

Chairman's Report

Birds are beginning to sing again and, although there may be more cold weather ahead of us, Spring is definitely on its way. There's a lot of new activity in our u3a, too, as you will see from the pages that follow. Much of it is on Zoom – we would love to receive suggestions for things to do by phone or email.

A word of caution – be aware of SCAMS! There seem to be a lot of them at the moment, many connected with vaccinations.

This lovely photo of a stonechat was taken by Erik Brown and is one of many on the U3A FOUR SEASONS BIRDING Facebook page – why not join?

Stay safe and well and keep in touch with each other.

[Eryll](mailto:Eryll@u3a.org.uk) (01892 513805)



Inside this issue

1	Chairman's Update; contents	8	Last month's Talks
2	Zoom events	9	Last month's Walks
3	Survey results; more zoom events	10	Quiz
4	Photo Competition	11	Eastbourne Meads Crossword
5	Winter Zoom Talks; Short Breaks	12	Cryptic crossword
6	Groups Coordinator	13	Useful Information
7	Group news	14	Answers

Thursday 4th February at 2.30

James Taylor will be cheering us all up with a bit of...

**Brilliant British Humour in the forgotten art
of the Picture Postcard**

Photo: "Seaside Postcards" by SmokingDonkey & ZumiWeb



EAT TOGETHER PANCAKE PARTY

TUESDAY 16th FEBRUARY AT 5PM

Join us for an informal cook-in on Zoom. You'll need a frying pan and ingredients. We can cook, toss and eat together.

Please contact [Judy Horwood](#) asap.

We know that many of you will have your own recipe but Judy will also send out a simple list for you to follow with us. Then all you need to do is buy in the ingredients for a savoury and sweet pancake in good time.



ZOOM POP-UP QUIZ

Monday 14th Feb 4pm

Contact [Sandra McDonald](#)

FINAL REPORT ON THE RESPONSES TO OUR QUESTIONNAIRE

Nearly 300 members assisted us in December 2020 when they responded to our Questionnaire. Your replies to the questions have told us more about you, your interests and what you enjoy doing. They will be very helpful when we plan the future activities in our u3a.

There was a link to the Final Report (9 pages) in the email which accompanied this Newsletter. Anyone who is not on email but who would like to see it should contact Eryll (01892 513805)

Free talk hosted by the Friends of the Tunbridge Wells Museum, Library and Art Gallery

Following the success of the talk given by Anna Spender at the end of January, we have been invited to their next talk on **Thursday 25th February at 6pm. Ruth Chambers** will give her talk on **Georgian Toys** inspired by the Museum's extensive toy collection. As before, please email me if you want to be included and I will send out a reminder and link on the 23rd February.

Anna apologises for the technical issues with her talk. With her permission we recorded it, so please let me know if you wish to see it, but note we can only keep the recording until the middle of February. Here is the link to the video showing how to get dressed in the 18th century: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpnwWP3fOSA>. Anna also mentioned the presentation on The Amelia, which can be found here <https://youtu.be/J80RQvrP9yo>.

Sue Brimlow suebrimlow@btinternet.com

Would your friends like to know more about TWu3a?

Invite them to meet us at the Zoom Coffee Club!

We meet on the third Friday of the month at 10.30 a.m.
The group is divided at random into small breakout rooms
so one meets old friends and makes new ones.

The next meeting is on Friday 19th February at 10.30 a.m.

Members who have not already joined the club,
and non-members who would like to meet us
should contact Eryll (01892 513805) for an invitation.

CLIMATE CHANGE STUDY DAY

SAVE THE DATE - 17th MARCH

Paddock Wood u3a are organising a Study Day using Zoom. They are still finalising the programme and currently have speakers from Greenpeace and Extinction Rebellion, with three further speakers to be arranged. There may be a small charge for participation.

Please email me, suebrimlow@btinternet.com if you are interested and I will forward the details to you once they are confirmed.

WINTER PHOTO COMPETITION

Now that winter is actually here (!) we have decided to give you a little more time to find that perfect photo. Closing date is now 28th February.

The theme is **WINTER**: create a picture that depicts winter for you.

Photographs will be exhibited on the TWu3a website and the winners will be in April'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 rules are simple - only one photo each and no people.

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**

WINTER ZOOM TALKS

Bob Slater, our talks organiser has put together a great programme 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 to be added to the group.

18 th February	Diana Small	Roman Londinium to London in Modern Times
4 th March	Delia Taylor	The Pre-Raphaelites – Their Lives, Lovers & Legacy
18 th March	Antonia Brown-Griffin	The life changing work of a guide dog - from hooligan to Hero
1 st April	Melanie Gibson-Barton	Bruges – More than just chocolate

SHORT BREAKS COORDINATOR

STOP PRESS!!!!!!

Let us be positive and look ahead 8 months
5 day midweek relaxing break in own coach to
POTTER'S ALL-INCLUSIVE 5★ resort
on the stunning Norfolk Coast.
Top Notch evening entertainment

Trips out including a cruise on the Norfolk Broads

September 27th – 1st October 2021

Contact [Sandra McDonald](#) for more details

ONE MEMBER THANKS THE U3A



Thanks to u3a, which I joined in 2008 when my Swedish husband passed away, I belong to many groups. What would we all do in these horrible times without one another - especially those of us who live alone? Fingers crossed, it won't be too long before we can all get together again.....?

A few weeks ago Sandra McDonald and I went for a walk in Calverley Grounds, which I highly recommend. Not just can you have a walk, but there are lots of free activities for adults, children and dogs, including croquet, tennis and many gymnastic machines.

The photos below show this 90-yr-old making use of them! In these days of isolation, we all need to keep our brains from going soggy by staying active!

Jean Phillips-Martinsson

GROUPS COORDINATOR

TW u3a groups.....for the members, by the members



WATCH THIS SPACE

The Gardening & Garden Visits group is working with Kent High Weald Partnership and TW In Bloom to maintain these raised beds in a quiet corner of Grosvenor and Hilbert Park. Last week daffodil bulbs were planted, better late than not at all.

The group is keeping in contact and logging progress and Winter/Spring colour on What'sApp.

Walk past, follow our progress, or join us.

The Theatre Visits group met on Zoom recently.

Are you a musician? Did you know there is a regional Big Band called the Major Thirds? Look on our TWu3a website for more details.

Virtual Pop-up Groups

Quiz Monday 15th February 4pm.

Pancake party Tuesday 16th February 5pm – cook and eat together.

What crafts have you been making recently?

We would like to share a Zoom pop-up craft meeting on 12th March (10-12am). We know that so many of you are very skilled, and you have spent lock-down creating! Please send us your ideas and pictures so we can share them in a Powerpoint presentation and you can talk about your craft.

We are always keen to start new groups

Do you like crosswords, playing with words or talking about places you have lived or visited.

Have you considered starting/joining a Crossword Puzzle group using WhatsApp and email? **See the cryptic crossword on page 12, devised by one of our members, Dick Hoare**

Do you have pictures you would like to share about places you have lived in? What about being the contact for an Armchair Travel group.

Group's co-ordinator : lhaselltwu3a@gmail.com

GROUP NEWS

VIRTUAL WALKS GROUP

These are the upcoming virtual walks with Caroline Piper. Each walk cost £5 per member and the Walks Group automatically get details of the next walk. To join this group please contact Sue Brimlow by [email](#).



February: Virtual day trips

Wednesday 10th February 2021 at 2pm – Cotswolds

Tuesday 23rd February 2021 at 2pm – Bath

March: World Civilizations; seen through the objects they left behind.

Wednesday 10th March 2021 at 2pm - a virtual highlights tour of masterpieces at the British Museum, to discover what did the Romans do for us?

Tuesday 23rd March 2021 at 2pm - a virtual highlights tour of masterpieces at the British Museum from ancient Assyria and Athens

LAST MONTH'S TALKS

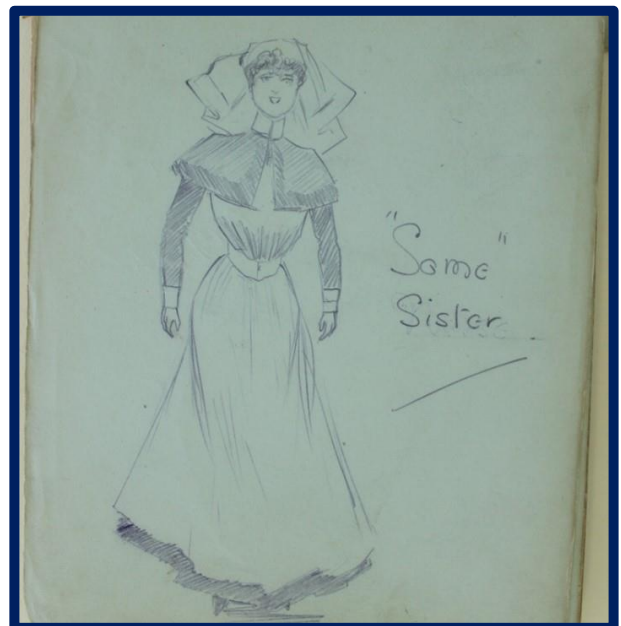
John Griffiths-Colby Staff Nurse Emily Connell

Emily was the daughter of a well-off Irish tea merchant and as such could afford the training to become a nurse. Aged 39 she was accepted by the then newly founded Territorial Force Nursing Service. In 1914 she was called up to work at the specially designated war hospital in Cardiff. It was here that she instigated her 'autograph book'.

This was more substantial than the one I had as a child and Emily encouraged her patients to draw and paint in it as well as sign their names. John showed us double spread seascapes and warships, cartoons, sketches, military insignia and even a beautifully drawn music score. John had researched the authors of these pieces and told each of their stories.

Emily left the service in 1919 as she was ill and in need of a hysterectomy. After four and a half years of service and having been highly commended in her work she was just 'let go' without a pension. A rather sad end to her career and an indictment on the nursing profession which some would say still prevails today.

Emily worked a good deal with shell shock patients and her autograph book acted as an early version of art therapy which is now recognised as a significant method of helping PTSD patients express themselves, especially for those unable to speak.



The Shetland Bus

This month we were treated to an excellent presentation of World War II history by Gilly Halcrow.

When Norway was occupied by the Germans in 1940 a unit was set up led by the British Special Operations Executive and a brave group of Norwegian seafarers to support Norway in its activities against the enemy.

Initially they used standard Norwegian tiny fishing boats to send agents, arms, necessities and information to Norway. They brought back refugees and information about enemy activities to the nearest British islands, the Shetland Isles. Initially these boats were adapted to hide weapons to try to ward off German boats and planes as they left Norwegian waters. There were early losses and successes. The worst being two boats bringing refugees through a major hurricane, lasting days. One boat was lost with all souls.

Operations developed from Lunna, a small village on the Shetland mainland as they moved to Scalloway, a larger port with repair facilities. Training in the art of espionage and explosive handling was developed, run from northeast Scotland. Whaling boats were an improvement on the small fishing vessels but Roosevelt helped by giving the team three fast submarine chasers which successfully eluded the enemy.



We were told some incredible stories of bravery in hostile conditions and the punishments by the Nazis of agents and the Norwegian resistance. A particular heroic but unassuming captain, Leif Larsen, was awarded some 8 gallantry medals by the British and Norwegian governments. An unsuccessful attack of the Tirpitz was made by these brave souls.

The Bus operations continued until the end of the war, but, more importantly, raising morale for the besieged country. One effect of the Bus was to keep the Germans under the impression that the attack on mainland Europe might be via Norway and the Germans maintained 300,000 troops there for the duration, keeping them away from Normandy at D-Day.

In memory of the Shetland Bus and the British support of Norway we continue to receive a Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square from the city of Oslo.

Graham Wykes

Gillian gave her fee for this talk to The Land, Sea & Islands Centre, Arisiag, Scotland

LAST MONTH'S WALKS WITH CAROLINE PIPER

London on Film Part 2

Here are 3 of the locations in Caroline's tour.

(1) Chalcott Crescent, Primrose Hill. This street was used as Windsor Gardens, a name made up by Michael Bond, the home of the Brown family. Only the exterior is used in the film as Paddington is far too destructive to be filming inside – a studio set was built for those scenes.



(2) Leadenhall Market. It used to be a poultry market and has a large Roman basilica underneath. In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone this is where Hagrid takes Harry to get his school kit and is one of the sites of the Leaky Cauldron.

(3) The Globe Tavern, Borough Market. This is the site of Bridget Jones' top floor flat where she makes her disastrous blue soup. And also where Colin Firth and Hugh Grant tumble out of the front door and have their unchoreographed ridiculous and hilarious fight scene.



Covent Garden's Theatres and Markets

I just wanted to say how very impressed I was – again – by Caroline's talk this afternoon. Jam-packed full of nuggets of information! It's the best way of exploring London at the moment. Excellent.

Bob Slater

I have really enjoyed Caroline's tour. I've spent a lot of time in Covent Garden over the years but have learned more than I could have imagined! I will definitely book again.

Judy Horwood

Thank you for organising a fascinating and informative tour of Covent Garden theatres and area. I worked as a production assistant for the BBC Drama department in the 1960's and found it very nostalgic.

Janice Carlisle

And a couple of interesting facts from the Covent Garden tour –

On Cranbourne St you can see the giant book which commemorates the 60th year of the longest running West End play - Agatha Christie's *The Mousetrap*. It was written as a short radio play for Queen Mary's 80th birthday and originally titled *3 Blind Mice*.



A 'ghost light' was possibly originally a gas lamp left alight on the stage to use up gas pressure. It has however gained the superstitious meaning of appeasing the theatre's resident ghosts and many theatres will have them burning (albeit an electric bulb) during the present closures. Maybe even at the Royal Opera House.



Photos: courtesy of Caroline Piper

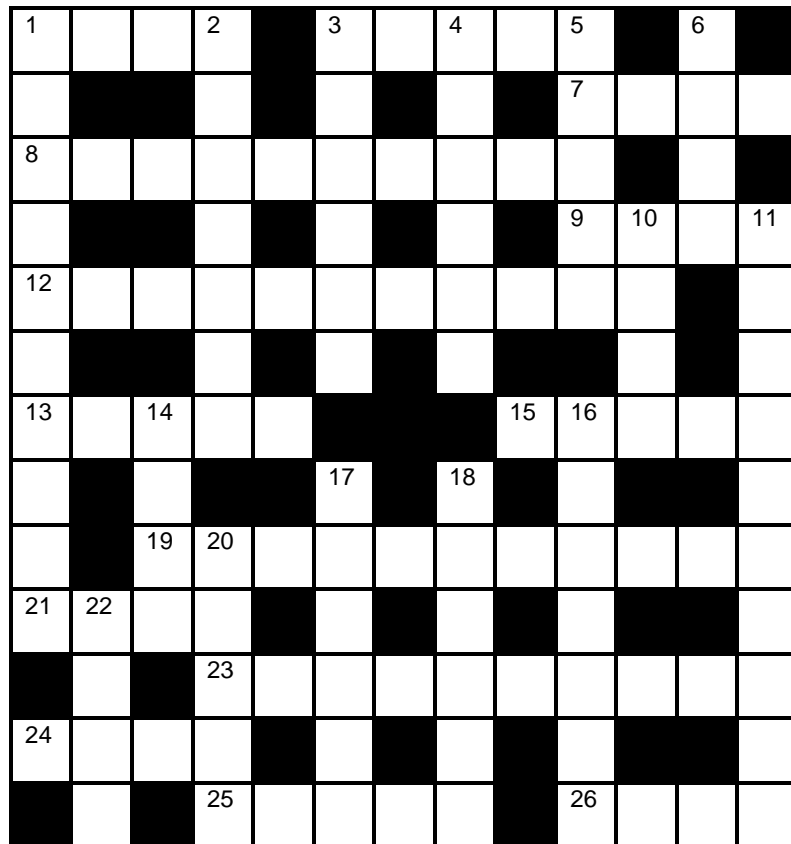
Colin's Quick Quiz

WHAT DID THE ROMANS EVER DO FOR US

1. Who was the first Roman Emperor, he reigned between 27BC-14AD?
2. Who was the last Roman Emperor, 780AD-797AD, to be recognised by both the fragmented empire of West and East?
3. How many modern day countries were wholly or partly in the Roman Empire?
30. 45. 60.
4. What was the official language of the Roman Empire until 610 AD?
5. What sea was called "Mare Nostrum" by the Romans?
6. What was the name of the basic currency of the Roman Empire up to the 4thC?
7. In 79AD Mount Vesuvius erupted destroying the city of Pompeii and which other nearby city?
8. When the Romans left Britain in 410AD which Emperor wrote a letter to the people saying "fight be brave and defend your lives....you are on your own now"?
9. According to Shakespeare "who was the noblest Roman of them all"?
10. Which Monty Python actor uttered the following line from *The Life of Brian*.
All right, apart from the sanitation, medicine, education, wine, public order, irrigation, roads, fresh water system and public health.....what have the Romans ever done for us?

LEISURE ACTIVITIES THEME

EASTBOURNE MEADS CRYPTIC CROSSWORD



DOWN

- 1 Clever gimmick with cart but without Mike is still clever gimmick. (5, 5)
 2 Broken red slides without points are teasers. (7)
 3 Riding school run without Anne but with energy. (6)
 4 Spot tool in a playground. (6)
 5 Grasp landed fish. (5)
 6 Aussie bird gets cooked around November and becomes offering for dinner. (4)
 10 On the radio, storyteller plucked instrument. (4)
 11 PS! Red beads interwoven into quilt covers. (10)
 14 Nothing in ballpoint style initially needed for 12 across. (4)
 16 Journalist in Golf going out for a ride. (7)
 17 Journalist has partly corrected it, or did he actually write it? (6)
 18 Astronomer's chocolate! (6)
 20 One with less developed archipelagos. (5)
 22 Goddess is a flower. (4)

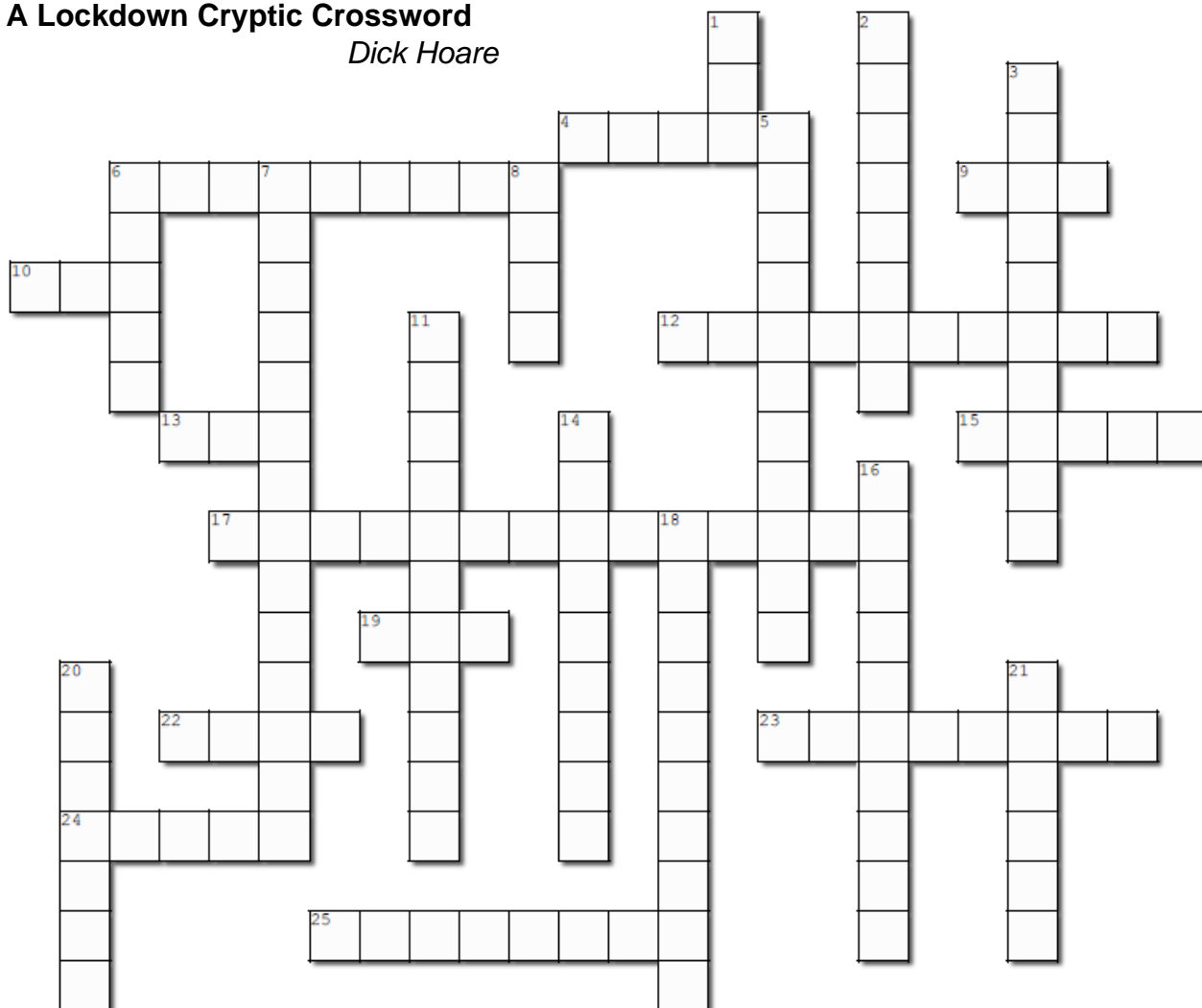
ACROSS

- 1 Additional audience when you tie up a boat. (4)
 3 Sweetheart leaves Muse in charge of melody. (5)
 7 No exercise! Please brew drinks. (4)
 8 Cultivated area at stately home where Monty Don can relax. (6, 4)
 9 Group bash. (4)
 12 Ring a chart with variable penmanship. (11)
 13 Give reins a shake before a spin, for instance. (5)
 15 Musical game. (5)
 19 Rabid wretch reforms to become one who enjoys wild life. (4, 7)
 21 Tender embrace in romantic book is Sally's favourite part. (4)
 23 Bizarre travail at a musical performance from Italy. (2, 8)
 24 Herb is reportedly on watch. (4)
 25 Vagrant artist in filthy accommodation. (5)
 26 Starting to garden yields many superb places to exercise. (4)

Eastbourne Meads U3A Cryptic Crossword Group

A Lockdown Cryptic Crossword

Dick Hoare



Across

4. Six Romans in Toys 'R' us, (5)
6. 6.56168 feet (3,6)
9. Ouch! (3)
10. Safety gear for those at the coal face. (1,1,1)
12. You do look nice, petal. (5,5)
13. Department of state numbers. (1,1,1)
15. The Russian may brief at 17.00 hrs. (5)
17. I stand on my brass bands and look at the wall in a vacuum. (5,4,5)
19. Not a healthy state, initially. (1,1,1)
22. Animals are kept here. Hmn! (4)
23. Gulf Hour? Anagram. (8)
24. A small company video. (5)
25. Secure this eider (8)

Down

1. Oh! There you are. (1, 1, 1)
2. Panda cut down to size is endemic at the end. (8)
3. Don't go on holiday! (4,2,4)
5. Hermits do this out of choice. (4,7)
6. It sounds like, it will all end in tears. (5)
7. 'Please Sir, I want some more for my friends' said the young player. (6,8)
8. A wise old Greek. (4)
11. Is the Prof. amusing or is the brief too serious. (5,6)
14. Dick Turpin would wear one to work, now they're all the fashion. (4,5)
16. A job for a locksmiths. (3,7)
18. Virtual retail therapy. (4,6)
20. A part-time vacancy at front of cinema (7)
21. Drama in the South seas at twenty past five. (6)

USEFUL INFORMATION

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

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.

May 12 th 2021	Virtual study day - The History of Hop picking
March 19 th 2022	Barn Dance

NEW MEMBERS

A big welcome to our 3 new members this month.

Patricia Kreyer, Jean Rennie, and Alan Spencer.

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

BITE-SIZED NATIONAL NEWSLETTER

Those of you who receive the Newsletter by post will also now receive a copy of the bite-sized version of the National Newsletter. As you are not online, sadly you are not able to take part in many of the activities which we have been able to arrange during lockdown. The bite-sized national newsletter will, at least, enable you to know a little more about what u3a is doing nationwide. We hope you will find it interesting.

Those members who are online can sign up to receive the full version [here](#).

A Message from the Editor

Any publication is only 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 **March** Newsletter should be e-mailed to [Bridget](#) by February 28th at the latest (**earlier submissions are always welcome!**) or phone 01892 546161.

ANSWERS PAGE

LEISURE ACTIVITIES THEME Meads Cryptic Crossword - Solutions

ACROSS: 1 Moor 3 Music 7 Ales 8 Garden Seat 9 Club 12 Calligraphy 13 Rinse 15 Chess
19 Bird Watcher 21 Kiss 23 La Traviata 24 Time 25 Stray 26 Gyms

DOWN: 1 Magic Trick 2 Riddles 3 Manege 4 Seesaw 5 Catch 6 Menu 10 Lyre
11 Bedspreads 14 Nibs 16 Hacking 17 Editor 18 Galaxy 20 Isles 22 Isis

Quiz answers

- | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------|------------------|
| 1. Augustus 1 | 2. Constantine V1 | 3. 45 | 4. Latin | 5. Mediterranean |
| 6. Sestertius | 7. Herculium | 8. Honorius | 9. Brutus | 10. John Cleese |

A Lockdown Cryptic Crossword

Dick Hoare

