



December 2020

Tunbridge Wells

learn,  
laugh,  
live

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

As I write, the introduction of Tier 3 has caused Disgusted, Tunbridge Wells to live up to its name! Let's hope that the restrictions (and the need for them) will soon be a thing of the past. Meanwhile, although we cannot celebrate together in the normal way, we hope you will find lots to read and do in the Newsletter.

As well as our usual virtual walks and talks, there will be a virtual coffee morning on 11<sup>th</sup> December. Do come and join us. If you are not yet a Zoom user, why not come to the trial before the coffee morning?

Zoomers will also be able to join Sandra for a quiz on Boxing Day.

There is no need to be "techy" to try the crossword, the quiz or join in the Photographic Competition, all of which you will find below.

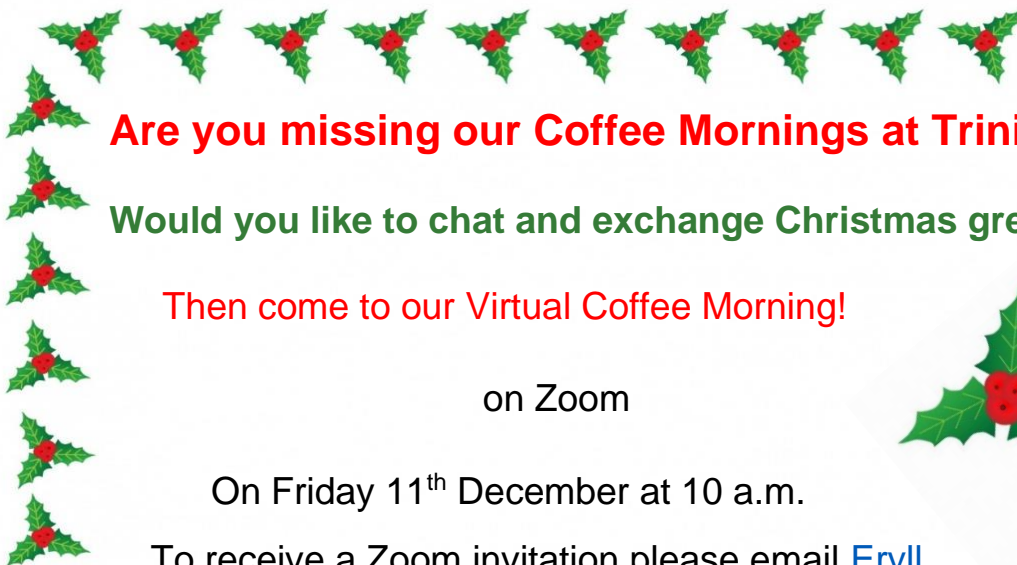
This festive season is going to be strange for us all and the Committee and I hope that you will be able to have a happy one nevertheless.

We wish you all a Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year

Eryll (01892 513805)

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**Are you missing our Coffee Mornings at Trinity?**

**Would you like to chat and exchange Christmas greetings?**

**Then come to our Virtual Coffee Morning!**

on Zoom

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 10 a.m.

To receive a Zoom invitation please email [Eryll](#)



## **Getting to grips with Zoom**

Would you like to join a Zoom interest group or the monthly walks and talks but you are unsure how to approach Zoom for the first time? Come and join our friendly Drop-in session.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December  
anytime between 5.30- 7pm

Please contact [Lindsay](#) for details. (01892 673180)



## **BOXING DAY QUIZ**

A quiz on **Zoom** at 11am

Put the kettle on or have an early sherry!

Grab a mince pie

**Join us for a Festive get together**

Contact [Sandra](#) for your **Zoom** invitation



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Last month we put out a plea for someone to help with our **publicity**. We have not had a single response! Surely there is someone in our u3a who has experience of working with the press and other media, or who would like to try. Please don't hold back. Advice will be available from the South East Region Publicity Officer so it won't be a case of going it alone, and it is going to be a crucial role as our recruitment campaign gets into gear.

We also **urgently** need someone to help us with our **website**. Have you looked at [tunbridgewellsu3a.org/](http://tunbridgewellsu3a.org/) and found it wanting? We are trying to give it a new look but we need someone with IT and website experience to lend a hand. Are we going to have to rely on someone's grandchild to help us? There must be someone reading this who can help!

Finally, as Pathfinders for the national u3a Recruitment Project, we shall be starting our recruitment campaign in the New Year. We would like to put together a small **Recruitment Team** to help with ideas, publicity, distribution and anything else that crops up – another excellent opportunity for members to get involved.

**By the Members, For the Members: a u3a motto**

So, whether you are a new member or one of long-standing, please contact me for further details about any of the roles above.

[Eryll Fabian](#) (01892 513805)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Join us at the free monthly Zoom talk on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 2.30  
for Pete Allen's...**

### **'Oh No It Isn't': A History of Pantomime**

What is it about Pantomime that attracts us to this strange concoction of fairy tales, dance, jokes, songs and cross-dressing? And what is it really like to play the back end of a Pantomime Cow? All this, and the answer to whether something really is behind you will be answered in this festive talk about what has become one of the great British Christmas traditions.

## WINTER ZOOM TALKS

Bob Slater, our talks organiser has put together a great programme of talks to keep us entertained until April. More details will be released nearer the time, but these are the dates to put in your diary. If you're not already on the mailing list, then email [suebrimlow@btinternet.com](mailto:suebrimlow@btinternet.com) to be added to the group.

7 <sup>th</sup> January	John Griffiths-Colby	Staff Nurse Emily Connell's Autograph Book
21 <sup>st</sup> January	Gilly Halcrow	The Shetland Bus – WW11
4 <sup>th</sup> February	James Taylor	Brilliant British Humour in the forgotten art of the Picture Postcard
18 <sup>th</sup> February	Diana Small	Roman Londinium to London in Modern Times
4 <sup>th</sup> March	Delia Taylor	The Pre-Raphaelites – Their Lives, Lovers & Legacy
18 <sup>th</sup> March	Guide Dogs for the Blind	
1 <sup>st</sup> April	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Bruges – More than just chocolate

## WINTER PHOTO COMPETITION

Here's a little project for you budding photographers out there.

The theme is **WINTER**: Can you picture a beautiful scene or an iconic object that epitomises winter?

Photographs will be exhibited on the TWu3a website and the winners will be in February's newsletter and on our Facebook page.

**PRIZES**: The best 3 photos will receive a bottle of wine (as recommended by the wine appreciation group)

Please send your photos to the editor by post (1 Onslow House, Castle Rd, TW, TN4 8BY) or [email](#). The deadline is January 15<sup>th</sup>.

The rules are simple - only one photo each and no people.

If you have a real camera, images should be in jpeg and up to 1500 pixels. If you are using your phone the pixels should not be a problem.

Also please sign & include this disclaimer in your email or envelope.

By submitting my photograph to this competition, I confirm that:

- I am the sole author (and owner) of this photograph.
- The photograph is not of, and does not include, any people.
- I give permission for TWu3a to display this photo in the TWu3a Newsletter, website and Facebook page and I understand that it may not always be possible to credit me as the photographer.



Please be as inventive as you like. **GOOD LUCK**



## LAST MONTH'S TALKS

## A Tour of Elizabethan London Nick Dobson 5<sup>th</sup> November

Here is my favourite fact from a talk that was jam-packed with information.

There was a building near Cheapside called the Longhouse. It was the first public toilet to be segregated by gender – 64 seats for men and 64 for women. It was flushed twice a day by the Thames. Built around 1421 it was destroyed in the Great Fire.

Nick very generously gave us access to the downloadable copy of his talk. This is how it starts-



London 1600. The population had increased rapidly from around 100,000 in 1500 to 200,000 a century later. Changes in agriculture during the Elizabethan period led to people leaving the countryside, and their village lives, to search for employment in towns and cities such as London. The result was a warren of crowded, narrow streets. And our capital over 400 years ago was a noisy place, salesmen shouted out their wares, bells rang and beggars could be heard on every street corner.

Hygiene was a serious problem; waste had to be regularly removed from alleyways and diseases such as smallpox, "sweating sickness" and the plague spread easily through the street crowds. As we walk the streets of London on our virtual tour, beware the slippery cobbles, running wet with human refuse.

If you would like to download a free copy contact [Sue Brimlow](#) for the link.



## Antonia Gallop Across India on a Royal Enfield Motorcycle 19<sup>th</sup> November

Antonia is not daunted by a bit of adventure; she made her first attempt at swimming the channel when she was fourteen.

Eight days after being hospitalized with a bout of ulcerative colitis she was on a plane to India to take part in a charity ride across Rajasthan. A quick lesson on how to ride the Enfield and the rules of the Indian road - use your horns & lights at all times! - and they were off. Antonia attributes the loss of 3 fillings to the vibrating motorcycle over 12 days of bumpy roads and unmade tracks. They were a largish group of foreigners dressed in leathers and helmets and caused a stir wherever they stopped. The locals ride in vests and flip flops.



Toilets were always an issue, often being unsanitary and full of mosquitos and bluebottles. Dignity was soon swapped for expedience and using the outdoors was frequently preferable or the only option.

One stop was particularly memorable -the Karni Mata Temple. It is dedicated to rats and thousands live in the temple. And worshippers do sometimes drink milk from the same bowls as the rats.

The money raised went to SCOPE and helped install a track that prevents wheelchairs coming off paths and so allows their users more independence.

### Colin's Quick Quiz

### IT'S CHRISTMAS!!

1. How many points does a snowflake have?
2. Which church stands on the site believed to be the birthplace of Jesus?
3. Shakespeare wrote a play for Queen Elizabeth 1 as a Christmas present, which one?
4. Which church does the present Queen and other royalty attend Morning service on Christmas Day?
5. Who told Joseph the baby's name was to be Jesus?
6. Which country does the Christmas plant poinsettia come from?
7. Who invented the Christmas cracker?
8. Who wrote the first Christmas broadcast message for the then King?
9. The wise men gave gifts to the baby Jesus including myrrh, why was it valued?
10. Which film features the song White Christmas by Bing Crosby?



## LAST MONTH'S WALKS WITH CAROLINE PIPER

**10<sup>th</sup> November The Silly Stuarts and Harmless Hanoverians (as seen in their portraits at the National Portrait Gallery)**

As always Caroline's tour was chockablock full of information that left us wondering what we ever did in our history lessons. We raced from portrait to portrait taking in 8 monarchs from 1660 to 1830. Here are 2 of the highlights – both rather ostentatious and lascivious characters.



**Charles II** The monarchy was restored in 1660 and the oldest of the present Crown Jewels date from this coronation. He married Catherine of Braganza who decreed that there should be no flowers in Green Park - the story is that she was furious when Charles had picked flowers there for his mistress! Four of these mistresses were mentioned. (Caroline calls them Charlie's Angels!) Barbara Palmer – beautiful, passionate and addicted to gambling. She had six of his illegitimate children. Frances Stewart – kept him chasing her for four years and is the model for the Britannia's head on British coins. Louise de Keroualle – a pale, sulky woman who was disliked by everyone but the Queen. Nell Gwynne – probably the most famous and well liked of his mistresses as she was English and Protestant.

*King Charles II, attributed to Thomas Hawker, oil on canvas c 1680, NPG 4691. Copyright: National Portrait Gallery, London*



**George IV** When George III's mental illness left him blind, deaf and demented his son was made Prince Regent. The Prince had himself painted as the

dashing action hero he wanted to be. In reality he was a vain, profligate, womaniser whose reputation did not endear him to the public. He was married secretly to Maria Fitzherbert and illegally as she was Catholic. This did not stop him also marrying Caroline of Brunswick and they loathed each other and lived separate lives. His overindulgent lifestyle left him suffering from obesity, breathlessness, gout, and hardened arteries leading him to become a laudanum addict.

*King George IV, after Sir Thomas Lawrence, oil on canvas c 1815, NPG 2503. Copyright: National Portrait Gallery, London*



**THE NEW YEAR IS COMING! *Have you got your diary yet?***

If you would like one please send a cheque for £3 payable to TW U3A with a stamped, (large first class £1.15, or large second class £0.88) long envelope to me at: 5 Broadwater Court, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5PB or phone me on 01892 513805.

If getting a large letter stamp is a problem, include the postage in your cheque and I will stamp the envelope for you! Eryll

## 24<sup>th</sup> November A leisurely meander around the South Eastern Cotwolds

Picture the Cotwolds: dry stone walls, rolling hills, sheep, hedgerows, market towns, local manor houses – all quintessentially English. This Area of Natural Beauty covers 790 square miles and reaches to Bath, Worcester, Stratford, Oxford and Cirencester. 'Cots' are sheep enclosures and 'wolds' are gentle hills.



The wool trade was very important to the area and the sheep of choice was the Cotswold Lion – its fleece has longer threads and produces finer wool.



This is Arlington Row in Bibury. One of the most photographed places in the Cotswolds. William Morris reportedly said it was the prettiest view in England and it is a location in Bridget Jones' Diary. **There will be a Part 2 of this tour next year.**

### The Little Books of Interesting Walks

To order a book, please email me with your name and address and the book(s) that you want. Ideally, make an online transfer to Tunbridge Wells University of the Third Age, sort code 40-52-40, account number 00024097, with the reference **Walks plus your surname**. e.g. mine will be WalksBrimlow, so we can identify who has paid.

We prefer online banking, however, we know not everyone can do this, so alternatively you can send a cheque. Cheques should be made payable to TWU3A and sent to Sue Brimlow, 1 The Grange, Langton Green TN3 0HR.

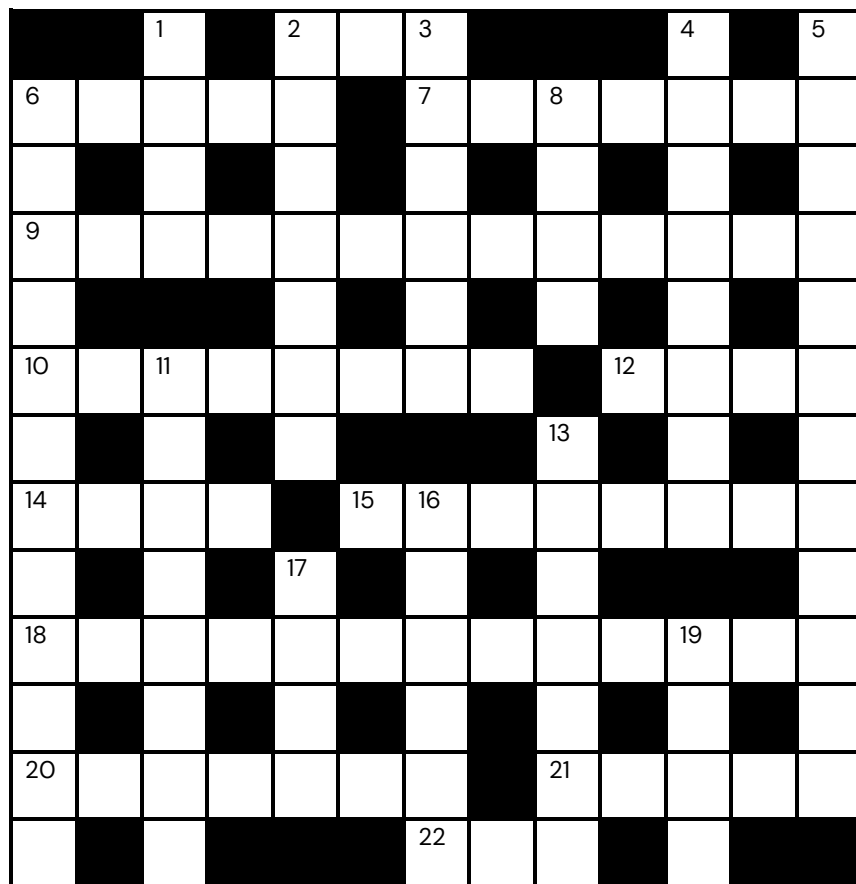


1 book costs £5.65 including postage  
2 books costs £10.40 including postage  
The set of 3 books costs £13.50 including  
free postage

**All profits go towards the conservation of the Georgian Court Dress**



**This month's crossword from Eastbourne Meads has a FILM theme.**



**DOWN**

1. The widow's coin changed for something. (4)
2. Computer program – praise and cheer. (7)
3. Chicken English student put before seafood. (6)
4. Supporter holds a butter for big cat character. (8)
5. Heart-throb Colin off shortly with Bonnie's pal to coastal inlet. (5, 2, 5)
6. Thirties actor played role while sad. (6, 6)
8. Film part of eye. (4)
11. The good Samaritan decided not to do this. (2, 4, 2)
13. Award by Metropolis radio for being overweight. (7)
16. Opposition to cowboy housed in Diana's new apartment. (6)
17. Start of extended seminar course confirmed by local authority in South East. (1, 1, 1, 1)
19. Up or down is the same for Fallen Angel director. (4)

**ACROSS**

2. Rescue vessel reported making curve. (3)
6. Slow down rent increase. (3, 2)
7. Folded paper Giro sent back with French friend. (7)
9. Alteration needed to hotel: Mike is making romantic comedy film. (4, 4, 2, 3)
10. Faked ID, return to unwanted guest. (8)
12. Denial about Queen becomes movie about Emperor. (4)
14. Self-promotion in Hollywood is hard for shy person. (4)
15. Swap English for Belgian vine then stimulate clan to make wine. (3, 5)
18. The wisest destroy remake of musical. (4, 4, 5)
20. "About to Live 100 Approximately" is film with unseen eponymous character. (7)
21. Name the French bird first. (5)
22. Is the horse saying no? (3)

*Once again, many thanks to Eastbourne Meads U3A Cryptic Crossword Group.*

*The answers are at the end of this Newsletter.*

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

Please Note – Owing to the pandemic, all face to face events have been cancelled for the time being. They will resume as soon they can be arranged safely within government guidelines.

### YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Eryll Fabian	01892 513805
Vice-Chairman	Adrian Twiner	01892 459352
Secretary	Fiona Findlay	07872 169146
Treasurer	David Brimlow	01892 860598
Group Coordinator	Lindsay Hasell	01892 673180
Membership Secretary	Ruth Johnson	01892 523097
Outings Coordinator	Joan Young	01892 546687
Seminars/Study Days	Jean Brushfield	01892 520630
Newsletter	Bridget Sands	01892 546161
Short Breaks & Holidays	Sandra McDonald	01892 752196

### *A Message from the Editor*

Any publication is as good as its contributors and I do hope you will continue to support the Newsletter as it is such an easy and effective way to communicate with you all. If you have a great idea for an article or there is anything interesting you would like to see in the newsletter in the future please let me know.

If anyone objects to their photo being reproduced in this Newsletter, please contact me as soon as possible.

All contributions to the **January** Newsletter should be e-mailed to **Bridget** by 31st December at the latest (**earlier submissions are always welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

### National Office



Keep up to date with National Office news on the website:

[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) or write to:

The Third Age Trust, Room 104, Lenta Business Centre,  
156 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8EN

## ANSWERS PAGE

### U3A Meads Cryptic Crossword – Solutions

**ACROSS:** 2 Arc 6 Let up 7 Origami 9 Some Like It Hot 10 Intruder 12 Nero  
14 Hype 15 Vin Blanc 18 West Side Story 20 Rebecca 21 Title 22 Nay

**DOWN:** 1 Item 2 Applaud 3 Cockle 4 Bagheera 5 Firth of Clyde 6 Leslie Howard  
8 Iris 11 To pass by 13 Obesity 16 Indian 17 E.S.C.C. 19 Otto

### Christmas Quiz Answers

1. 6
2. The Church of the Nativity
3. The Merry Wives of Windsor
4. St. Mary Magdalene, Sandringham
5. The Archangel Gabriel (an Angel will do)
6. Mexico
7. Tom Smith, a 19C London sweet shop owner
8. Rudyard Kipling in 1932 for King George V
9. Myrrh was valued for incense, perfume and analgesic properties
10. Holiday Inn