

Issue 143

October / November 2021



Priory Gardens

Chairman's Letter

What a fortnight for Orpington!

A local young lady defies the odds to win the US open and Orpington u3a started back again with a great flourish. I sadly had to miss the general meeting as I was shielding but Pauline and the team made a great job of bringing it all together, welcoming back new and old members and making it a very successful start back.

Many of you will know that we have only two more Mirthy talks; these are in October and November. Our Xmas get-together will have a live performance of seasonal music. Next month Orpington Video and Film Makers, some of whom are in our u3a, will give a demonstration of their talents.

During the past turbulent eighteen months our u3a has managed to continue and come through relatively unscathed; for this we must thank members in whatever role they undertook. Also big personal thank you to my friends and colleagues on the Committee who made it all possible.

Very soon our attention will turn to the AGM; we can only continue to flourish with new ideas and personal input from our members. For obvious reasons, we have an ongoing need for new Committee members. Have you accountancy skills or an IT background or any other assistance you can offer? It only takes a few hours a month and it is very rewarding.

If you wish to have an informal chat about any skills or help you can offer, please contact me.

In conclusion I look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and wish you all a happy Autumn.

William

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Orpington U3A website

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

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 144 IS TUESDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2021

Orpington U3A Officers Committee & Contacts

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CONGRATULATIONS TO EMMA RADUCANU ON HER STUNNING WIN IN THE US OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Another local girl to add to Alan Jarvis' list of famous women

U3A coffee morning

On the Tuesday following the General Meeting, members are invited to the BR6 café at Orpington College at 10.30 am to chat to other members and group leaders over a cup of coffee or tea.

The next dates will be 19 October and 16 November.



Solution to Cryptic Crossword No. 77

Across: 3 Courtous, 8 Plot, 9 Perpetual, 10 Ordain, 11 Greet, 14 Tithes, 15 Erne, 16 Rupee, 18 Noon, 20 Mince, 21 Needy, 24 Sniped, 25 Contorted, 26 Iron, 27 Supersede.
Down: 1 Opportunity, 2 Condition, 4 Open, 5 Ripper, 6 Entree, 7 Utah, 9 Piper, 11 Gypsy, 12 Transport, 13 Defendant, 17 Emend, 19 Nestle, 22 Doris, 23 Tofu, 24 Seed.

GROUP REPORTS

Monthly General Meetings

**2.15-4 p.m. in the Main Crofton Hall
near Orpington Station**

- Oct 18** Orpington Video and Film Makers Club
David Laker will give a talk about the club and show some films of old Orpington.
- Nov 15** Scams
Bev, on behalf of Rob Vale from the Trading Standards Department at London Borough of Bromley' will tell us how to avoid scams this Christmas.

Monthly Zoom Meetings

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



Ready for Action

We are pleased to announce that the Handbell ringing group is active again.

Fourteen members got together for the first session on 10th September when we enjoyed seeing each other again, playing some music and taking our time over tea and cakes.

We are meeting in the Jamieson Room at St John's URC on Friday afternoons with Deirdre Harrison as our musical director.

Walks



WELCOME BACK TO ALL THE WALKERS

PROGRAMME FOR THE COMING MONTHS

All walkers join the walks at their own risk. New walkers are welcome to join any of the walks - but please telephone us before coming on your first walk. Please don't forget to leave your phone number if you have to leave a message!

Unless stated otherwise, all walks start at 10 am

Please ensure that you wear suitable footwear for the walks. Also please note that the walk description is only a brief guide, not a complete breakdown of the walk.

Wednesday 20th October - A 3.75 mile circular walk

Meet at the Goddington Park Car Park BR6 9DH. If using public transport the R7 bus stop is at Chelsfield, Saltwood Close (Stop W) by the BP Garage & M&S Food. It is about a quarter of a mile walk to the car park across Court Road and down Goddington Lane. The walk involves no stiles but involves roads without pavements and uneven ground with tree roots. No lunch is organized. The nearest pub is the Five Bells <http://thefivebells-chelsfieldvillage.co.uk/> with a R7 bus stop adjacent.

Wednesday 17th November - Circular walk through Scadbury and Hoblingwell Parks

Meet at Scadbury Park Nature Reserve Car Park, St Pauls Wood Hill BR5 2SR (This is also the entrance to St Peter & St Paul Catholic Academy) There are no stiles on this walk. The walk is approx 4 miles. No arrangements have been made for lunch.

Two Rules:

- 1. If it makes you happy, do it.**
- 2. If it doesn't, then don't.**

1. England 2. Andes 3. Iceland 4. Romania 5. St Vincent 6. Mountain 7. Zambesi
8. Belize 9. Canada 10. Channel Islands 11. Tanganyika 12. Moscow 13. Venezuela
14. Sirocco 15. Mt McKinley 16. St Lawrence 17. Eleven 18. Saudi Arabia 19. Gorky 20. Tanzania

Answers to quiz

Philosophy

This is a summary of John Mangold's power-point presentation to the Philosophy group in September which provoked a lot of discussion. The group will continue the discussion at its next meeting on Friday 1st October at 10.00am. New members are welcome.

WOKE

The word Woke has achieved widespread use in recent years, but many are confused about its meaning and its origins. In some varieties of African-American English, woke is used in place of woken, and this has led to its use as an adjective in the U.S.A.

The black American folk singer Lead Belly, uses the phrase in his 1938 song Scottsboro Boys, about nine black teenagers accused of rape, saying they should 'be a little careful, best stay woke, keep their eyes open'.

After its adoption by the Black Lives Matter movement, it became more politicised and attracted other groups speaking out for oppressed minorities. Rather than being applied solely to racial issues, it was increasingly used as a catch-all term to describe several left-wing ideologies.

Woke has become the subject of right-wing ironic usage and criticism, and in many cases downright abuse, and is used to denigrate those campaigning against racism, sexism and other forms of discrimination.

At its simplest it means a general awareness of discrimination and oppression, whether due to racism, homophobia or any other prejudice. However, due to its origins, and the increasing divide between the left and the right, it has become the focus of a battleground of ideologies.

Science and Technology

At last in August we were able to get together for our first 'live' meeting since 2020! We began with two short talks followed by a 'Science News' section, all presented by members of the group. A wide variety of topics was covered, so there was something to interest everyone.

John Mangold gave us an interesting insight into the world of 'Tracker Dogs' and what characteristics make them so well adapted for following scents. Did you know that humans have up to 5 million olfactory receptors but dogs may have as many as 300 million? The olfactory area of the canine brain is also highly developed. John went on to explain how dogs are also able to follow a scent trail using environmental clues.

Viki Worthington then presented 'A Clinical Case' starting with the initial symptoms and first consultation at the GP surgery. The step by step process of investigations and tests leading to the final diagnosis was discussed. The aim of the talk was to illustrate what the process of clinical diagnosis may involve and how the specialist healthcare professionals work together.

At both the August and September meetings Anthony Bradburne presented short COVID-19 updates, giving us a summary of the current vaccines, variants, latest figures and theories.

In September following his previous presentation 'Quantum Computing', John Stephenson gave a thorough and interesting talk on 'Quantum Communications' with particular emphasis on encryption of information and the power of quantum computers to decode messages. He also explained how information channels can be protected using digital and quantum keys. Although a 'Quantum Internet' is still a dream, a Chinese quantum communications satellite 'Micius' was launched in 2016. It is designed to facilitate space-to-ground communication and to aid development of quantum encryption and quantum teleportation technology.

Good to meet again!

A lot to talk about?

Share it with everyone in the newsletter



CONCERT TICKETS

Due to unforeseen circumstances (not Covid related) I have two spare tickets for concerts at the South Bank

One ticket for; Saturday 16 October at 7.30 pm at the Queen Elizabeth Hall

Song of the Prophets; A requiem for the Climate
Boulogne (Chevalier de Saint-Georges); Violin Concerto in G, Op.8 No 2

Tchaikovsky; Symphony No 1 (Winter Daydreams)
Conductor; Brandon Keith Brown
Violinist; Ade Williams
Chineke! Orchestra

And one for; Friday 26 November at 7.30 pm at the Royal Festival Hall

Elves, Kings & Wizards

Programme includes music from Lord of the Rings, Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, The Hobbit, Dragonheart, Chronicles of Narnia, Pirates of the Caribbean & Avatar

Toby Purser, conductor

London Concert Orchestra

Donation of 3 laptops

Please pass on my sincere thanks for this generous donation. It will mean I can start 'Digital Inclusion' sessions in the autumn, once the Greenwood Centre is fully operational again.

I plan to offer FREE two-hour sessions once a month on Sundays. Anyone interested please email: GSGAssn@gmail.com with name and contact details.

We will have four laptops which attendees can use if they do not have one to bring or only have a desktop at home. However, I would encourage people to bring their own devices – laptops, tablets, mobile phones – as they will find it easier working with a familiar device. Hopefully I will be able to help with the majority of queries but I cannot guarantee to be completely all-knowing! Perhaps by the time I begin the sessions, other IT savvy helpers may have volunteered.

Although there will not be a charge for the sessions, any voluntary donations to the charity will be gratefully received, to help towards the overheads for maintaining the Greenwood Centre.

Green Street Green Association

Orpington Video & Film Makers is hosting a Zoom session to attract new members. During Covid-19 restrictions OVFM made a number of their films available for public viewing and these were well received, with over 4000 views and many complimentary messages left in response.



With lockdown encouraging many people to take up new hobbies, we hope some of you may have given filmmaking a go, be it with a mobile phone, tablet, DSLR or camcorder, to shoot footage that you sent to your friends and family or shared on social media. If this sounds like you, and you have a lot of footage but are not sure what to do with it next, OVFM can help you turn this into lasting memories that you can look back on in years to come.

The Zoom session will be held at 20:00 on Friday 15th October and will illustrate what the club is all about, show some films, and answer any questions you may have about any aspect of film making. Both beginners and more experienced film makers are welcome to join the session.

Please pass on this message to anyone you think may be interested.

U3A CHOIR

We have re-started the **U3A Choir**. As you know we made a start last year, just before the pandemic struck. Sessions will be on *alternate Thursdays* in **All Saints Church, Bark Hart Road, Orpington BR6 0QD, 11.30am-12.50pm,**

There will be seven sessions before Christmas - the last being on December 9th.

There will be a small charge, as before, for singing in the choir – the amount depending on numbers.

All Saints has a large space at the rear of the church which will be perfect for distancing, and which is also resonant for singing. I know most of us can't wait to start music making again, and I do hope you will continue with the choir. As last time, we shall sing a variety of pieces and hopefully have a really enjoyable time!

Would you please let me know if you will be re-joining the choir (email or phone). Also - do spread the word and encourage any friends who might be interested. As you know we are an 'open' choir and welcome all comers!

I do hope this finds you well after this long break, and I look forward to meeting again!

THE BRITISH MUSEUM AND CAMDEN ADULT LEARNING GROUP

are running a set of free 90-minute history webinars (on Zoom) this term. The courses are free and available for all adult learners across the UK. The autumn term webinars are listed below. If you would like further information about each webinar or to enrol just follow this link <https://www.webenrol.com/camden/Default.asp?page=courses&cat=5>

From There to Here: object journeys into the British Museum collection 11 Oct 2021, 11:00-12:30

Trowel Blazers: women in archaeology 18 Oct 2021, 11:00-12:30

Close to Home: objects from London in the British Museum 1 Nov 2021, 11:00-12:30

Mummies and Maps: how to get to the ancient Egyptian afterlife 8 Nov 2021, 11:00-12:30

The London Region Summer School 2021

In August I attended the U3A one-day Summer School at the St Bride's Foundation just off Fleet Street. Usually these Summer Schools last for three days, but this year it was decided to limit it to one. There were talks, walks and live music during the day, with coffee and a very up-market packed lunch!

I attended two talks. The first was entitled 'London's Forgotten Disasters'. Matt Brown is a writer and researcher who has written 11 books about London, and this talk aimed to inform and surprise with strange and obscure stories of how the capital has accidentally seen off large numbers of its inhabitants. Did you know, for example, that the Fire of London we all remember in 1666 was in fact, London's second major fire? The first was in 1212, when far more people were killed than in 1666. The fire started in Southwark, and spread to London Bridge, which was covered in wooden shops and houses; people ran from the North Bank to help those on the bridge, and the bridge collapsed, killing hundreds, if not thousands. Have you heard of the Great Beer Flood of 1814, when 2.5 million pints of porter flooded what is now the site of the Dominion Theatre in Tottenham Court Road, and 7 people were drowned in their homes? What about the 40 ice skaters who drowned in Regents Park when the ice cracked, leading to all ponds and lakes in London being filled with silt, to make them shallower? Eleven forgotten disasters in all, none of which has any kind of memorial to those who died. It sounds morbid, but Matt was entertaining and immensely knowledgeable.

The second talk I attended was about the addition of sound to silent pictures in the late 1920s. Again, the speaker, David Evans, was extremely knowledgeable and articulate, making what could have been a complicated and difficult to understand topic entertaining and memorable.

There was also a choice of walks. I decided to do the Victoria Embankment walk, looking at the history and characters of the Embankment and the Embankment Gardens. I knew a little about the building of the Embankment, but I learned a lot from the walk, seeing memorials that I must have passed dozens of times, and not really 'seen', and learning the history of the many statues in the Gardens (of which only one out of 12 is of a woman).

All in all, a fascinating day, which was well organised, and which felt very safe.

I look forward to Summer School 2022!

SUDOKU

		9						7
	3					6	1	8
	4	8	1			3		2
9	2				3	1		
8	1		5					
								5
					8	5	2	
					1			4
4							8	1

CRYPTIC CROSSWORD no 77

Submitted by Cryptic Crosswords 1

1		2		3	4		5		6		7	
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14									15			
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	23						24					
25												
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27												

Across

3. Outsource translation for the well-mannered and affable (9)
8. Starts off planting lots of these in part of the garden (4)
9. Non-stop agent returns with part of a flower wearing uniform? (9)
10. Dorian changed to decree by virtue of superior authority (6)
11. Welcome Hellenic with time to replace lost weight (5)
14. Put it in the tax of one tenth (5)
15. Sea eagle found sitting in the other nest (4)
16. Ready to be necessary in India? (5)
18. This time no-one is hiding (4)
20. Walk with short dainty steps and chop into small pieces (5)
21. Wanting to run seven days regularly (5)
24. Cut with short, quick strokes half-heartedly shot from a concealed place (6)
25. Twisted ENT doctor? (9)
26. Find this as necessary to press metal? (4)
27. Be the successor of reportedly marvellous children (9)

Down

1. Prone to pout disposed as occurring at an advantageous moment (9)
2. State proviso? (9)
4. Having no protective or concealing cover – pencils only? (4)
5. Perhaps a sentiment to the late starts of exciting responses for being more mature (5)
6. Regularly I've seen it freeze for this course! (6)
7. See what upholds rejected state (4)
9. A musician discovered by the theatre company returning after being very good (5)
11. Itinerant doctor holding an unknown quantity on the outskirts of Surrey (5)
12. Conveyance of torn parts? (9)
13. Ten fed and prepared for one that has an action brought against (9)
17. Edit the text like some men do covertly (5)
19. Settle snugly and comfortably in a cosy home with the French (6)
22. The female in the corridor isn't hiding (5)
23. Regularly cut for fruit to produce protein-rich food from coagulated soya bean extract? (4)
24. The leaders of some Eastern Emirates do produce grain perhaps (4)

Solution on page 2



HERE'S A QUIZ FOR ALL YOU FRUSTRATED TRAVELLERS

ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

1. If you were in France and crossed La Manche, where would you be?
2. What is the world's longest mountain range?
3. Which country has IS as its international registration letters?
4. Where is Transylvania?
5. Which West Indian Island has an active volcano named Soufriere?
6. In Austria what is the Grossglockner?
7. On which river is the Kariba dam?
8. How was British Honduras subsequently known?
9. Which country has the longest coastline?
10. Herm is one of which group of Islands?
11. Which two territories joined to form Tanzania?
12. Which capital is on the Moskva River?
13. In which country is the world's highest waterfall?
14. Which wind blows from the Sahara to Southern Italy?
15. Which is the highest mountain in North America?
16. On which river are Quebec and Montreal?
17. How many official languages does South Africa have?
18. In which country is the largest expanse of sand in the world?
19. What is the former name of Nizhny Novgorod?
20. Where is the N'gorogoro Crater?

Android Group

If you have an android phone and wonder what all the buttons and add-ons are, other than making phone calls, we can help. The camera side of the phone has made photography not only almost cost free but easily accessible. At our last meeting we looked at an app that colours black and white photos. These shown below were taken more than 50 years ago. No doubt like me you have a collection of wedding photographs and other memorabilia.

Why not join our Android group; we meet on the 3rd Wed of each month at 10 am. We can help you with any aspect from starting and setting up emails to the more sophisticated apps



NOTICE BOARD

Mah Jong 3



There are a few vacancies in the Mah Jong group that meets at my house on Thursdays at 10am.

November Book Sale



It's a whole 2 years since we have had a book sale so gather together all those paperbacks you enjoyed during lockdown and wish to donate and buy some more 'just in case', for Xmas presents or just because you have run out of reading material. Will hope to see you at the November meeting. No credit cards-just cash. 40p each or 3 for £1.

Vacancies



There are vacancies in Canasta 3 group which meets alternate Thursdays from 2pm - 4pm.

There are also vacancies in Mah Jong 1 which meets on 1st and 3rd Thursdays 10am - 12 noon.

The High Street Project



A UK wide survey of our shops and community amenities

www.u3ahighstreet.co.uk

Please take a look at this site. Orpington is taking part but we haven't gone live yet. We have the details of 800 + shops to upload and name. After that we want to add some historical and personal details to some of the individual shops and places we know and visit.

Is this something you could contribute to during the winter months? I would like to get a small group together to work on this. A good excuse to meet for a coffee and talk about it.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR IPHONE ?



After a long delay, all those little niggles on your iPhone or iPad can be resolved.

We meet on alternate 2nd Tuesdays/ Thursdays from 2 - 4pm.