



With very limited opportunities to visit her granddaughters in Aberdeen this year, Patchwork and Quilting Group member Margaret Payne created this detailed Halloween costume for their favourite dolls.

Merry 
Christmas 



Anti-clockwise (from the top):

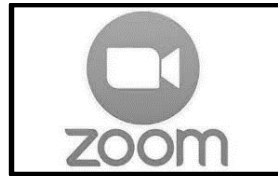
After being granted permission by Penn Parish Council, 22 Singing for Pleasure Group members gathered in September at Winchmore Hill Common. With their new Musical Director Ali, they held a hearty sing-along.

'Jelly Genes': Group members at a Family History show visit a stand where jelly beans are used to illustrate inherited gene characteristics... and you can eat the evidence.

Despite abysmal weather this season, a Photography Group member finds wonderful autumn colours at Wisley.

Between lockdowns, and following the 'Rule of Six', Striders pause at Tring Park on a seven and a half mile walk from Cholesbury.

Speakers for General Meetings



Anthony Poulson-Smith **NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA** **Thursday 10th December 2020**
ZOOM

Christmas Unwrapped

Anthony is a freelance journalist and author, with 77 books published, as well as crosswords, quizzes, and puzzles. This talk features a rather different look at Yuletide, with an emphasis on words, so-called traditions and an examination of the 12 days of Christmas.

Eve Regulous **NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA** **Thursday 14th January 2021**
ZOOM

Everything Stops for Tea

Eve ran a successful entertainment business for 25 years, after having a childhood interest in dancing, from ballet to tap via ballroom. In 2003, she joined BBC Radio Essex as part of their events diary team. Her interests include theatre, music and greyhounds. This talk will 'tickle your taste-buds' by presenting a history of tea and suggestions for cakes to suit any mood. Eve also shares several of her favourite places for taking afternoon tea.

Gaye Illsley **NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA** **Thursday 28th January 2021**
ZOOM

Powers of Attorney

Gaye has spent 30 years in IT and now, semi-retired, gives educational talks to help families care for loved ones. This talk will be beneficial to anyone who has not got round to putting in place their EPA and covers all aspects of the different Powers of Attorney. Instead of a fee, we will be making a contribution to Alzheimer's Society

Jeremy Holmes **NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA** **Thursday 11th February 2021**
ZOOM

Andrew Carnegie: Rags to Riches

Jeremy was CEO of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society, as well as of Universities UK which represents the Vice Chancellors of UK Universities, and was a trustee of the Carnegie UK Trust. The talk is about Andrew Carnegie, who came from a slum in Scotland, and made his fortune as a ruthless steel magnate. Then, at the start of the 20th century, he gave it all away by setting up philanthropic foundations all over the world. In his day he was wealthier than Bill Gates, and earned so much interest on his fortune that he couldn't give it away fast enough!

Michael Kushner **NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA** **Thursday 11th March 2021**
ZOOM

A Journey to Station X – Bletchley Park

Michael is a guide and lecturer at Bletchley Park, having worked previously for Thorn EMI, and has a keen interest in historic military communications. The talk provides a brief history of British Signals Intelligence up to and during WW2, and how Winston Churchill organised funding to maintain over 10,000 staff all sworn to complete secrecy. Station X was the largest code-breaking operation in the world, and is now known as GCHQ Cheltenham.

Notes from the Chair

Welcome to our last newsletter of 2020 – a year which I suspect most of us will be very glad to see the back of. As I write this, we are about to emerge from Lockdown II and find out what follows that.

‘Keep bugging on’ (not my words, Churchill’s)

It’s very gratifying that so many Groups are managing to keep going during the pandemic and I’d like to thank all the Convenors who have shown such creativity and initiative to keep their shows on the road. Even the two Walks into History Groups have met via Zoom, using a London guide or a photo-essay from the Convenor for guided tours from the comfort of home. 24 Groups have made use of our two Zoom accounts, others have used private accounts and others still have made use of other social media. I know this is a better record than some other u3as which seem to have gone into complete hibernation.

Membership update

As I mentioned last time, our membership has fallen this year but the Committee is hopeful that members will return once the vaccines are available and some form of normality has returned.

Changing the guard in various Groups

In the last newsletter, I said that some Groups were in danger of folding because nobody would step up as Convenor. I’m glad to say that, except in one case, that disaster seems to have been averted and I’m grateful for everyone who has come forward to keep their Groups going.

Special General Meeting, 10th December

I am glad to report that Ernest Newhouse, Secretary of Chiltern u3a, has volunteered to examine our accounts for 2020/2021. Since the Examiner has to be approved by the membership, rather than appointed by the Committee, we have tacked a short SGM to the start of December’s General Meeting at which, hopefully, Ernest’s appointment can be confirmed.

New u3a branding

You will notice from the front cover of this newsletter that we have a new logo! The Third Age Trust has commissioned a new look to convey a more modern image and have dropped ‘University of the Third Age’ in favour of ‘Learn, Laugh, Live’. The idea is to make the organisation more attractive to the younger folk we need to keep the u3a movement going. I guess such re-brandings are always a matter of taste but, personally, I like the more modern look. And we have been assured that the Trust did not pay a fortune to consultants for designing the new look.

General Meeting, Thursday 10th December

Following our short SGM, our last speaker of 2020 is Anthony Poulson-Smith with a talk called ‘Christmas Unwrapped’. Anthony will take a sideways look at Yuletide with an emphasis on words, some ‘traditions’ and a look at the 12 days of Christmas.

I will send out the Zoom invitation a few days before the meeting.

Christmas greetings

Finally, as this is the last newsletter of 2020, I want to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas (or a Happy Hanukkah) and a Healthy – and COVID-free – New Year.

With best wishes – and stay safe



James Cadle
chair@cvu3a.uk

From the Groups Coordinators

Our first Zoom Convenors meeting seemed to go well with a good attendance. The only problem was the lack of free sandwiches!

Otherwise we have not had a great deal to do other than some assistance to the kind souls who have agreed to take over various Groups where the Convenors have retired.

Many Groups are continuing now on Zoom and in this time of a second lockdown it is a good chance for those living on their own to speak with someone else. If you feel your Group could operate online please do get in touch and we should be able to give some help.

Needless to say, if anyone has ideas for any new Groups, again please let us know.

Also, can we ask Convenors to let us know if you change anything about your Group – for example, by appointing a Co-Convenor or changing the date, time or venue for your meetings.

Best wishes and keep well.

Sue Broad and Helen Barnard
Groups Coordinators
groups@cvu3a.uk

Do we have your up-to-date contact details?

If you have moved, changed your phone number or have a new email address, please make sure you update your information via the Chess Valley u3a website (www.cvu3a.uk). Click on 'Membership Login' on the homepage and then use your ID which is your membership number (from your membership card) prefixed by the first two letters of your first name (for example 'Jo9999'). If you don't have internet access, please let the Membership Secretary know (contact details above). We'd hate for you not to be kept up-to-date with the happenings in your u3a or miss out on events and visits.

General Meeting talks programme for 2021

Michael Cohn has put together his usual eclectic programme of speakers for our General Meetings in 2021. The first four are described on page 3 but, to whet your appetites, here is what is planned for the rest of the year:

8 th April	Andy Thomas – <i>A Conspiracy History of the World</i>
29 th April	Mark Godsland – <i>Cybercrime and Protection from it</i>
13 th May	Patrick Lunt – <i>My Life as a Voice Artist</i>
10 th June	Ian Keable – <i>Charles Dickens: Conjuror</i>
8 th July	Dr Barrie Cook – <i>Coin Hoards</i> (to be confirmed)
12 th August	William French – <i>Butler to Royalty</i>
9 th September	Colin Smith – <i>Coffee</i>
14 th October	Elizabeth Gowing – <i>Unlikely Positions: Yoga Tour of the UK</i>
11 th November	David Barber – <i>Swan Upping</i>
9 th December	Paul Robbins – <i>Great British Eccentrics</i>

At the moment, these are scheduled to be delivered via Zoom but let's hope that a vaccine or other intervention lets us meet together in person at some point in the year.

Chess Valley u3a Committee

Chair	James Cadle	chairman@cvu3a.uk	01494 716992
Vice-Chair	Helen Barnard	vicechair@cvu3a.uk	01494 715588
Treasurer	Geoff Naylor	treasurer@cvu3a.uk	01494 434918
Business Secretary	Chris Kinsley	secretary@cvu3a.uk	01442 863028
Membership Secretary	Jim Wilkie	membership@cvu3a.uk	01494 782081
Groups Coordinator	Helen Barnard	groups@cvu3a.uk	01494 715588
Webmaster	Valerie Garrod	webmaster@cvu3a.uk	01494 433585
Newsletter Editors	John Bunyan	newsletter@cvu3a.uk	01494 778858
	James Cadle		01494 716992
Speaker Organiser	Michael Cohn*	speakers@cvu3a.uk	01494 763542
Events Coordinator	Jackie Cobb	eventscoord@cvu3a.uk	01494 773718
* indicates a non-voting member			

Hear! Hear!

‘Misunderstandings are even more frequent than ever as the means of their communication multiply’.

The oft quoted ‘Need reinforcements, we are going to advance’ morphing into ‘Send three-and-fourpence, we are going to a dance’ is old hat as are the contrived misunderstandings of certain railway notices in the 1960s. Passengers did not set off in search of a canine on reading the instruction, proximate to an escalator, that ‘dogs must be carried’ when they were not in possession of one. Jonathan Miller’s artificial confusion as to whether ‘gentlemen lift the seat’ was an instruction or a definition, never really held water. And nobody really believes that Nicholas Witchell is anywhere near to an HRH when he is described as a Royal Correspondent, a description more aptly applied to the Grand or otherwise Duke of York.

US airline passengers, though, on hearing the advice ‘we shall be in the air momentarily’ would I think have been justifiably alarmed.

Recent misunderstandings on my part have mainly arisen due to faulty hearing, so that a clearly heard order for a marshmallow in a local pub was in fact for a large Merlot.

More recently and even more confusing, was when I heard on R4 that ‘The friends of Dorothy’ had detained someone in Paris. This was all very odd as I was unaware that the FOD operated as a crime busting unit in France or indeed that the LGBTQ+ community had any powers of arrest anywhere. All became clear later, when, as R4 always does, the news was repeated; I had not really heard ‘The Friends of Dorothy’ but ‘The French Authorities’.

Less fun but it made more sense.

‘Timewaster’

Copy date for the next newsletter is 22nd February 2021

Chess Valley u3a Convenors

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

Group	Convenor/s	u3a e-mail
Art	Mo Barnes	art@cvu3a.uk
	Angela Spittle	
Art Discussion 1	Angela Bishop	artdiscuss@cvu3a.uk
Art Discussion 2	Caroline Jenks	artdiscuss2@cvu3a.uk
Art Discussion 3	Helen Barnard	artdiscuss3@cvu3a.uk
Book Group 1	Gillian Eastmond and	bookgroup1@cvu3a.uk
	Mavis Earnshaw	
Book Group 2	Liz Howlett	bookgroup2@cvu3a.uk
	Christine Ross	
Book Group 3	Eileen Overton	bookgroup3@cvu3a.uk
Book Group 4	Jackie Cobb	bookgroup4@cvu3a.uk
Bowls (Short Mat)	Margaret Stickland	bowls@cvu3a.uk
Bridge	John Curtis	bridge@cvu3a.uk
	Patrick Clarke	
Bus Pass Adventures	Anne Muir	buspass@cvu3a.uk
Canasta	Julie Wolstenholme	mahjong@cvu3a.uk
Chess	Peter Schweiger	chess@cvu3a.uk
City of London Churches	Jackie Cobb	londonchurches@cvu3a.uk
Current Affairs	Eileen Overton	currentaffs@cvu3a.uk
Digital Imaging	Liz Stoelker	digimaging@cvu3a.uk
Dinghy Sailing	Wendy Barnes	sailing@cvu3a.uk
	Judith Young	
Eclectic Music	Juliet Crussell	music@cvu3a.uk
	Ron Hartwell	
Family History	Marian Bangs	familyhist@cvu3a.uk
	Sue Broad	
French Conversation	Morag Robertson	frenchcons@cvu3a.uk
French Intermediate	Hilary Alleston	french@cvu3a.uk
Gardening	Janice Cross	garden@cvu3a.uk
German	Jenny Lee	german@cvu3a.uk
History	Claire Paterson	history@cvu3a.uk
	Ian Hutt	
Italian	Joanna Hughes	newitalian@cvu3a.uk
Jazz Appreciation	Danny Robins	jazzmusic@cvu3a.uk
Keep Fit for 60+	Chris Orme	keepfit60@cvu3a.uk
	Diane Bovingdon	
Line Dancing	Lynne Benes	u3alinedance@chiltern-u3a.org.uk
	Linda English	
	Elaine Knowles	

(continues on next page)

Chess Valley u3a Convenors (continued)

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

Group	Convenor/s	u3a e-mail
Mah Jong	Julie Wolstenholme	mahjong@cvu3a.uk
MOTO	Mo Barnes	moto@cvu3a.uk
MOTO 2	Stephanie Macnair	moto2@cvu3a.uk
	Peter Page	
Opera and Dance	(South Bucks u3a)	agopera@sbu3a.org.uk
Patchwork & Quilting	Mary Thompson	patchquilt@cvu3a.uk
	Angela Bratton	
Photography	Keith Hoffmeister	photography@cvu3a.uk
	David Hurd	
Pilates (1, 2 and 3)	Christine Ross	pilates@cvu3a.uk
	Liz Howlett	
Play Reading	Claire Paterson	playread@cvu3a.uk
	Linda Hepworth	
Poetry	Christine Ogborne	poetry@cvu3a.uk
Railways	Graham Yellowley	railways@cvu3a.uk
	James Cadle	
Scrabble for Fun	Tony Muir	groups@cvu3a.uk
Science & Technology	Mike Christianson	sciencetech@cvu3a.uk
	Allan Saunders	
	Peter Twist	
Singing for Pleasure	Angela Bratton	singing@cvu3a.uk
	Stephanie Rothwell	
Spanish Conv (Inter)	Hilary Alleston	spanishconv@cvu3a.uk
Stamps	Brian Feakes	stamps@cvu3a.uk
Tai Chi	Marian Bangs	taichi@cvu3a.uk
	Sue Broad	
Theatre	Chris Aylott	theatre@cvu3a.uk
	Diana Aylott	
Ukulele	Alan Bridges	ukulele@cvu3a.uk
Amblers	Susan Osborne	amblers@cvu3a.uk
Walkers 1	Wendy Nimmo	walkers1@cvu3a.uk
Walkers 2	Sue Rawbone	walkers2@cvu3a.uk
Walkers 3	Mick Rothwell	walkers3@cvu3a.uk
Striders 1	Andrew Brown	striders@cvu3a.uk
Striders 2	Ian Lee	striders21@cvu3a.uk
Walks into History: Country	Tony Biddle	walkshist@cvu3a.uk
	Peter Schweiger	
Walks into History: London	Angela Shipley	walkslondon@cvu3a.uk
Wildlife	Harry Howlett	wildlife@cvu3a.uk
	Keith Sonley	

(continues on next page)

Chess Valley u3a Convenors (continued)

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

Group	Convenor/s	u3a e-mail
Wine Appreciation 1	Pauline & Tom Hohenberg	wine@cvu3a.uk
Wine Appreciation 2	Graham Hitchenor	wine2@cvu3a.uk
Writers	John & Helene Bunyan	writers@cvu3a.uk

Chiltern Arts Festival 2021

The organisers of this event have asked us to mention the socially-distanced concerts they have planned from Friday 26th February to Saturday 6th March 2021. The ones nearest to us include:

Clare Hammond: Helping and Healing

Friday 26th February 2021, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Princes Risborough

An Argentinian Evening with the Nuevo Tango Quintet: Concert, Dinner and Wine Tasting

Wednesday 3rd March 2021, 6pm, The Gatsby, Berkhamsted

Sacconi String Quartet: Diaries and Love Letters

Thursday 4th March 2021, 7pm, St Peter and St Paul's Church, Great Missenden

City of London Sinfonia: Musical Identities

Saturday 6th March 2021, 7pm, St Mary's Church, Old Amersham

You can learn more about these events by visiting their website – www.chilternarts.com.

Quiz Answers for the last newsletter

Round A: History (World War Two)

- 1 Egypt
- 2 The Desert Rats
- 3 Malta
- 4 Petrol
- 5 William Joyce
- 6 Hawker Hurricane
- 7 Uxbridge
- 8 Sea Lion
- 9 Stalingrad
- 10 Doodlebug, Buzz Bomb (Britain); Maybug, Cherry stone (Germany)

Round B: Geography

- 1 Kabul
- 2 Indonesia
- 3 Austin
- 4 George III
- 5 Glasgow
- 6 Aluminium/bauxite
- 7 Alaska
- 8 Bavaria
- 9 South Africa
- 10 Zambia

Round C: Music

- 1 Franz Schubert (8th)
- 2 Led Zeppelin
- 3 Irving Berlin
- 4 Friedrich von Schiller
- 5 Ian Dury
- 6 'Hail to the Chief'
- 7 Thomas Arne
- 8 Chuck Berry
- 9 Austrian
- 10 Parachutes

Round D: Science and Technology

- 1 Jupiter
- 2 Thermionic radio valve
- 3 Hydrochloric acid
- 4 Eurasian magpie
- 5 Binary digit
- 6 Antoine Lavoisier
- 7 1972
- 8 Robert Boyle's
- 9 Reptilia (or Reptiles)
- 10 CERN

Round E: General Knowledge

- 1 The Gentleman Usher of the Black Rod (or just Black Rod)
- 2 West Ham United (hence The Hammers, as used by ship-builders)
- 3 Hôtel Matignon (the Élysée Palace is where the President lives)
- 4 Admiral of the Fleet
- 5 The Pope

News from the Groups

GROUP MEETINGS

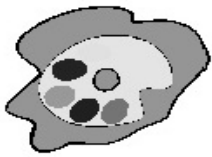
Due to the pandemic, Groups are currently adhering to government guidelines on social distancing and many are carrying on their activities using video conferencing, web resources and social media. All Groups that have vacancies, whether active or dormant, are open to enquiries from new members.

LISTINGS OF GROUPS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Groups that are currently dormant do not have an entry in 'News From The Groups', but readers are reminded that they have not closed and will resume normal activities when it becomes possible.

Art

Mo Barnes & Angela Spittle



We are pleased to announce that a new convenor, Mo Barnes, has come forward to save the Group from disbanding and another member, Angela Spittle, has stepped forward to help Mo, which is excellent news. As the Group have not been able to meet socially yet, no discussion has taken place to decide how it will progress in future.

Art Discussion 1

Angela Bishop



At a most convivial meeting held in a member's conservatory in August, we agreed to venture into Zoom territory. Aably helped by James Cadle, we have now had two meetings. It has not been an easy transition but we are now running rather more smoothly, as members have adapted their technology and two of our group are collating the chosen images to share on a display screen.

The first of these sets featured Victorian art. Some of our chosen works are very well known, like Landseer's *Dignity and Impudence* and Grimshaw's work: *Silver Moonlight*. Others were less well known, like Guthrie's *Pastures New* or Solomon's *First Class -The Meeting*. We only grazed the surface of a lengthy period of art.

Our November meeting chose female artists, prompted by the exhibition in London of Artemisia Gentileschi. Images ranged from the 20th century's Tamara de Lempicka and Frida Kahlo, back to the 17th century's Lavinia Fontana and, of course, Artemisia. We concluded that all were as talented as their male counterparts, but remained largely unrecognised in the world of art. We plan a December meeting on the subject of 'Merry Christmas'.

Art Discussion 2

Caroline Jenks



We now Zoom, 'choreographed' by Caroline, and have had two very entertaining and informative sessions. October's meeting was entitled *Portrait of a Man*, where each member chose a like and a dislike example: Interesting contributions from everyone and teasingly, we had to guess which member had selected which works... mainly unsuccessfully! Likes were easy to find across art history: from Bellini's *Doge of Venice*, a Rembrandt self-portrait and on to a current artist, John Keane's portrait of Bill Morris. Dislikes included a Gauguin, a Schiele, a Warhol, and perhaps surprisingly, Frans Hals' *The Laughing Cavalier*.

November's theme was Favourite Landscape Painting with each of our members choosing one or two examples. We travelled through enormously different landscapes, including a personal recollection of Hampstead Heath, some wild Scottish Highlands, striking depictions of French rural life and a rather perplexing Japanese mountain landscape. Our meeting finished with a quiz, compiled by Caroline, just to see whether we had been concentrating over the past few months!

In December, the theme for our Christmas meeting is Children's Book Illustrations. We shall dress for the occasion and eat mince pies in the comfort of our own homes!



We meet on a Friday morning about every six weeks. Our next meeting is on Zoom and will probably be on January 15th.

In Book Group 1 we do not all read the same book. Instead we, in turn, recommend one or two books we have read to the group by very briefly summarising the theme of the book and then saying what it is we liked about it. Thus, we learn about new books we might like to read, without having to read books we will not like.

At the moment we are operating on Zoom, which is, of course, not quite the same socially as being face to face. However, being normally about nine members at the most, the meetings are working well. As soon as conditions permit we will meet in one or two member's houses. We have room for one or possibly two new members.

Book 2

Liz Howlett & Christine Ross



We held our first Zoom reading group meeting in November; it was great to 'see' everyone again, as well as discussing the book! This was Margaret Foster's biography of Daphne Du Maurier: A good read, it was well written and amazingly well researched. It has prompted us to perhaps re-read some of Daphne's books, or view the film versions.

We have plenty of time in lockdown and now we are armed with our new-found insight into the author's complex personality that colours her writing. We are planning a further Zoom meeting in December. Sadly it won't measure up to our normal Christmas get together and we will so miss Gill's mince pies! As for the next few months, Chesham Library are doing all they can to continue to order book sets for us so our meetings, albeit via Zoom, will hopefully continue into 2021.

Book 3

Eileen Overton



Meetings would normally be held in members' homes at 2pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Availability is governed by the ten books we get each month from Chesham library. We have our full quota of members at the moment but please contact the Convenor in case a vacancy occurs. We have managed to receive *In the Days of Rain* by Rebecca Stott, which we discussed in October. Our November book; *Bring up the Bodies* by Hilary Mantel, was

collected by everyone, thanks to Christine. Unfortunately due to the shutdown, we now have two months to read this book, but hope to be back on track for December when we are due to receive *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. The assistant at the library is busy reserving books for 2021 and we are in the process of supplying more titles. Fingers crossed for 2021. In the meantime we continue to have monthly Zoom meetings as it is good to see each other.

Book 4

Jackie Cobb



We continue to have monthly meetings via Zoom to discuss the books that each of us has chosen. Normally in December we would have a Christmas lunch in a pub, but feel that it is best to give that a miss this year. We will have a Zoom meeting instead and will either talk about a poem or a passage from a book that we enjoyed. Our next year's programme is already filling up with books chosen by individual members.

The first one in the new year will be *Falling* by Elizabeth Jane Howard, followed by *The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson. We will also read *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead. All three books are totally different. This gives us the chance to read some authors that we may not have thought of.

Some people are like Slinkies ... not really good for anything, but you can't help smiling when you see one tumble down the stairs.

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit; Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

(paraprodsokians)



Members of the Canasta Group are managing to keep their spirits up by staying in touch via 'WhatsApp' with messages and jokes.

Current Affairs

Eileen Overton



Meetings are normally held in members' homes at 2pm on the first Thursday of each month. We give our opinions on how to sort out the world's problems in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship. We have continued to have our monthly meetings on Zoom and will do so for the foreseeable future. Luckily there is always something to discuss, obscure topics like the American election, Brexit and Covid, plus whatever anyone wants to discuss or ask others for opinions. If you would like to join us, please contact the convenor for details of our next meeting.

Digital Imaging

Liz Stoelker



We have continued with our Zoom meetings and members appreciate the chance to catch up with one another. In September, Alex talked about 'Conversion to Black and White' so in October's meeting we had quite an animated discussion of members' *Before and After* images and the reasons for their choice of image.

The 2020 Challenge was set by Neil Lynch before the Coronavirus pandemic prevented us holding our normal meetings and has been a focal part of our Zoom meetings. Neil's challenge is to use some or all of the 19 images he provided to make an entirely new image. Throughout the year we have discussed our progress and problems. Neil moved the deadline for submitting our masterpieces to the middle of November, so we will discuss them at the meeting on November 30th. We have been able to look at the results already and there is an amazing variety of approaches to the challenge.

Our December meeting will be via Zoom with the Photography Group and will feature the usual 'Five Minutes of Fame'. But this time, we will have to provide our own drinks and nibbles.

Family History

Sue Broad & Marian Bangs



After cancelling our talks for the rest of 2020, a small group of regular members met together at Chesham Town Hall (when we were able to socially distance, of course) and they decided it would be lovely to keep the group in touch so we decided to try some Zoom sessions but charge £5 for two sessions hoping that enough members joined to cover the speakers' charge.

Luckily, 29 members joined and our first speaker on 6th October was Cathy Soughton, who is a House Historian (and a first time Zoom-er). Cathy gave an interesting presentation and some ideas on how to do our own house research online.

Our second speaker was a real gem. On 3rd November Jane King, a patron of the Foundling Museum in London, gave a fascinating talk about how Thomas Coram, a philanthropist, first struggled in 1739 to establish a hospital for the abandoned babies and children that he frequently saw when on his walks around London. He managed to encourage artist William Hogarth to gift and display one of his paintings to the hospital which then encouraged the wealthy members of society to come, view the picture and donate money. This became the seedbed for the contemporary art scene as we know it. After moving several times, the hospital closed its doors in 1948 after the 'Children Act', which changed what children needed from charities. The hospital reopened as a museum in its present location in Brunswick Square, London and holds the meticulous records of every child who passed through the institution. The painting is still displayed in the museum; well worth a visit.

On 1st December, John Hanson's talk *The Rich, Famous and Bizarre* is scheduled. It covers some of the more unusual people and names on Census and other records. We wanted something cheering to replace our usual Christmas Social, so be warned; we need to be broad-minded as some of the names are all about innuendo. Have your glass of cheer, a mince pie and happy face and join in.

French Conversation

Morag Robertson



We have continued meeting on Zoom and we manage to continue speaking in French. We try to avoid discussions on Covid, but it has been really great to see each other and persevere with our language skills.

New members who are interested in conversing in French are welcome to join us.

French Intermediate

Hilary Alleston

We managed to meet in the garden again, but are now back to Zoom as, even before the November lockdown, we were not all comfortable with meeting indoors. Our autobiographies are progressing well and we have enjoyed learning a bit more about one another's lives before u3a. Like everyone else, we hope to reconvene as soon as we can, maybe after the vaccine has given us more confidence.

Gardening

Janice Cross



As the Gardening Group cannot meet normally, our first Zoom meeting happened on 25th November, when one of our regular speakers, David Marsh, gave a presentation and talk from his lovely home and garden in the Loire Valley, on the subject of *What Makes My Garden Grow*. I will be handing over the reins of the Gardening Group to Stephanie Rothwell and Camilla Plummer at the year-end, so this is me bowing out with grateful thanks for all the support and encouragement I have had from u3a members and Committee. I will still be

around and attending meetings.

Janice

German

Jenny Lee



The German Conversation Group continues to meet twice a month via Zoom and here is an idea of what we get up to: 'Zu tief ins Glas schauen', meaning glass-gazing: A creative way for a German to deny that he's had too much to drink could be to claim he is gazing into the bottom of a glass looking for inspiration to come up with answers to the meaning of life. However if he believes that, it would be a good idea not to drive home!

History

Claire Paterson & Ian Hutt



Back in 'Lockdown' again, but thanks to Zoom we can meet up to listen to and view some interesting topics:

In September, our member Peter Healy, told us about John Dalton, who was a close friend of one of Peter's relatives. He's the scientist you have probably never heard of. It was a comprehensive and well researched presentation of this self-taught man, and his contribution to science. Dalton was born into a Quaker family of limited means, resulting in him having to earn his living at 10 years of age in the service of a wealthy Quaker. At 15, he joined his brother in running a Quaker school. Learning constantly from his peers, he was appointed Teacher of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy at the New College in Manchester.

He introduced atomic theory into chemistry, and researched colour blindness (he and his brother were both sufferers). He experimented with the pressure of gases at different temperatures, which culminated in his Law of Partial Pressures: Dalton's Law. Here he was interested in meteorology from an early age and kept a diary of observations throughout his life. He was a man clearly gifted in the sciences who used those gifts for the good of society.

Another Group member and our Vice-Chairman, Helen Barnard, gave us an interesting overview of the achievements of *William Ewart Gladstone and Family*; a British statesman and Liberal politician whose career lasted 60 years. He was President of the Board of Trade, Leader of the Liberal Party and four times Chancellor of the Exchequer. He served as Prime Minister over four terms and introduced a Bill for Home Rule for Ireland.

He was prominent in discussions over the slave trade, believing that abolition should only be achieved after their "education and the inculcation of industrious habits", and was in favour of the protection of their civil rights. He was fiercely opposed to the Opium Wars.

(cont.)

Throughout his life, he carried out 'rescue work' at night, persuading prostitutes to follow a different path, by finding them new employment through various institutions that he founded.

Married to Catherine Glynn, they had eight children, three of whom became MPs. One of his daughters Helen, became Vice-Principal of Newnham College, Cambridge. Another daughter Mary, became his advisor, confidante and private secretary.

Arguably the greatest political figure of the 19th century, Gladstone dominated the scene and became very popular among the working classes.

Our November talk was closer to home. Peter Borrows, a volunteer at Amersham Museum, and his wife have done a huge amount of research into the history of their home in Whielden Street, Old Amersham and he gave us a fascinating illustrated talk:

Built 300 years ago, he showed floor plans of the house, how it had been squeezed, literally, between two other properties and why it has two front doors! He showed pictures of the cellar where they discovered the access past dwellers would have had to water; an unglazed sump was sunk into the cellar floor, which filled with water which was probably drawn up by pump, to the kitchen above. It rarely fills now due to water abstraction by water companies. He told us of the many folk who had lived at the property and their occupations. Whielden Street is an old Roman Road and has had different names over the period, all based around the current name, though at one time it was known as Union Street because of the workhouse (subsequently Amersham Hospital and now private accommodation). He gave us quite a history lesson; a really intriguing glimpse into past lives. Much more information on this can be found on the Amersham Museum website.

For December, we have a speaker from Wycombe Museum: Keith Spencer will be telling us about *A Tudor Christmas*. We did have plans for an afternoon of mulled wine and Tudor sweetmeats to go with the talk, but, hey ho! ... You could still imbibe at home of course; no driving involved!

Our Programme for 2021 has gone somewhat awry due to speakers not being happy to Zoom. However, we're sure we will sort it out. We will keep you informed.

Jazz Appreciation

Danny Robins



Meetings of the Jazz Appreciation Group have been suspended until further notice. In the meantime we will continue to issue programmes of YouTube clips or jazz-related online performances and information.

We have to thank Rod Stevens for his September programme featuring Omer Simeon, Glenn Miller and George Gershwin. Thanks also to Peter Wakefield for his October programme: Elvis Presley (yes, that Elvis), Julie London and Tubby Hayes. Our November programme covers a selection of popular instrumental and vocal jazz duets.

Our Programmes for December 2020 and 2021:

- December 6 Dave Brubeck - Centenary: *Take Five to Blue Rondo a la Turk*.
- December 29 Jazz-flavoured festive works: A selection of jazz-related video clips.
- January 26 Online programme to be announced.
- February 23 Online programme to be announced.

Keep well, keep safe and keep listening.

Danny

Keep Fit for 60+

Chris Orme & Diane Bovingdon



We mentioned in the last update that the Keep Fit 60+ Group had to stop due to the pandemic. However, over the summer, the teacher held limited classes at her studio/tennis court and a few of us joined in a mix of several classes. In order to continue in the new year, we will need to confirm with both Trisha Baptiste (teacher) and the White Hill Centre that our Keep Fit class can restart. We already have a list of names of those interested, but numbers will be limited. Once we have any information, we shall be in contact with all concerned.



We have all been patiently sewing at home, waiting for the go ahead to meet again at Hyde Heath Hall, to which we are all looking forward. A table runner, an advent calendar, a quilt featuring white stars and Halloween costumes for dolls, all featured in recent work by our members.

We are happy to welcome new members. Please email or telephone one of us for further information. Experience of sewing, but not necessarily patchwork, is an advantage, as is the possession of and familiarity with a sewing machine.

Photography

Keith Hoffmeister & David Hurd



We now meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2pm in the comfort of your own home! Sumptuous refreshments are freely provided. We aim to cover a range of topics of interest to members. Our programme of field trips to places of interest is suspended because of the current restrictions. New members are always welcome, regardless of experience and ability so why not join us without leaving your home.

Our Programme for December 2020 and early 2021:

Dec. 16 th	Christmas Meeting: Five Minutes of Fame
Jan. 20 th	Who nose!!! The members decide
Feb. 17 th	Wattle we do!!!! The members decide

Pilates

Liz Howlett & Christine Ross



Every Monday morning we continue to log in to our teacher Sue's kitchen for our weekly class, now at an earlier time of 9.30am. Slowly over the weeks we've all managed to beg, borrow or steal our own equipment (balls, bands, mats etc.) for, as Sue tells us, even when we do go back to 'real' classes, we'll no longer be able to share her stores of equipment.

So, for those of us still using a cushion instead of a ball, or doing our stretching exercises using an old tie or scarf, now might be the time to add Pilates gear to our Christmas present lists (or splash out and even order a new set of Pilates sportswear for when we can eventually meet up face to face for classes, hopefully in 2021).

Play Reading

Claire Paterson & Linda Hepworth



We have been fortunate to be able to meet face-to-face for the last three meetings, two in members' gardens and one in-house, all under the rule of 6! Having such a lovely summer it has been very pleasant to be outside. I wonder what the neighbours thought?

The first play in August was *The Haunted Bookshop* by Lynn Brittney, a comedy thriller in two acts. The story revolves around a bookshop, obviously, and a young man who becomes charmed by the owner's eccentricities and his wife, and is attracted to their new assistant, Titania. They all become involved in an international conspiracy of life-threatening proportions. Set in 1919 after the war, it is a bit like a Boy's Own adventure story.

Again in a garden in September, we read *Joking Apart* by Alan Ayckbourn, written apparently, in response to comments that he only wrote about unhappy couples. Thus the central couple are perfectly happy; a golden couple. The play pokes fun at envy and jealousy in middle class life as those around them struggle to deal with the fact that their lives are not just quite as blessed. We found the play had little impact on us; unusual for an Ayckbourn play.

In house for October, our play was Ben Travers' *After You with the Milk*: A saucy, fast-moving comedy played out in a 1935 heat wave. Centred around Dottie, who is young, attractive and slightly dizzy and unable to say NO. She is kind and soft-hearted which leads her into a life of turmoil: Quite a risqué play with some strong language which was written at the end of his life, but never performed. (cont.)

Although Travers held strong religious beliefs, his views on chastity were unorthodox, being that "sex was nature's act - God's will". We were certainly surprised by the play, but could imagine it in the theatre as a great farce, his usual genre.

Poetry

Christine Ogborne

We hope to meet in person as soon as we are allowed to do so, but for the time being our session in September saw us exchanging our choices of poems by email, and reading and enjoying the subject of 'Ships and Boats.' Chosen favourites were *Sailing to an Island* by Richard Murphy, *Tugboat Poet* by Norman MacCaig and *Afterlives* by Derek Mahon, who wrote several poems about the Titanic.

In October, we turned our attention to John Keats and looked at some lovely verses by him, such as the sonnet: *To Sleep; A Song About Myself*. We also looked at *The Human Seasons* and *On First Looking Into Chapman's Homer*. Our November session concerned The Georgian Poets; a movement formed during the reign of George V, between 1910-1936. Masfield, Sassoon, Graves, Abercrombie and de la Mare were read and enjoyed.

Our future emails sessions will be:

December: Christmas Poetry
28 January: Winter
25 February: Robert Browning

Railways

Graham Yellowley & James Cadle



The Railways Group has had some excellent talks recently and we have speakers confirmed every month through to June 2021. Zoom has proved extremely useful given the current situation though it would be nice to be able to meet together at some point and restart visits to Railways. Our recent talks were:

September 11th: Jeff Rozelaar: *Homeward Bound*. Rescheduled from July, this was worth the wait as it was a wonderful talk by Jeff on various stations around the UK, with amusing anecdotes and architectural discussion throughout: A very entertaining talk and it is a shame that this is Jeff's only Railway talk (he does 24 other talks).

October 16th: Keith Hoffmeister: *HS2 and its impact on Buckinghamshire*. Keith is documenting the HS2 sites in Buckinghamshire and photographing them at various stages of work. It's very dramatic to see the changes being enforced onto the countryside as Keith led us through various HS2 sites showing them as greenfield, the initial work site then the full-blown work in progress. It was a really excellent presentation. Keith continues to record these seismic changes and all of his photographs can be seen at <https://chilternsociety.org.uk/hs2-photo-diary/>

Francis Gomme will have presented a talk for our November session on *Metroland: The Metropolitan Railway*.

The Programme for the rest of 2020 and the start of 2021 now looks like this:

December 18: James Cadle: *The Piccadilly Line*
January 2021: Peter Oakden: *Around the World on 80 Trains*
February: Mike Bunn: *High Speed Rail in France*
March: Jim Ballantyne: *South American Railways*
April: John Laker: *Swiss Railways*
May: Ted Cooper: *Buckinghamshire Railway Centre*
June: Jeffrey Ryan: *The Life & Times of 48773*

Please contact the Convenors if you wish to join the Group. You will be very welcome.

The pessimist only sees darkness in the railway tunnel. The optimist sees light at the end of the railway tunnel. The realist sees a light approaching the railway tunnel.

The train driver sees three idiots on the track.

(upjoke.com)



Our talks will be via Zoom Meetings until further notice. The link for the meetings will be sent to members close to the proposed date.

December 21 Christmas Science Quiz.

January 18 Meeting about 2021 Schedule plus Video.

February 15 Anthony Jenks: *Navigating by the Stars*.

Singing for Pleasure

Stephanie Rothwell & Angela Bratton



On a blustery, cool afternoon on Monday 7th September, 22 members of the Singing for Pleasure Group met on Winchmore Hill Common for an outdoor singalong. We had been granted permission by Penn Parish Council, so long as we did not exceed the maximum number of 30 people being allowed to meet in an outdoor space.

It was a very successful event and gave us all an opportunity to meet our new choir leader, Ali. It was also a great chance to catch up with members, some of whom we hadn't seen since the last rehearsal in March.

We had hoped to repeat the outdoor rehearsal later on in the month but unfortunately the government decreed that no gatherings of more than 6 would be allowed even outdoors, so it had to be cancelled.

More recently we have resorted to Zoom rehearsals twice a month. Ali has organised these for us and sent us copies of songs to download as well as tracks of individual parts to help us practise. Although it's good to have the chance to sing, it's not the same as meeting as a whole group and having the support of your fellow choristers.

During lockdown, one of our members, David Hurd, put together a recording of a four-part harmony version of Amazing Grace. Basses, tenors, altos and sopranos recorded their individual part in the privacy of their home and sent it on to David who, with his technical wizardry, put them all together. It sounds very good.

For the time being we will continue with our twice monthly Zoom rehearsals but are really looking forward to the day when we can meet together again as a group and work with Ali who has great plans for us.

Spanish Conversation (Intermediate)

Hilary Alleston



As with French, we carried on meeting outdoors as long as possible, but now it's Zoom again. We have been learning more about one another through our autobiographical pieces and we keep up to date with whatever activities we have been able to enjoy, despite the restrictions. We hope to meet in person again soon; we'll miss our seasonal celebrations!

Tai Chi

Sue Broad & Marian Bangs



We have had an on-and-off period of Tai Chi. 15 members joined a weekly Zoom session with our tutor. Then we managed four weeks actually meeting in the White Hill Centre, as the official body of Tai chi agreed that as the hall was Covid19 checked and two metre rule was applied, it would be safe to continue. We are now back to Zoom sessions again.

Anyone in the group is welcome to join in as we are not number restricted and we all feel that although we mostly concentrate on warm up exercises with a couple of the eight movements at the end of the session, we all feel the better for the exercise. And now 'The Times' has given Tai Chi such a good write up, we expect more members to apply when we eventually return to actual meetings. The Group was full before and if all return, there may have to be a waiting list.

A pessimist sees the glass as half empty. An optimist sees the glass as half full.

An engineer redesigns the glass to hold half the amount of liquid.

(Pete)

Theatre



We are so sorry to report that, for the time being, the Theatre Group is inactive. Not only are almost all theatres closed, but the thought of taking a large number of people anywhere by coach is unthinkable at the present time.

We just hope that, once we have all been offered and accepted anti-Covid vaccines and theatres start to re-open, the Theatre Group will be able to start up again.

Three of our members have offered to act as Convenors, but a few more people who could assist in planning and/or organising theatre visits would be warmly welcomed.

Ukulele

Alan Bridges



Unfortunately the Ukulele Group are still not able to meet physically due to the continuing problems with Covid 19, so we continue having our 'virtual' practice sessions on Zoom.

The Zoom sessions have their limitations as we can't have everyone strumming and singing together; one person has to lead the song while everyone else is muted, so my thanks go to Jeff and Nigel for helping out by leading some of the songs. Thanks also to all those members who join in our Zoom meetings. I know it's not perfect, but it's always nice to see all your smiling faces.

Since the start of lockdown, we have been trying out several new songs with some tricky chords that have been a bit of a challenge. I look forward to the time when we can meet up again and hear what these songs sound like with us all playing together.

I'm also wondering if there is anyone out there who would be interested in joining the Group, not necessarily to play a ukulele but as a percussionist to give the sound we produce a bit more depth, a bass player would be ideal, so any thoughts and ideas, please call.

Walking Groups

Walking groups are remaining active whenever possible and working within the government guidelines concerning social distancing and risk assessment. Individuals from the Groups are also walking individually to scout new routes.

Amblers (3 - 4 miles)

Sue Osborne

On Tuesday 8th October after a socially distanced recce, risk assessment and track and trace details recorded, two groups set out from Cholesbury cricket pavilion at separate times; and never the twain met. It was a mild morning and we walked along tracks through the woods past the Holy pond, the church, ditch and mound round the Iron Age hill fort. We encountered no stiles and not much in the way of hills. It was a gentle, sociable autumnal outing.

Liza Wormell

Unfortunately, November's walk from Hervines Park, Amersham was cancelled owing to the new restrictions. We hope it will go ahead in December; Fingers crossed!

Walkers (5 - 7 miles)

Walkers 1

Wendy Nimmo

What a year! For some people, Covid regulations have meant that they have not been able to meet and to enjoy their special interests, but the Walkers have been very lucky. At times we have been able to meet in small groups and continue to enjoy our lovely countryside, and after our walks, instead of the pub, we would have a picnic. Now, of course, we can't even do that, but some of us are meeting one-on-one for a walk; not the same but at least we can get some fresh air and exercise. Couples of course can and do still walk.

(cont.)

Goodness knows what we'll do for our Christmas walk; I doubt we'll be able to meet in a pub and in some ways this is not particularly appealing in these times. What we shall have to do is bring hot water bottles and rugs along with our sandwiches and thermoses of mulled wine. Maybe we can persuade a publican to make us some bacon sandwiches somewhere!

With best wishes, and stay safe.

Walkers 2

Sue Rawbone

After four months of not being able to walk, Walkers 2 started again in July with small group walks and my thanks go to everyone who has either led a walk or taken part. I will ask in January if people would like to continue with these walks, assuming that it will be possible once again.

Unfortunately as a group we have had a rather sad time this year with two of our longstanding members having passed away. Both Jenny Motion and Mike Blanchard were members from the beginning in January 2009 and are sadly missed. The Chiltern Society are installing a gate to replace a stile along Pednor Bottom in memory of Mike and are also replacing the plaque on the gate along the Chess Valley near Latimer in memory of Hew Motion with another which will be in memory of both Jenny and Hew.

2021 will all too soon be with us so let us hope that the promise of a vaccine will materialise in the New Year and we can then get together in larger numbers. Happy walking in the meantime, keep well and enjoy your Christmas.

Striders 1 & 2 (7 - 15 miles)

Andrew Brown & Ian Lee



In the last newsletter, Ian opened by quoting Bob Dylan: 'the times they are a-changing'. Well, they still are 'a-changing'. As I write this, we have just started the second lockdown. Before then, informal walks had started with leaders inviting five fellow Striders to join them on a walk. With pubs open, groups were also back in the tradition of ending the walk with a pub lunch (although sometimes sitting outside). One group had their coffee break at Tring Park, part way through their seven and a half mile walk from the 'Full Moon' in Cholesbury (picture on inside of front cover; ed). Some Striders nobly offered to lead their walks multiple times over the course of a couple of weeks, so more Striders could participate. With the current rules, we can only meet with one person so all the group walks have ceased for the time being. And who knows what things will be like when we are out of the lockdown - which should be around the time this newsletter is published. Needless to say Ian and I are keen to get normal Striders' walking resumed as soon as circumstances permit.

With all the current uncertainty, our Christmas walk and lunch on 8th December cannot take place. In recent years this has been a major fundraising event for the Belarus Children's Hospice, a charity administered locally by some of our members, and we know that Striders are keen to continue their support for the charity. So this year we are planning to put on a quiz, a raffle and some Christmas entertainment: All over Zoom! All members will have received emails with details of the event by now. Do contact Ian or myself if you have not.

Here's hoping that we can get back to 'normal' Striders' activities soon in 2021.

Meanwhile, if any readers are interested in joining one or other of the Striders' Groups, please contact either Andrew Brown (Striders 1) or Ian Lee (Striders 2). In normal circumstances, Striders 1 walk on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month and Striders 2, on the first and third Tuesdays.

Andrew Brown

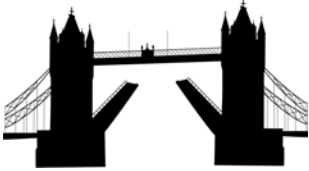
Walks into History: Country

Tony Biddle & Peter Schweiger



Walks into History (local) had stalled due to the dreaded Covid. However, I am reviving them virtually and reminding the 105 people in our group of the places we have been to since 2013. We are doing it by Zoom and I will show pictures of the towns and villages, along with those that took part. One of the places was the former prison in Buckingham town: Now we can break out. Another was Windsor, where we can go swan upping on the Thames. Oh what sweet memories.

Peter Schweiger

Virtual Tour of Regent's Park: October 14th

This 'walk' encompassed history, architecture and gardening in equal measure with a spot of zoology thrown in for the group that got as far as the zoo. We were taken on an anticlockwise tour of the Park, crossing the inner and outer ring roads, which surround the main features.

The historical background gave us insight into this most famous of our wonderful Royal Parks, originally part of the Manor of Tyburn and Barking Abbey. Henry VIII appropriated it in the 1530s during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, using it for hunting and forestry. It remained state property. When George III became mentally ill and his son, later George IV, became Prince Regent, he planned a summer palace designed by architect John Nash, along with grand villas around the perimeter to pay for it. Before long he lost interest and it was never built. The land was given to various societies, the Royal Botanical Society being one. Nowadays, all 500 acres are owned by the crown and run by the Royal Parks department, with the lakes and ponds being fed by the River Tyburn.

We paused in Queen Mary's Gardens, commissioned by George V in 1935 for their Silver Jubilee, a formal layout of flower and rose beds, befitting a queen dedicated to gardening. Then on to the secret and little visited gardens of St John's Lodge, behind the John Nash villa. The lease for this was purchased in 1888 by the Marquis of Bute and it is now owned by a Russian magnate. If you want a quiet moment with a book, this is the place to head for. Nearby, the Open Air Theatre is the oldest in England with continuous performances taking place.

The Marylebone Road, now a busy dual carriageway, was England's first by-pass, diverting the cattle heading for Smithfield's Market away from Oxford Street and back on the Outer Ring Road. We came to an incongruous, modern plain building which today houses the Royal College of Physicians, which lately celebrated its 500th anniversary. This was built on the site of an adult orphanage funded by John Nash to provide for women whose parent had died, and who could not support themselves.

Regents Park also sports a lawn tennis club, a modern sports hall at its centre, a community of breeding herons and, of course, the Zoo, the world's oldest scientific centre which opened in 1828 and soon housed the animals from the Tower of London Menagerie. It has been open to the public since 1847, until now, that is! Not forgetting, on the periphery, the Central London Mosque, completed in 1977 with its prominent golden dome and a main hall accommodating 5000 male worshippers with women praying on the overlooking balcony.

There is much to explore, leaving many of us promising ourselves a trip to London to take a closer and more careful look, once we are able.

Angela Shipley

Wildlife**Harry Howlett & Keith Sonley**

The Wildlife group has continued to function through to the end of the year and currently we are just under eighty in number. In these difficult circumstances, we have distanced ourselves from Zoom meetings, preferring to opt for snapshots, videos and quizzes.

Themed videos have been prepared from photos sent in by members, with a bit of educational material thrown in for good measure. First, it was flighty little things such as butterflies and moths, then it was hands on knees, searching for fungi, followed in early December by a collation of photos depicting Autumn. A photo (taken before Covid, in 2017) shows how keen the Group had been in identifying the finest fungi specimens. Sadly, this picture reminds us of the late Jenny Motion who was a friend and very enthusiastic member of the Group. (*Picture on back inside page, Jenny is front row, second from right, ed.*) She will be missed by us all. Interspersed between the videos was a caption competition setting new creative heights for the membership. Looking ahead to the New Year, the wildlife group intends to see beyond the present epidemic to the time when normal behaviour with physical meetings can be restored, washed down with afternoon tea and a good natter (how civilised!!!).

(cont.)

Our speakers for 2020 remain on hold and we hope to be able to invite them to Amersham Common Village Hall before the middle of 2021.

If you would like to join the Group, please email the Convenors on wildlife@cvu3a.uk

Wine Appreciation 1

Pauline & Tom Hohenberg



Covid has, of course, had a dramatic effect on our Group's activities but we have managed to keep going through a mixture of outdoor meetings and splitting the group into sub groups of six when the regulations allowed. In August we managed a full socially distanced meeting in the garden when each couple were asked to bring a wine of their choice. This elicited a wide range of wines: a Cote de Provence Rose, a Cote de Gascogne Colombard White, A Chablis from Laithwaites, a French Sauvignon Blanc, a Lagunilla Rioja Reserva and a Pinot Noir personally imported from South Africa.

In September and October the Group was split into different groups of six and each couple provided a suitable bottle to sample. In November, it was back to Zoom.

Writers

Helene & John Bunyan



Happily, we were able to manage our September meeting in one of our member's gardens in and around a beautiful summer-house, under a perfect sky. Sadly we are in lockdown again so that was our only physical meeting and we have since reverted back to Zoom. Topics enthusiastically covered by the Group this quarter have consisted of Urban Myths, At the End of the Garden and Chocolate. Our December topic will be The River.

We welcome new members.

Q) What happened to the man who stole an Advent Calendar? A) He got 25 days.

Q) What do they sing at a snowman's birthday party? A) Freeze a jolly good fellow.

Q) Why did Santa get a parking ticket on Christmas Eve? A) He left his sleigh in a snow-parking zone.
(inews.co.uk/light-relief)

BRAIN TEASER: THE HERMIT AND THE BAGS OF GOLD

An adventurer climbs a remote mountain in the Himalayas. He comes across a hermit who has been living there by himself for many years. He engages in conversation with the hermit for several hours. The hermit is so grateful for some company that he makes a gift to the adventurer before he goes on his way.

He produces three large bags of gold coins. He tells the adventurer that he can take two of the bags away with him. However, one bag contains false coins that are identical to the gold coins, but worthless. Each gold coin weighs 20 grams. The false coins each weigh 19 grams. It is not possible to tell which is the lighter by weighing them in the hand.

He then produces a weighing machine. It is of the single pan type and is very accurate. He tells the adventurer that he can take coins out of any of the bags and weigh them. On the basis of that, he can select the two bags that he will take away.

BUT:

The adventurer is only allowed to use the weighing machine ONCE.

QUESTION: How can the adventurer make absolutely certain he goes away with the two bags of real gold coins, with one single use of the weighing machine? (Answer in December's Chairman's e-Bulletin)



Chess Valley u3a Groups Schedule

Note: This is the normal schedule for face-to-face meetings. Some Groups are operating slightly differently during the COVID-19 restrictions.

FIRST in month				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Art Discussion 2 (pm)	Walkers 1	Walkers 3	Wildlife	Bowls (Short Mat) (pm)
Pilates Classes 1,2 and 3 (am/pm)	Striders 2	Patchwork and Quilting (am)	Current Affairs (pm)	
Singing for Pleasure (eve)	Tai Chi (am)	Spanish Conversation (am)	Italian (pm)	
<i>Monday groups sometimes have their schedules interrupted by public holidays; contact the Convenors for more information</i>	Family History (pm)	German (am)	Keep Fit (pm)	
	Ukulele (pm)	Book 2 (am)	<i>Book 1 meets at irregular intervals throughout the year Jazz Appreciation meets on the last Tuesday of each month (pm) Tai Chi meets in school term-times only</i>	
		Bridge (pm)		
		Wine 2 (eve) (pm)		

SECOND in month				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
History (pm)	Amblers	Walks into History OR Walks into London (alternate months)	Art Discussion 1 (am)	Bowls (Short Mat) (pm)
Mah Jong (pm)	Striders 1		Keep Fit (pm)	<i>The Chess Valley u3a Committee meets on the first or second Tuesday of each month, two days before the General Meeting</i>
Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm)	Art (am)	Line Dancing (am)	General Meeting (pm)	
Singing for Pleasure (eve)	Tai Chi (am)	French Conversation (am)		
	Dinghy Sailing (pm)	Bridge (pm)		
	Writers (pm)			

THIRD in month				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Science and Technology (pm)	Walkers 1	Patchwork and Quilting (all day)	Book 4 (am)	Railways (am)
Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm)	Striders 2	German (am)	Art Discussion 3 (pm)#	Bows (Short Mat) (pm)
Canasta (pm)	Tai Chi (am)	Spanish Conversation (Intermediate) (am)	Italian (pm)	
Singing for Pleasure (eve)	Book 3 (pm)	Photography (pm)	Keep Fit (pm)	
	Ukulele (pm)	Play Reading (pm)	<i>#Art Discussion 3 is temporarily suspended MOTO (Members On Their Own) have an 'anchor meeting' on the first Saturday morning of each month</i>	
	Scrabble for Fun (pm)	Bridge (pm)		

FOURTH in month				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Digital Imaging (am)	Striders 1	French Conversation (am)	Bus Pass Adventures	Chess (pm)
Mah Jong (pm)	Art (am)	French Intermediate (am)	Walkers 2	Opera and Dance# (pm)
Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm)	Tai Chi (am)	Line Dancing (am)	Eclectic Music (pm)	Bowls (Short Mat) (pm)
Singing for Pleasure (eve)	Jazz Appreciation (pm)	Dinghy Sailing (pm)	Poetry (pm)	<i># Opera and Dance is run by South Bucks U3A and Chess Valley members are welcome to attend</i>
Stamps (odd months only)		Gardening (pm)	Keep Fit (pm)	
		Bridge (pm)	Wine 1 (eve)	



Clockwise (from the top):

From 2017 (before anyone had heard of social distancing) Wildlife Group members at the end of a hunt for fungi, work on identification: In memory of Jenny Motion, front row, second from right.

A lovely white star quilt made by Pat Woodhouse from the Patchwork & Quilting Group.

More autumn pictures from the Photography Group: Reflections on Childhood and Autumn Colours again, this time at Chenies Manor.

Mary Thompson from Patchwork & Quilting, created this wonderful Advent Calendar.





Keith Hoffmeister, intrepid Convenor of the Photography Group, has been diligently documenting the inexorable progress of HS2. He presented his work (to date) at a Special General Meeting of CVu3a on October 29th using Zoom. These are just three of the 'before and after' sets shown during his talk to a record number of on-line attendees. They give some indication of how the landscapes of field, hedgerow and woodland have altered.

(Top): Aerial view of Tile House Lane at the Chiltern Tunnel South Cutting.
 (Centre): View looking North from Tile House Lane towards the tunnel portal.
 (Bottom:) Bottom House Farm Lane.