

**Chairman's Letter**

Greetings again after another two months since the last edition. Once again fresh uncertainty, the green shoots of our groups getting around the social constraints could once more be thwarted.

I have had the opportunity to speak to numerous group leaders, some continuing in gardens, discussing gardens, in groups of six, some playing Rummikub at a distance, and golf and similarly enjoying each other's company.

With the aid of our old friend Zoom and similar, many of you have enjoyed making contact, one member of the Recorder group, marooned in Greece since March, plays and joins in the monthly meetings! How things have changed in such a few years.

In our last newsletter mention was made of a trial, on Zoom, of a version of our Crofton Hall monthly meeting, I am pleased to say that it was successful and we had a talk by Howard Slater, An afternoon of nostalgia, this was on music from the thirties onwards, following from this we enjoyed Philip Caine, a well-known author's talk *-Barrow to Baghdad and back* at our September meeting.

Please try to join us and watch out for Orpington U3A emails re upcoming talks from London, from Region and other items of interest.

We, the committee, will be undertaking an exercise shortly as how our groups are functioning and what activities are available

Elsewhere I have made mention of joining and strengthening our management committee. Like so many similar organisations facing numerous challenges over the 12 months or so, I am convinced that by using all our resources, we can move forward and continue the growth we enjoyed in 2019 and previous years.

Once again I sign off by wishing you well and stay safe in these unprecedented times.

*William*

**Orpington U3A website LIVE!**

Please check our website regularly for updates about meetings re-starting

**[www.u3aorpington.org.uk](http://www.u3aorpington.org.uk)**

Please share the information with other members who don't have online access.

**IN THIS ISSUE:**

Committee contacts	p 3
Groups news	p 2-4
Quiz	p 4
Book recommendations	p 5
Possible support group	p 6
Puzzles	p 6
Note about 2021 Diaries	p 6

**Monthly General Meetings**

**Monthly meetings have been cancelled until further notice. Please check the website for up-to-date bulletins and details of Zoom meetings.**

ALL TELEPHONE NUMBERS quoted in the newsletter are as dialled from the Orpington (01689) Exchange

**THE LAST DAY FOR RECEIPT OF COPY FOR NEWSLETTER No 138 IS TUESDAY 17 NOV 2020**

Please send your contributions to  
Mrs Janet Tucker,

## GROUPS NEWS

We are pleased to report that we have heard from several of our groups who are managing to meet in one form or another, despite the new rules and regulations which seem to appear daily. It is wonderful to hear that members are keeping in contact and that some groups have been able to continue; it certainly makes all the difference when you see a friendly face. It would be lovely to hear from any groups with their news - something to chat about when none of us have been able to lead our normal sociable lives! Groups we have heard from include:

**Birdwatching** who went for a walk in Kelsey Park recently, carefully maintaining safe distancing when they were out.

**French Conversation (Tuesdays)** - Leader uses Zoom to continue our conversations to good effect.

**Golf (Ladies and Men's)** - Both groups have been fully active since golf came off lockdown in early May. John Morris runs the Men's group with Mike Winder handling the monthly competitions and scoring. We have 46 members at present, not all playing at the same time, but regularly meeting twice a week with attendances of around 24 each time. The Ladies group is run by Val McAuliffe and currently totals 6 members playing once a week.

**Hands On Gardening** - has met more regularly than usual during the summer months, as only 6 people (including the host) can attend. It has been fabulous to see the hard work people have put into their gardens during lockdown. However, as the winter months begin, it will not be possible to continue sitting outside, so we will contact each other by email and phone.

**Pop Music** - continues to hold very successful and enjoyable zoom meetings on its theme of the month, with members submitting 4 choices of songs on the theme. Members vote for their most popular song not chosen by them for bragging rights.

**Recorder Playing** - The recorder group is continuing to meet via Zoom. It works fairly well at present, people seem to be happy with this method of meeting as a group and we manage to play together (of sorts). We enjoy our catch ups and still manage to smile; even our member from Greece (who went out for only a short trip in January, but is still there!!!!) has been able to join us and play along on Zoom, too.

**Walks** - went on a walk at Lullingstone Country Park recently and even had a go on the zip wire!

Group Leaders have received an update from National Office with detailed advice on how to proceed, although of course this is a rapidly changing situation. We would like to remind all members that they should have completed for themselves a personal risk assessment before deciding to participate in any face-to-face U3A activity. Let's hope it won't be too long before we all see each other again.

**Sue Howe and Janet Holmes Group Coordinators**

## CAN YOU HELP?

Though it may seem somewhat premature we are inviting nominations for next year's U3A committee. The AGM, unless there is a complete change of fortune, will be held on 22 Jan 2021 on Zoom at 2.00 pm. If you can spare a few hours a month to make a contribution to our future, and have ideas and thoughts to take our great U3A organisation forward at this particular difficult time, we would be very pleased to hear from you. It is only by the input of our members with new thoughts and ideas that we have grown and developed over the years.

For an informal discussion as to making a contribution please contact me.

**William**

## WANTED

You will notice that this is a thin edition of the newsletter.

We have done our best but we need your help to supply the news.

Some groups have been brilliant at keeping in touch with their members and reporting back on what activities they have been able to manage within the constraints. (See Sue and Janet's report above). Others unfortunately seem to have gone very quiet. We would like to have some news from them even if it's only to have a moan about self-isolation.

Some of you budding writers must have used the time to write a poem or story!



**The Editors**

1. Sadig Khan 2. Docklands Light Railway 3. The Jubilee line 4. HMS Belfast 5. Terminal 5 6. The Mall 7. (a) HM Prison Pentonville (men's), and (b) HM Prison Holloway (women's) 8. Piccadilly Circus 9.(b)1739 10. Edwin Lutens and Portland stone 11. Ronnie Scott's 12. The Heron Tower (officially 110 Bishopsgate) 13. Drury Lane 14. The London Underground Map 15. Soho 16. Highgate Cemetery

**Answers to London quiz:**

## Orpington U3A Officers Committee & Contacts

Chairman	William Sear
Treasurer	Mike Winder
Membership Secretary	Linda Haward
Group Co-ordinators	Sue Howe Janet Holmes
Meetings Secretary	Pauline Dawson
Business Secretary	Frank Rowe
Newsletter:	
Editors	Sybil Robinson Janet Tucker
Distribution	Peter Richards
Database/Web Manager	Steve Cooling

## GROUP REPORTS

### Golf



We have now had a very successful Stableford competition over 18 holes at Chelsfield Lakes.

The weather was kind and the course was in very good condition resulting in 19 of us enjoying the day with many good scores.

Our next Stableford is at High Elms on 6 October which many consider to be a much more difficult course. Before then, on 17 September we had the next leg of our Magpie Masters competition.

We also continue with our Monday mornings at Cray Valley's 9 hole course as well as 9 holes every Thursday at Bromley (Magpie).

**John Morris**



### Walks

The Walking group has started again following the rules of the Ramblers Association.

Regrettably it has become necessary to close the Walking group to new members until social distancing comes to an end. This means that only current members will be able to join our walks and new members will have to go on a waiting list until the cessation of Covid restrictions. I hope it will not be too long before the Walking group can once again be open to everyone.

Apologies for any disappointment this may cause.

**Hazel Thompson**

### Village Lunch



During these disturbed times, confined to a 'bubble of six', we revisited Farningham Village in Kent.

This charming village is on the river Darent which was once the power source for so many paper mills in our area. The river runs across the front of the Red Lion where we had a light lunch. The village was mentioned in the Doomsday Book and the village nameplate depicts a local Knight Wadard who fought at The Battle of Hastings in 1066. It has three pubs, the Red Lion reputed to be haunted, the Pied Bull with a lookout room in the roof for stage coaches from Canterbury and Dover, and the Chequers. This pub's call to fame was that someone was murdered there with a wooden leg!

We saw the mausoleum of the Nash family in the grounds of the church, the site of the old bakery and the house where Captain Bligh once lived. Then we saw the old mill which was reported to have been there for a thousand years and latterly in one family's ownership for three hundred years, now lovingly preserved and converted into residential accommodation.

All in all a very pleasant return to this village to once again admire the clapboard and its Georgian architecture. Perhaps this might inspire you to see what's waiting for you to discover on your doorstep!

**William Sear**

### Art Appreciation



Appreciating art without visiting galleries is difficult but at the start of lockdown, it was fortunate that TV had some interesting art programmes which we watched and then discussed by phone.

Then I read an article about 'windows in paintings' and set a quiz describing famous paintings showing windows on the 'left-hand side', 'centre' and then struggled to think of any on the 'right-hand side'. Why is this? Often there is just an illusion of light as in *Girl with a Pearl Earring*.

Next subject was 'how many pictures can you list showing dogs?'. By this time it was August so we were able to meet up in the garden to find a winner.

As we had been unable to go to the Raphael Exhibition, I was looking at a reproduction of the famous *Madonna and Child* with the cheeky cherubs at the bottom when I thought "Are they 'cherubs'?" Potty or what? We looked into the hierarchy of angels and what they represent (seraphim, cherubim, archangels etc) and found it very interesting. This exercise took us through to September when we had a 'limited numbers' get-together.

Let's hope the virus situation is solved soon as we are missing out on the social benefits that the U3A gives.

**Sylvia Jones**



### HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW LONDON?

1. Who became Mayor of London in May 2016?
2. Opened in 1987, what does the acronym DLR stand for?
3. Opened in 1979, which is the newest line on the London Underground network?
4. Which Second World War museum ship is permanently moored on the River Thames?
5. Which number Heathrow terminal was opened by Queen Elizabeth II in March 2008?
6. Which road links Buckingham Palace to Trafalgar Square via Admiralty Arch?
7. There are two prisons in the Borough of Islington; can you name (a) the men's prison, and (b) the women's prison?
8. The Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain is located at the south eastern side of which public space?
9. London Bridge was the only bridge across the River Thames until which date: (a)1639, (b)1739, or (c)1839?
10. The Cenotaph war memorial on Whitehall; can you name both the architect and the stone it is built from?
11. Which famous jazz club can be found at 47 Frith Street?
12. Which skyscraper is the tallest building in the City of London financial district and the third tallest in the UK?
13. The Theatre Royal, in Covent Garden, backs onto which street?
14. What was first designed by Harry Beck in 1931?
15. Which area of London is believed to derive its name from a former hunting cry?
16. Where is the burial place of Michael Faraday, John Galsworthy and author Douglas Adams?

*Answers on p 2*

### 18<sup>th</sup>C Age of Enlightenment to 19<sup>th</sup>C Romanticism

Our group has just completed a World Cup football style knockout competition, where 64 figures that we have studied over the years compete for the votes of our members. Sadly none of the competitors were alive to argue their case, so our members did the debating for them.

Among the first round matches, Emily Bronte narrowly handbagged Jane Austen, Catherine the Great outfought Frederick the Great, Robert Burns outflirted Lord Byron, Beethoven won his discord with Mozart, Mary Wollstonecraft kidnapped R L Stevenson and Richard Arkwright knocked the steam out of James Watt.

We finally arrived at the final, after many heart searching eliminations of worthy candidates like Brunel, Henry Fielding, Benjamin Franklin, Voltaire, Keats, Robert Owen, Joseph Wright of Derby and many more.

The finalists, however, were two men from humble beginnings, who made a huge impact during their lifetime, the results of which are still apparent today. After much consideration, Thomas Paine narrowly came ahead of Olaudah Equiano. Should you not know them, please get googling and have a fascinating read.

**Alan Jarvis**

**Solution to Cryptic Crossword No. 71**  
 Across  
 1 Most, 3 Olympics, 9 Thought, 10 Ripen, 11 Intersection, 13 Attest, 15 Cohere, 17 Civil servant, 20 Elite, 21 Excises,  
 22 Relaying, 23 Bytes  
 Down  
 1 Metrical, 2 Sport, 4 Litter, 5 Marathon race, 6 Improve, 7 Sent, 8 Aggressively, 12 Dentists, 14 Trivial, 16 Asterism, 18 Assay, 19 Bear.

## MORE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOOK GROUP MEMBERS



- SJ
1. Quiet American Graham Green
  2. Glass palace. A.Gosh
  3. Forfeit Dick Francis.
  4. The rainbow rose. Nevil Shute
  5. Wise Children. A Carter.
  6. Wolf Hall. H. Mantel
  7. Cicero Robt Harris
  8. The Improbability of Love. Hannah Rothschild.
  9. A month in Sienna Hishram Matar
  10. Black Diamonds Catherine Bailey
- BS
1. The Book Shop. Penelope Fitzgerald. Woman battles objections to setting up Book shop.
  2. The Card. Arnold Bennett. Comedy set in the five towns.
  3. The Warden. Anthony Trollope. The law, church and national press.
  4. Saturday. Ian McEwan February 15<sup>th</sup> 2003
  5. Where the Crawdads sing. Delia Owens
  6. First they killed my father. After they killed our father. Loung Ung. War & Family 2 books but they really go together.
  7. William Hogarth a life and a world. Jenny Uglow. So much more than a straight biography.
  8. Mirror and the Light. Hillary Mantel. 3<sup>rd</sup> of Thos Cromwell novels.
  9. The garden of evening mist. Tan Twang Eng. Lush landscapes and tea estates in Malaya
  10. Whereabouts of Aneas McNulty. Sebastian Barry. Set in Ireland and beyond.
- MZ
- Major Pettigrew's last stand. Helen Simonson.
- LN.
1. The Bell. Iris Murdoch. Young people join a lay community. The dedication of the Bell is laugh out loud.
  2. The Amateur marriage. Anne Tyler. Aren't all marriages amateur? Beautifully observed
  3. Golden Hill. Francis Spufford. Young man arrives in New York from England in 1746. A fast paced tale with a twist at the end.
  4. A Long, Long Way. Sebastian Barry. Hard to choose a favourite Barry! A young Irishman fights on the British side in WW1
  5. Milkman. Anna Burns. Set in Northern Ireland Troubles, author takes a fresh approach to writing.
  6. Harvest. Jim Crace. Slow paced story of a rural world shattered by the enclosures of the peasants' land.
  7. The White Tiger. Aravind Adiga. An unflattering portrait of India, as a young man attempts to claw his way out of poverty.
  8. Half a Yellow Sun. Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, The lives of three characters are woven together during the time of the Biafran war in Nigeria.
  9. If nobody speaks of Remarkable things. Jon McGregor. Ordinary families in an ordinary street, until something extraordinary happens.
  10. Beloved. Toni Morrison. Sethe's house is haunted by her dead baby, who died during her mother's escape from slavery.

## DID YOU KNOW?



If you are an e-book reader or like to listen to audio books, there is a free app on your device's app store called Libby. Libby is the easiest way to borrow digital books, audiobooks and magazines from your public library. You only need to belong to your local library.

Over the past year, I have borrowed numerous books and audiobooks - all for free! Items are borrowed for two weeks (it can be longer if no one else is waiting for the item) and then returned.

If you would like to know more, please contact me.

Janet Tucker

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD no 71

### Wheelchair Users



My husband is a 'wheelchair user'. This umbrella phrase covers a wide range of people with disabilities who use a wheelchair some or all the time. In my husband's case, his condition remains undiagnosed by the NHS and the private health sector, despite four years of investigative probing by these bodies. He is unable to stand or walk but despite this, he is very sociable and exhibits a keen sense of humour and mental agility.

As his condition is undiagnosed, he is unable to elicit support from organisations which support vulnerability in specified conditions or illnesses. We are unaware of anybody in similar circumstances with whom my husband could give and/or receive moral support on a level playing field. Although people are sympathetic (most of the time!), he feels he would greatly benefit from the company of people who either are or who have been in the same position.

Hence, I am contacting people in the Orpington area through the U3A, of which we are both members, to see if there is a possibility of forming a support group for people such as my husband. I am happy to facilitate this. My husband is a very youthful 75 years of age and was a policeman for thirty years of his life.

**Linden Toy**

*Submitted by Cryptic Crosswords 1*

1		2			3	4		5		6		7
				8								
9								10				
11												
												12
13		14						15				
							16					
	17										18	
19												
20							21					
22											23	

**U3A DIARIES**

These will only be available by order this year so if you would like one please would you let me know by phone, email or by post a.s.a.p or at the latest by the end of October. They will cost £3 if you are willing to collect from me with cash or cheque (payable to Orpington U3A) or £4 if you send a cheque and the diary will be posted to you.

#### Across

1. Tom's upset the maximum number (4)
3. Sporting event involving a slimy cop (8)
9. The very idea? (7)
10. Mixture in a stripe, noted by a customer (5)
11. Bury a piece found at the crossroads (12)
13. Presence at the match confirmed in speech (6)
15. Can one have eyes roving everywhere at first? To agree? (6)
17. Polite Government employee. Sounds like it (5,7)
20. The cream, as the performers at 3ac are (5)
21. Casts out. Cast out the gold. What's left cuts out (7)
22. Passing from one to the other when resurfacing (8)
23. Some of those little extras seen when 13ac (4)

#### Down

1. Flowing measurement system at 3ac (8)
2. Amusement found as the basis of 3ac (5)
4. Refuse stretcher to carry the wounded (6)
5. A distance event at Thrace a Roman changed for (12)
6. Rogue, wander and get better (7)
7. Enchanted to be dispatched (4)
8. Eyes glassy, grieve to make up vigorously (12)
12. Practitioners looking down in the mouth (8)
14. Insignificant before pursuit on board (7)
16. All behind at sea (6)
18. Analyse then for example (5)
19. Carry the animal (4)

Solution on page 4

### SUDOKU

						<b>2</b>		
			<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
	<b>9</b>		<b>3</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
			<b>7</b>			<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	
	<b>6</b>							
	<b>5</b>							
<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>5</b>			<b>9</b>		
<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>				<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>8</b>			<b>7</b>	

**Everyone brings happiness to my house – some when they arrive and some when they leave!**