

## Issue 142

August / September 2021



Priory Gardens

### Chairman's Letter

Well - what a time it is and what a month it has been! The u3a presentation in the Walnuts, Wimbledon and the Euro Cup. I am pleased to say the first event was a great success and take this opportunity to thank not only those who were on the stand but those who visited and joined our u3a as new members.

This is an appropriate time to thank Wilko for making equipment available, Easycoffee for their co-operation and the generosity of the Market company in providing the stands. It is gratifying that we have had so much assistance and co operation from the commercial sector in what has been a difficult time for them.

With the lifting of government restrictions, **Crofton Hall** will reopen in September to enable us to move forward. Mindful of government suggestions only, how likely are you to attend in September? Any reservations or comments you wish to make will give us a clear indication for the reintroduction of the cornerstone of our u3a.

Please make comments, your attendance and thoughts on the above to Sue's u3a email (see page 2). Please could members with email help those without to express their views?

The opening event will be more of a social nature with the monthly Zoom talk also continuing. For those at Crofton Hall, the talk can still be accessed for up to 7 days afterwards.

In closing, I wish you all well and hope you enjoy the re-emergence of our groups and activities

*William*

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### Orpington U3A website

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.

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 143 IS TUESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2021**

Please send your contributions to  
email: [newseditor@u3aorpington.org.uk](mailto:newseditor@u3aorpington.org.uk)

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*Orpington  
presentation  
at the  
Walnuts  
June 25 & 26*



### Orpington u3a Open Day event

Thank you to all those who helped at our open day event at The Walnuts, on the 25 & 26 June.

We were fortunate with the weather as the rain stopped, as though by magic, and allowed the sun to come out to make our presentation display the great success it was.

We had a number of enquiries at our stall and 30+ new members interested enough to join us. Orpington u3a has now over 900 members, many of them actively involved.

We take this opportunity to welcome all those who have just taken a giant leap of faith and joined us. We hope your time with us will be enjoyable, even more so when we can finally open up and get back to normal.

The two days proved to be a real positive success, not only attracting prospective new members but also many existing members coming down to say hello or to assist.

A big thank you to everyone involved.

**Solution to Cryptic Crossword No. 76**  
**Across**  
 1 Word, 3 Bluebell, 9 Indexes, 10 Alert, 11 Cosmopolitan, 13 Repute, 15 Castle, 17 Declassified, 20 Trait, 21 Rundown, 22 Holidays, 23 Eyes.  
**Down**  
 1 Whipped, 2 Rides, 4 Lesson, 5 Egalitarians, 6 Elegant, 7 Lute, 8 Expostulated, 12 Headings, 14 Prevail, 16 Astray, 18 Irony, 19 Etch.

## GROUP REPORTS

### OUR GROUPS ARE RESTARTING!

After what seems like an eternity in lockdown, many of our groups are beginning to hold face-to-face meetings. Please have a look at our updated Interest Group List (with the last issue) for relaunch dates and vacancies. This is your ideal chance to snap up a place in our existing groups and get in at the beginning of pending new groups, some of which are close to starting.

We would like to thank all our fabulous Group Leaders, who have worked so hard to keep the organisation going through these troubled times.

We look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future.

**Sue and Janet**



Members of the **Village Lunch Group** enjoyed an afternoon in a lovely house in Bickley, hosted by one of our member's daughters Dee Townsend. Nothing was too much trouble!

The Village Lunch Group will be changing its name to **Town and Country Lunches** this month. It will start on 22nd July when we hope all restrictions will have been lifted and members can meet together.

There will be four new groups called Green St Green, Farnborough, Orpington and Petts Wood. Each couple (or two members) have the chance to select and arrange a visit to a town or village of their choice.

For further details and joining instructions, please text **Pauline**



### CONCERT GROUP

We visit mainly classical music concerts at the South Bank Centre.

We have been listening to concerts online and on TV but now wish to start up again with the following programme of concerts.

Sunday 12 September at 3pm Crazy for Gershwin  
Friday 1 October at 7.30pm Symphonie Fantastique  
Saturday 16 October at 7.30pm Chineke! Song of the Prophets  
Sunday 24 October at 3pm Fauré's Requiem  
Wednesday 3 November at 7.30pm Elgar's Violin Concerto  
Friday 26 November at 7.30 pm Lord of the Rings  
Thursday 2 December at 7.30pm Sunlight on Water  
Sunday 12 December at 3pm Christmas at the Movies

Members of the group will receive a detailed programme as usual but if anyone else would like to join us please contact;

**Ann**



### Art Appreciation 1

Sylvia kept us going through lockdown with quizzes and recommendations for programmes online or on TV but for the last few months we have been meeting in her garden to discuss pictures in the National Gallery permanent collection.

Then on Monday 11 July we visited the Gallery for the first time in over a year. We had to book a time slot (free) to control the numbers, masks had to be worn, etc; but the galleries were quiet and it felt so good to be out again. It felt safe on the trains – most people wearing masks. The only downside was the litter in Trafalgar Square after a certain football match!

**Sybil**

Music quiz answers:  
1. Andrew Lloyd Webber 2. The Magic Flute 3. Puccini 4. High Society 5. 3 6. John Denver 7. Trombone 8. 1980s  
9. Paganini 10. Elgar 11. Henry Mancini 12. Sam Smith 13. Ravel 14. Singing without accompaniment  
15. Brother 16. American 17. John Cage 18. 17 19. Medicine 20. the audience rioted.



## Bookends July

This month we are sticking with a Zoom meeting, as we still don't know what the regulations will turn out to be.

Personally speaking, I have just started reading the latest Ian Rankin *Rebus* book.

To me, having an Ian Rankin book to read is like putting on a pair of old comfortable slippers. I always enjoy his writing, and it's good to read one of his, every so often, between those of different genres. On the positive side our group has had three new members during the last few months. This is always a good thing. We look forward to things getting back to normal.

**Vicki**



## Bridge



The U3A bridge group will recommence on Friday 30th July at 1 pm for 1.15 at Petts Wood Methodist Church Hall. I understand from the church that they would like masks to be worn whilst entering and leaving the church; wearing them whilst playing bridge will be left to your decision. Back to a normal Friday!!

**Margaret, Richard**

## Wine Appreciation

We have been meeting in members' gardens to continue the serious task of assessing wines and exchanging views on the state of the modern world.

The weather has mostly been kind to us but on occasion blankets have been supplied by the host.



**Sybil**

## Science and Technology



We have had a quiet couple of months since our last Zoom meeting at the beginning of May. Members were keen to have a break from virtual meetings so once restrictions were eased for outdoor gatherings we organised an informal meeting in High Elms Country Park. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and we all enjoyed socialising face-to-face again. It was also a perfect opportunity to get to know new members.

We had a break in July but have been sharing, by email, news about online science lectures.

Live meetings will start up again in August. So if you have an interest in science and technology and would like to know more about the group please contact me (email address on the website in the members area).

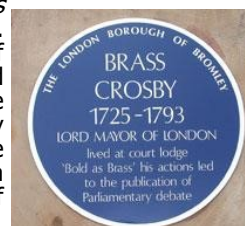
**Viki**

## Town and Country Lunches Green St Green

For the first time since its new formation two bubbles of the former 'Village Lunch' met in a garden for a talk on Chelsfield Village. Here are some of the interesting points raised.

Unfortunately an earlier meaning of *Chelsfield* meant *A Cold Place*. This quaint village once boasted two bakers, an undertaker/builders and a General Store.

Among its notable residents was Brass Crosby- when you hear the expression *As Bold as Brass*-do think of him. He was the Chief Magistrate of London, but he defied Parliament by allowing the printing of parliamentary affairs, which later became *Hansard*. For this, he spent a very brief spell in the Tower of London.



More recently we heard of William Colgate, of toothpaste fame. He was a staunch Republican and followed his ideals by emigrating to the USA.

No talk could conclude without the mention of the railway station, built in 1868, not for the ease of travellers living in the village a mile away, but to convey farm produce to London.

On the darker side, the fact that some nine navvies died building the 597 yard Chelsfield tunnel was a very high price to pay.

The group then travelled via the newly opened Chelsfield roundabout to *The Five Bells* to have lunch, admire the pub memorabilia and see the sites of the former village shops.

If you feel that you would find our local history and heritage of interest, enjoy making new friends and having a pub lunch please contact

**Pauline**

## NEW GROUP

I am willing to commence a fairly basic German conversation group, perhaps for people wishing to 'brush up' on an earlier course in their life.

If you are interested please contact our Group Co-ordinators Sue or Janet.

**Derek**

## Philosophy July

### MACHIAVELLI. GOOD? BAD? OR SIMPLY A REALIST?

Sometime in December 1513, a man living on a farm about seven miles outside Florence began to write a guide book. It had twenty six short chapters and was little more than a pamphlet, but the writer knew that the time was perfect for such a book. It might make him some money, but best of all it might restore him to influence in the political world. The countryside bored him but as he'd been banished there, there he had to stay, fretting that all the knowledge he had of political life might be wasted. Who was he and who did he hope to guide?

He was Niccolo Machiavelli and his advice was for the new princes of the city states of Italy, appointed since the upheaval of the Medici family's return to power in Florence. It was called *The Prince*.

The Princes had enormous power; they could imprison, execute or banish anyone. They had their own private armies; anything they said or did was allowed. But they were surrounded by ambitious princes of other city states who would stop at nothing to depose them. Italy, in the sixteenth century, was a very dangerous place to be politically active; Machiavelli wanted to prevent new princes from making mistakes.

The Machiavelli family were an old and esteemed family. They had solid careers in law, banking and commerce. By the time it came to Bernardo Machiavelli (Niccolo's father) however, life was getting harder. He was having to pay off his father's debts and a number of uncles' debts as well (Florentine law). Despite being highly intelligent, as was his wife, his career as a lawyer suffered due to his inability to keep up with repayments and taxes. He maintained servants and kept up with a social life but Niccolo referred in later life to his poverty-stricken childhood. Appearances had to be maintained. Niccolo wrote his guide book to make money - fortunately for him he'd married a rich wife.

Bernardo was ambitious for his first-born son - he was given a good education and was well grounded in Latin, vital if he intended to do anything to do with law. Growing up under the rule of Lorenzo de Medici, Bernardo was careful to keep his republican, humanist views to himself for the sake of Niccolo, but when Savonarola led the republican government, after the fall of the Medicis, life seemed full of opportunities. In 1498 Niccolo, at the age of twenty nine, became a senior official in charge of foreign affairs for the next fourteen years. During this time he travelled frequently and met and observed how Princes ruled their territory; who was successful and who was not. It was this knowledge he put into his guide book, or 'whimsy' as he described it to a friend, being careful to dedicate it to the Medici ruler who succeeded Savonarola. Niccolo was lucky to escape with his life, despite his associations with the Republicans; three weeks torture in prison and then banishment to a family farm was his sentence.

As he makes clear in *The Prince*, he'd met many leaders in his travels and only one had impressed him, Cesare Borgia (numerous accounts of his cruelty). Machiavelli's key idea was that a leader must have *virtu* (manliness) and *fortuna*. He must be bold, daring and audacious, willing to take on both the aspects of a fox (cunning) and the lion (strength), prepared to rely on himself and his own militia, not mercenaries, the former being more loyal, and above all, the end can justify the means, even if it meant lying and breaking promises.

Princes need to recognise good fortune and be able to use it. With foresight and prudence a prince can make his own good fortune but fortune is blind to human merit, exercising her power without regard to virtue or vice. Princes would have to learn how not to be virtuous. Machiavelli stressed it is better to be feared than loved. He wanted his philosophy to be rooted in what really happens if a Prince wants to stay in power. He illustrated his ideas with incidents from Cesare Borgia's life, which were very cruel and usually had multiple murders. Cesare failed in one aspect; he fell ill while being attacked.

*The Prince* is scattered with advice for the would-be successful ruler; 'If an injury has to be done to a man, it should be so severe that his vengeance need not be feared'. 'He who wishes to be obeyed must know how to command'. 'The vulgar crowd is always taken by appearance, and the world consists chiefly of the vulgar'. 'Never attempt to win by force what can't be won by deception', are typical ideas.

He died in 1527 and *The Prince* was finally published in 1532, mainly due to the efforts of his wife.

The Papacy hated the book, and invented the idea of him being evil - 'Murderous Machiavel' (Shakespeare) but he was a fierce moralist and foresaw that the church would undergo an upheaval. Since publication his ideas have been appreciated during the Renaissance, the American War of Independence, and a number of revolutions since.

Niccolo Machiavelli may have thought that ordinary people were gullible and selfish, but he remained a republican.

Glynis

## Philosophy; Science, Ethics and Evolution June

### Darwin, Wallace and Natural Selection

Darwin and Wallace suggested that since organisms produce more offspring than their environment can support, only those best suited ("fittest") survive.

Ethics: The theory of natural selection has been used to justify eugenics, forced sterilisation and even murder.

### Co-operation and symbiosis

Lovelock, Margulis and others emphasised that all organisms are part of one biosphere, interacting with the living and non-living world.

Ethics: Loss of habitat and biodiversity, climate change and over-exploitation have incalculable consequences for the planet.

### Genes and genetic testing

Genes, the units of inheritance, are coded on the self-replicating DNA molecule. Mistakes (mutations) during copying cause changes within the cell. "Reading" DNA to find mutations can lead to better treatments for cancer and early detection of genetic conditions.

Ethics: This information could be used by insurance companies or eugenicists.

Judith

## Monthly Zoom Meetings

16 Aug Graham Harrison - *Poisons for Medicine*

20 Sept *The Maturing of Mankind*

**Details on how to join** our monthly zoom meetings are sent to members by email a few days before the meeting.

If you have not been receiving these notifications please send your name, membership number and email address to

**webmaster@u3aOrpington.org.uk**

## A History of Shopping in Orpington

Last September, between the first and second lockdowns, a group of us walked our local shopping areas, recording what we saw and photographing each premise. This information forms part of the u3a national High street project. What changes will we find when we come to resurvey them in September 2021?

All sorts of thoughts and reminiscences came to mind and some members have already given us their memories of shopping.

We want to find out more about the shops and community areas we have probably just taken for granted over the years.

Where is the oldest shop in Orpington? Who built our shopping parades and why? What do we really value? So many questions.

If you have questions or better still, information and answers, please get in touch.

Let's see what we can discover together.

Jo

## London Region u3as

### 'THE TWENTIES'

#### Summer Talks on Zoom - August 2021

To register for any of the talks, please see our Orpington website.  
The talks last for 1 hour each from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

Mon 2 Aug **Paris in the 1920s: Art, Culture, Fashion and Society**  
**Martin Heard**

Mon 23 Aug **Classical Swing in the Roaring Twenties**  
**Herbie Goldberg**

## SUDOKU

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			9	3		1	8	
	5		2				4	

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD no 76

Submitted by Cryptic Crosswords 1

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	17									18		
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22									23			

### Across

- This is one for example! (4)
- Railway bloomer? (8)
- Times Denise reformed to make tables (7)
- Be aware of change later? (5)
- To cap it Solomon became sophisticated (12)
- Energy put in about distinction (6)
- Keep hearing depiction of a bird on board (6)
- Resisted eating the first form to have removed security (12)
- Distinguishing feature from pictures backing appeal? (5)
- Summary regarding the result of pedestrian's road accident? (7)
- Leaves hoys laid up for repair (8)
- Perhaps the yes men take the lookers to heart (4)

### Down

- Lash with string material (8)
- Dries out but doesn't walk (5)
- Not wearing so much for a period of learning (6)
- Is large Anita representative of all things being equal? (12)
- Refined and graceful lines shortly given to a soldier perhaps (7)
- Strings attached to this but I initially look up to everyone playing (4)
- Old wife outlasted pressure changes and reasoned earnestly to dissuade (12)
- Perhaps nags hide in the captions (8)
- To be greater in strength from advertising a vile brew (7)
- Like a carrier off course? (6)
- Club with unknown contrast between apparent and actual meaning (5)
- Burn the front away from a small vessel (4)

Solution on page 2



"Please hold while we bring you the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach."



"Have you tried opening the back and emptying the pencil shavings?"

## MUSIC QUIZ

- 1 Who wrote the music for Jesus Christ Superstar?
- 2 How is Mozart's Die Zauberflöte known in English?
3. Who wrote Tosca?
- 4 In which musical do Tracy Lord and CK Dexter Haven appear?
- 5 How many sharps in the key of A?
- 6 Who wrote Annie's Song?
- 7 What was Glenn Miller's main instrument?
- 8 In which decade did Stevie Wonder have his first UK number one?
- 9 Name the most famous violin virtuoso of the early 1800s.
- 10 A statue of which composer can be found at the end of Worcester High Street?
- 11 Which American composer wrote Moon River?
- 12 Who sang the theme for the Bond film Spectre?
- 13 Who wrote Bolero?
- 14 What does a cappella mean?
- 15 What relation was George Gershwin to Ira?
- 16 What nationality was Aaron Copeland?
- 17 Who 'wrote' 4' 33" ?
- 18 How many Number Ones did the Beatles have?
- 19 Berlioz went to Paris to study what?
- 20 What happened during the first performance of Stravinsky's Rite of Spring?

*Answers on Page 3*



## ALTERNATING CURRENT

There is no argument which will justify the use of high-tension and alternating currents, either in a scientific or a commercial sense. They are employed solely to reduce investment in copper wire .

My personal desire would be to prohibit entirely the use of alternating currents. They are as unnecessary as they are dangerous ..... I can therefore see no justification for the introduction of a system which has no element of permanency and every element of danger to life and property.

I have always consistently opposed high-tension and alternating current systems of electric lighting, not only on account of danger, but because of their general unreliability and unsuitability for any general system of distribution.

**Thomas Edison 1889**



# NOTICE BOARD



## Table Tennis & Short Mat Bowls

We would like to thank Jeff Park for his time as Leader of the group and wish him all the best following his move to Basildon to be close to his family.

We will be restarting our regular Friday 1-3pm slot at the Walnuts Leisure Centre shortly. If you are interested in joining us please contact

**Roger at Webmaster@u3aOrpington.org.uk**



## Calling all Sailing enthusiasts

If you are interested in Sailing, whether it be small dinghies on a local lake or larger boats at sea, whether you have your own boat or want to restart an old hobby, we'd like to hear from you. We can even advise where you can get lessons if you are a rookie. Contact

**Roger at Webmaster@u3aOrpington.org.uk**



## CALLING ALL ARTISTS AND ARTISANS

Have you been working on your hobby during lockdown or maybe taken up a new one?

Have you now found yourself with an excess of goods?

I am proposing a stall at a Monthly Meeting once we return to Crofton Hall to sell the results of our work for charity.

At the moment I am just floating the idea to see whether anyone is interested.

If so, please contact me with your possible contributions;

**newseditor@u3aorpington.org.uk**

## NEW GROUP

### Members On Their Own (MOTO)

We would like to set up a new Group for Members On Their Own.

Are you interested in becoming part of this group? The aim is to provide friendship to Members who live on their own and may have found life difficult during these past months during Lockdown. It could be a get together in a Member's garden; a local walk; trip to London; or something to be decided month by month.

We would like to meet on the last Wednesday of the month.

If you are interested in joining this group, please email

**Yvonne**

### What is a Court Dressmaker?

It is someone who has been trained in one of the top ten Haute Couture Houses in London and I am privileged to be one.

My House was Mattli. It is a passion of mine and has given me the opportunity to make for people who were well known at the time; for example Moira Shearer and Katie Boyle, the actresses; and Princess Lilian of Sweden.

I was also able to make the wedding dresses for my two daughters and recently a sports jacket for Colin, my husband. If you believe what he says, he saw the jacket in making and was amazed at the detail required.

I don't think we really give much thought to what is involved when we buy quality clothing. Sadly, there is little demand nowadays, but I still have a room set up with everything that is required, so should anyone like to try their hand at making something special, please get in touch.

I am offering help, on a one to one basis, at mutually convenient times.

**Joyce**

As an aside, I don't do alterations, so please don't ask.