group has received full details of our 'risk assessment' (detailed in last month's newsletter) in the bowls hall and what the returning necessities would be.

The result was a confirmed return in the **first week of September** for only **EIGHT** of the group of eighteen!!! We are all:

- ✓ wearing face coverings;
- ✓ sanitising on entry to the hall;
- ✓ cleaning our equipment with an ultra fine disinfectant spray.

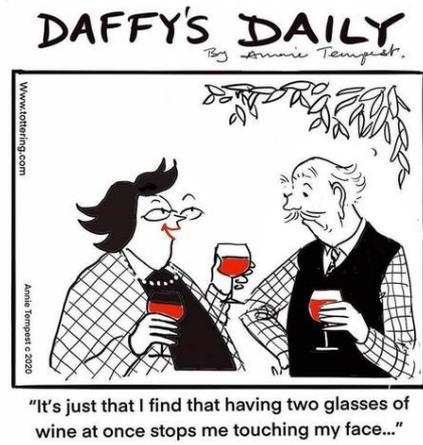
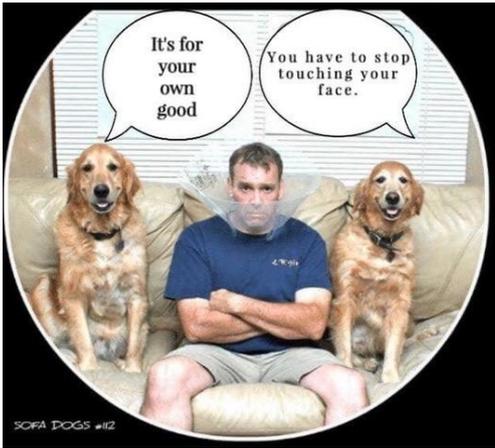
As we have chosen to use only one mat, this will provide us 100% more room to play and enter and leave by different entrances too. We will miss out on our cup of tea after our game, which will ensure there is social distancing. It feels weird to start up again, but so many are feeling lost without the weekly game.

MORE NEWS FROM OUR 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.

- The **Aviation** group has just issued its 7th Newsletter, in addition to advising of lectures by the Museum of Army Flying, Imperial War Museum and Maidenhead Heritage Centre. We have cancelled the remaining presentations due at White Waltham this year. In view of the success of other groups using Zoom, the group will now reconvene, using Zoom, at **2.30 pm on Thursday, 10th September**. Zoom invites will be sent to the group members that morning.
- The **Ancient Literature** group will meet by Zoom on **17th September** to read and discuss Plutarch's Life of Mark Antony (the one Shakespeare used for Antony and Cleopatra).
- **German (Advanced):** We are still meeting by Zoom and in view of the U3A directive, we have abandoned meeting in a garden for the time being. However Zoom is keeping our chatting skills up!
- The **Latin** group will have its Zoom meetings on **14th and 28th September**. We will be completing Cicero's tirade against Verres, looking at his attack on Claudia in the Pro Caelio, and continuing to explore the poetry of Ovid, Catullus and Propertius. There are no restrictions on numbers so anyone who wishes to "drop in" is welcome. Email Mick on mick_stringer@hotmail.com and he will send you the meeting code and material
- **Poetry** group update: There are typically 7 of us meeting weekly on Tuesday mornings for a 'Poetry at Coffeetime' session over Zoom. Our sessions last for around 45 minutes and are enormously varied. We have spent sessions learning about a particular poet and studying together some of their poems – most recently WH Auden – but we've also read and discussed poems from poets as widely diverse as Pam Ayres and the Persian poets. And we've enjoyed a few poems written by the more talented members of our group! Essentially, we aim to enjoy some poetry, to learn something, and to have some fun. There's a practical limit to how many of us can meet together online (if we are to retain the informality; it's not a technical issue) but **we would welcome new members** – perhaps up to 3 at this time.
- The **Science** group will meet via Zoom at **14.30 on Thursday, 17th September**. Topic to be announced to group members.
- **Spanish for Holidaymakers:** Whilst we are keen to start meeting properly, even if only outside, we have once again been frustrated by the weather and the 6 people limit. However, we are really enjoying our Zoom sessions. I send out the tasks the week before so that everyone has time to look at them, and then a plan for the Zoom session so that we all have our papers in order and everything runs smoothly. We all agree that is is definitely better than not meeting at all although we do miss the coffee and biscuits!

In July, we included some Covid humour. Here is some more



A regular contributor, Ann Hay, has been busy again. Her new contribution is a TV Quiz.

1. What was the name of the Addams family butler?
2. What was Rigsby's cat called?
3. What show featured Rowdy Yates?
4. Who did the Soup Dragon feed?
5. Which actor played Dr Who for only 14 months?
6. What breed was Shep?
7. What was the name of Postman Pat's cat?
8. Who was the first commander of the MASH Unit?
9. The shop steward calling "Everybody Out!" all the time was in which programme?
10. Who was the Cardassian tailor on Deep Space Nine?
11. What was the name of the retirement home in Waiting for God?
12. In which suburb did Tom and Barbara live?
13. Detective Eddie Shoestring's sartorial carelessness was what?
14. What was the job of Recall, Zorba, Bayleaf and Poison?
15. What did Daniel Hagman do before joining the 95th Rifles ?
16. What was the name of the Nouveions policeman who thought he could speak French?
17. Who was the cow in the Magic Roundabout?
18. In what game show was the prize a chequebook and pen?
19. What was the instruction given by Bob Monkhouse in the Golden Shot?
20. Who was the elderly nun with mental problems in Nonnatus House?

Answers next month plus there will be another of Ann's quizzes.

Advance notice about October Newsletter

Carol Cameron has kindly agreed to edit the October newsletter as I will not be around. Between 10th September and 15th October, the differences will be:

- 1) the name of the person communicating with you by email will be Carol and
- 2) the contact telephone # will change to Carol's.

The email address will stay the same, so please check Carol's contact details at the end of this newsletter.

If you wish to send any contribution(s) to the newsletter such as photos, articles, comments, poems etc. please email/send your submission by 23rd of the month to the email address below. Ideally, photos should be no more than 500kB each.

Thank you.

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

THAMES VALLEY NETWORK NEWS

The AGM was held recently and some Committee & Constitution changes have been made. If you want to find out what they are in detail, go to their website at <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/> A few are listed below:

- Fay Sinai from Abingdon is now our vice-chairman – a very welcome addition to our committee, with all her expertise in organising study days and her previous experience of having chaired her own U3A.
- Patsy Thornton has relinquished her post as Events Team Leader after many years sterling service. Patsy is remaining on the committee.
- Paul Booker has stepped down from the committee. One of his contributions was organising the wonderful Christmas Concerts in London.
- Susie Berry is taking over from Patsy on the Events Team.
- If you were thinking that there would be no more study days for some time – you were wrong! Susie and the team have some great new ideas for events – not quite the way they are, but taking on, and adapting to, the challenges of the current situation, and exploiting the opportunities given to us by modern technology.
- We also voted on a minor change to our Constitution, increasing the number of committee members from 8 to 9.

Online Learning Hub

The National Office has sent the TVN a link to a survey about their new idea for an Online Learning Hub. Have your say!

National Office is looking for your ideas to help it develop the new Online Learning Hub. This is going to be an online collection of all the resources and tools you may need to support learning across your interest groups and U3A.

This short questionnaire will give the National Office valuable information about what's important to members, and what they need to consider in the design and implementation of this Online Learning Hub. None of the questions are compulsory and your response is anonymous. This should take you less than 10 minutes. Click here to participate:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/RFZYSMK>

TVN Quiz Study Day - for those of you who host quizzes and/or are interested in their history

One of the events for this autumn was to be a Quiz Study Day – a talk about the history of quizzes and quizzing and a discussion on how to run a quiz for your U3A, to be followed by a quiz for all the participants. It has been decided to go ahead with a “trial run” on **September 2nd at 2.30pm** using Zoom, to see how it works in practice and to iron out any difficulties that might arise.

The event will comprise a discussion about running a quiz, how to find questions, sources of pictures, PowerPoint presentations, problems and pitfalls. After a short break, we will hold the quiz itself at 3.30 pm. If all goes well, there will be a **History of Quizzes** talk on **9th September at 2.30 pm**.

Please email Avis Furness, Chairman TVN, directly at Chairman@u3atvnetwork.org.uk if

1. You wish to participate in the discussion and quiz on **2nd September** and/or
2. You would be interested in the talk on the History of Quizzes on **9th September**.

Avis will reply with further information and the Zoom link.



John Twydle: the Queen Victoria in Weymouth Bay

Committee Members & other U3A links

Chairman	Ian Ross	<u>chairman@maidenheadu3a.org.uk</u>	01628 626849
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Websites & Social Media

Maidenhead U3A	<u>www.maidenheadu3a.org.uk</u>		
Twitter	<u>twitter.com/MaidenheadU3A</u>		
Thames Valley Network	<u>www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk</u>		
Third Age Trust	<u>www.u3a.org.uk</u>		
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