



u3a

learn, laugh, live

Registered charity  
No 1180180

# Brackley & District u3a Day

## Come and join us Saturday 26 June 2021 9.00—12.00 noon The Piazza Market Place, Brackley

Make the most of life once you're no longer in full time work by exploring new ideas, skills and interests with your local u3a.

### Who are u3a?

Founded in 1982, u3a is a UK-wide movement of locally member run interest groups that provide a wide range of opportunities to come together to learn for fun. Members explore new ideas, skills and activities together.

Nationally there are 1,057 u3as with over 450,000 members. For an average of £20 per year (Brackley is £10) you can engage with:-

The national body ([www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)) providing educational and administrative support.  
For a member there is a wealth of online events, tutorials and resources.

Our u3a currently have 34 groups including Singing/Scrabble/Craft/Traditional Dancing/  
Afternoon Tea and Chat/Maths4Fun/Table Tennis/Bridge/Canasta/Shakespeare/Russian

A monthly meeting: hear a talk, socialise over a cuppa

Find out more by coming along to our u3a day, looking at  
[u3asites.org.uk/brackley/home](http://u3asites.org.uk/brackley/home) or contact Karen Gees, Membership Secretary  
[memsec@brackleyu3a.com](mailto:memsec@brackleyu3a.com) Tel: 07444 363494.

# BRING A FRIEND to u3a DAY

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOUR WHO MIGHT BENEFIT FROM  
WHAT U3A HAS TO OFFER

After collecting your membership cards and watching (or joining in) with the Traditional Dancing group, led by John Weaver (10.00-10.30 a.m.) why not take a local history walk around the High Street.

Rosemary Leeper has prepared a short walk, including a brief history of Brackley and ten stops of interest in the High Street. Thank you Rosemary.

To print your copy [follow the link](#)

## IN THIS ISSUE

Ruth Harris

A blast from the past

Amazing Amazon

Getting Together

Midsummer's Eve

Dingbats

Countryfile Plant Britain

Molly's Summe anigans

New sign

Theatres Anagram

Think You're Old

Try Everything

Yoga or vodka

Bees

Why I Like Retirement

Father's Day

Spot the difference

Taken for Granted

[f](#) Brackley Scarecrow Festival 2021 or email [brackleyelves@gmail.com](mailto:brackleyelves@gmail.com).

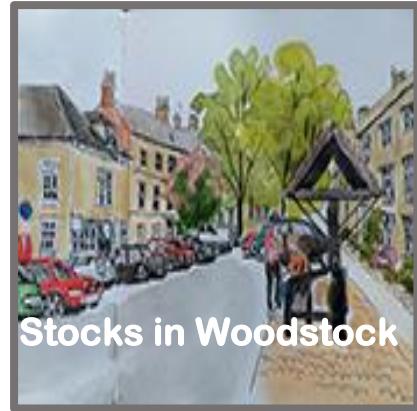
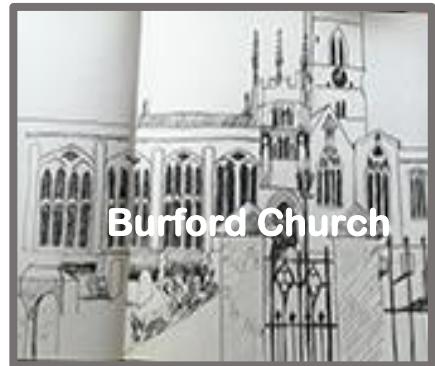
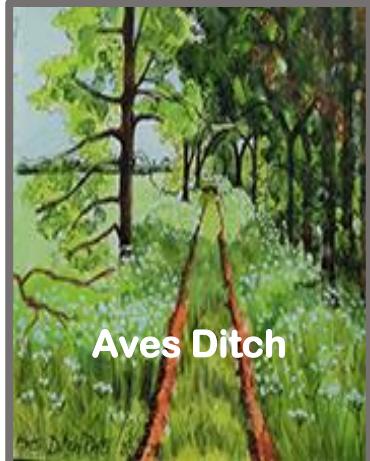
# BRACKLEY SCARECROW FESTIVAL



26-27 June 2021

Come and see the u3a scarecrow

GET INVOLVED



Ruth Harris and two friends, Sally and Wendy, are walking The Palladian Way (125 miles from Buckingham to Bath). Starting in April they have covered approximately 54 miles and have reached Burford. Raising money for Parkinson's UK, as Sally has Parkinson's. There is a weekly blog, photos and sketches to make an interesting read. There is NO obligation to donate any money, Ruth is quite happy for you to just enjoy the blog, as certainly last year it was a point of interest for many people. If you would like your email added please let her know. [ruthharris@btinternet.com](mailto:ruthharris@btinternet.com)

[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruth-harris6](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ruth-harris6)

### A blast from the past - who went to Butlins?





**During this, our third lockdown,  
why don't we train all Amazon  
delivery drivers to give the  
vaccine? The entire population  
would be immunised by Saturday  
(Wednesday if you have got  
Prime) 😎**

# Amazing Amazon

## Getting Together – Groups of u3a friends

A group of friends are having fun with some traditional dancing. All wearing masks, with plenty of hand sanitiser flowing we enjoy dancing with one partner. Not quite the “norm”, but nice.

May and June have seen the singing support group meeting in two gardens (Brackley and Greatworth). Enjoyed singing some rounds, lots of cake! And a good social chat.

Our walking friends have met twice now, once walking Brackley to Evenley, swift coffee and then a return across the fields. Another meeting at the Westbury village hall. Setting off across open fields, with lots of cattle grazing, over the River Ouse to the old railway line going to the hamlet of Fulwell. Returning through fields, one with a bull (luckily he was more interested in his ladies). Westbury church brought us back into the village and our starting point. Coffee and chatting in the sunshine completed a social morning.

Early June saw ten friends “roasting” on a very warm afternoon talking over films they have seen and one's they would like to.

Are you meeting with u3a friends? It would be lovely to hear your news.

## Midsummer's Eve

The celebration predates Christianity and was probably related to fertility practices and ceremonies performed to ensure a successful harvest. Later in Christian times it was rededicated to honour St John the Baptist. Some countries, particularly In Scandinavia, have a holiday on this day, they clean their houses and decorate them with greenery and flowers, have maypole dancing and bonfires.

Shakespeare obviously thought it was a good setting for his play, Midsummer Night's Dream, to invoke impish characters and magical happenings.

## The Summer Solstice.

Solstices happen because the Earth's axis of rotation is tilted about 23.4 degrees relative to our orbit around the sun. The tilt causes the seasons we experience as the Northern and Southern Hemispheres to have unequal amounts of sunlight through the year. From September to March the Northern Hemisphere is tilted away from the sun and March to September it's tilted towards the sun, with the Southern Hemisphere having the opposite effect. On the 21<sup>st</sup> June the Earth is tilted most towards the sun and gives us, in the Northern Hemisphere, our longest number of daylight hours.

The solstices are most strongly associated with Paganism with the festival of Litha celebrating the power of the sun god on the Summer Solstice, they believe its divine power creates life.

Druuids are often seen at Stonehenge to celebrate the solstice but not all of them identify themselves as Pagan many have a mixture of Christian and Pagan beliefs.

## BOOK TITLE DINGBATS 2

.... air	GATSBY	AGEMENT
1	2	3
3.45 pm Mrs. Gulliver	SABRINA SAMANTHA HECATE	THE WMILISLOTRWALS
4	5	6
U eeeeesss	MILK TEAK	Catch Catch Catch Catch Catch Catch Catch ↑
7	8	9
m a	Dr Do	Difficult 2.00am 4.00pm mid-night
10	11	12
BYE Arms Arms	Alley India India	Baa
13	14	15
der der der der der der = Sir der der Galahad der der	Mrs Green Mrs White	HCAATT
16	17	18

From Brian Starkey [Answers on the web](#)

Countryfile Plant Britain [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wg2g](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000wg2g)

A special episode about encouraging community gardens and planting wildflowers in a two-year initiative to help combat climate change, help wildlife and pollinators and transform our own wellbeing.

The Queen's Green Canopy Scheme "plant a tree for the jubilee – in other words a 'tree-bilee'" <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>

The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee."

Everyone from individuals to Scout and Girlguiding groups, villages, cities, counties, schools and corporates will be encouraged to play their part to enhance our environment by planting trees from October, when the tree planting season begins, through to the end of the Jubilee year in 2022.

With a focus on planting sustainably, the QGC will encourage planting of trees to create a legacy in honour of The Queen's leadership of the Nation, which will benefit future generations.

As well as inviting the planting of new trees, The Queen's Green Canopy will dedicate a network of 70 Ancient Woodlands across the United Kingdom and identify 70 Ancient Trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

## Molly's Summer shenanigans

It was a hot weekend in June and Molly was Bored with a capital B. Her 2 older sisters were both ‘on their phones’ as always, her mother was ensconced in the study writing a speech, being Chair for several charitable committees, her boyfriend Michael was visiting his grandparents and her 2 best friends were out shopping with their mums - huh!

Looking out of the window, and seeing her mother’s car on the drive, Molly suddenly thought ‘I know, I’ll wash the car and earn some extra pocket money!’ Rummaging in the kitchen she found a bucket, sponge and cloths plus 2 spray bottles of car shampoo and glass cleaner. Perfect. Filling the bucket with warm water, she set to.

But as she did, Molly became aware of someone watching her, and looking up saw Luke and Ryan, identical twins she knew from school standing next to the drive. The twins, a couple of years older than Molly, were always up to no good, always in trouble at school and Molly *always* kept well away from them. Ryan shouted over to her ‘Hey Molls, your mother got you washing her car has she?’ Molly ignored him and carried on cleaning. She could hear them whispering and laughing, then all of a sudden, they grabbed the spray bottles which Molly had left on the drive, and began squirting the car with the liquid. Molly was horrified, telling them to stop but afraid to shout too loud so as not to alert her mother. The boys were running around now squirting everything in sight, it was mayhem. Without thinking, Molly picked up the bucket of water, now gone cold and threw it over them. At the same time, the front door opened and Mrs Smythe stood there stony-faced ordering Molly to ‘Get in the house Now!’ The boys meanwhile had dropped the bottles and ran off.

Despite protestations, Molly was grounded for the next month with no pocket money. She was bereft, her plan for extra money shattered by those awful twins.

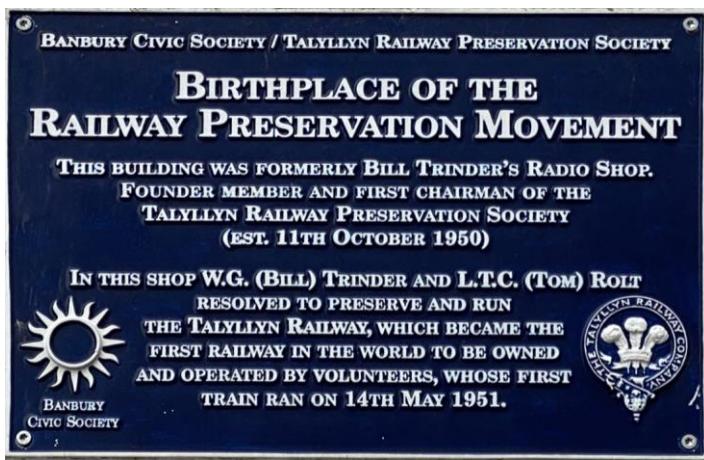
As Mrs Smythe contemplated calling a local car valeting service, there was a knock at the front door. On answering, Mrs Smythe saw the same 2 boys from earlier together with a man who introduced himself as their father, explaining he’d brought the boys round to apologise for their despicable behaviour, apparently Molly had tried to stop them and wasn’t to blame. He then handed over a £10 note which was for Molly out of the twins pocket money. Mrs Smythe was still angry saying she would accept the apology once they had thoroughly cleaned and polished her car which she would supervise. The boys reluctantly agreed.

Handing Molly the £10, Mrs Smythe tutted and said ‘I will let you off with a warning, no more shenanigans this summer, or you will Definitely be grounded’. Nodding, Molly reluctantly agreed, thinking ‘No shenanigans? What a Boring summer it’s going to be’ Huh!

Story from Susan Smith

## New sign in Banbury found by Dave Hall

(8 feet high, high street end of the short alleyway, leading to the Market Square opposite Robert Dyas ironmongers)



Memory foam insoles  
found by Bob Dearing

I finally did it!

Bought a new pair of  
shoes with memory  
foam insoles.  
No more forgetting  
why I walked into  
the kitchen.

From Raymond Haresign (Ray)

I have been an avid theatre goer all my life and have visited over the years probably between sixty and seventy theatres up and down the land, and as such have amassed a collection of literally hundreds of theatre programmes, most in pristine condition.

As our theatres are hopefully about to open, I thought that I would share with you some of the theatres I have been to – all in anagram format and get your ‘little grey cells’ working.

There are two sections – the first are all London Theatres – and as a clue the word ‘The’ does not appear anywhere – the second section is throughout the country, and I have given the first letter and the number of letters.

Happy Theatre Quizzing.

The London Ones are as under

ADHMNSWY  
FENORTU  
AEEHJMRSSTY  
AAADEEEHLLNORRRRTUYY  
AABBCINR  
ALLOOP  
ACEIINORTVW  
ABEFHRSSTU  
EIILORV  
ACEEFILNOPRSW  
AAABDMORSSS  
ACDHLWY  
AABEEEKGKLOPRSSS  
AAEHKMRTY  
ALLOOP  
ACEIINORTVW  
ABEFHRSSTU  
EIILORV  
ACEEFILNOPRSW  
AAABDMORSSS  
ACDHLWY  
AABEEEKGKLOPRSSS  
AAEHKMRTY

The Playhouse	N----- 10 letters
Theatre Royal	Y 4
Kings Theatre	S 8
Watermill Theatre	N 7
Yvonne Arnaud	G 9
New Victoria Theatre	W 6
New Theatre	O 6
Theatre Royal	L 7
Festival Theatre	C 10
Theatre Royal	W 7
Festival Theatre	P 9
Mayflower Theatre	S 11
Hippodrome	B 7
Torch Theatre	M 7 H 5

There you go

[Answers on the web](#)

## Just in Case You Think You're Old!

Jeanne Louise Calment had the longest confirmed human lifespan on record: 122 years and 164 days.

It seems that fate strongly approved of the way Madame Calment lived her life. She was born in Arles, France, on February 21, 1875. When the Eiffel Tower was built, she was 14 year old. It was at this time that she met Vincent van Gogh. "He was dirty, badly dressed and disagreeable," she recalled in an interview given in 1988.

When she was 85, she took up fencing, and she was still riding on her bike when she reached 100. At the age of 114, she starred in a film about her life; at age 115 she had an operation on her hip, and at age 117 she gave up smoking, having started at the age of 21 in 1896. Apparently, she didn't give it up for health reasons, but because she didn't like having to ask someone to help her light a cigarette once she was nearly blind.

In 1965, Jeanne was 90 years old and had no heirs. She signed a deal to sell her apartment to a 47-year-old lawyer called André-François Raffray. He agreed to pay her a monthly sum of 2,500 francs on the condition that he would inherit her apartment after she died. However, Raffray not only ended up paying Jeanne for 30 years, but died before she did at the age of 77. His widow was legally obliged to continue paying Madam Calment until the end of her days.

Jeanne retained sharp mental faculties. When she was asked on her 120th birthday what kind of future she expected to have, she replied, "A very short one."

Quotes and Rules of Life from Jeanne Louise Calment:

"I'm in love with wine."

"All babies are beautiful."

"I think I will die of laughter."

"I've been forgotten by our Good Lord."

"I've only got one wrinkle, and I'm sitting on it."

"I never wear mascara; I laugh until I cry too often."

"If you can't change something, don't worry about it."

"Always keep your smile. That's how I explain my long life."

"I see badly, I hear badly, and I feel bad, but everything's fine."

"I have a huge desire to live and a big appetite, especially for sweets."

"I have legs of iron, but to tell you the truth, they're starting to rust and buckle a bit."

"I took pleasure when I could. I acted clearly and morally and without regret. I'm very lucky."

"Being young is a state of mind, it doesn't depend on one's body, I'm actually still a young girl; it's just that I haven't looked so good for the past 70 years."

At the end of one interview, in response to a journalist who said, "I hope we will meet again sometime next year." She replied, "Why not? You're not that old; you'll still be here."

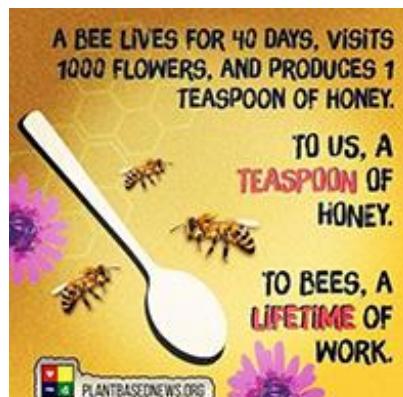
Try Everything by WSMC

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a-PH9aulyRI>

Yoga or vodka found by  
Dave Hall



Bees found by Dave Hall



## Why I Like Retirement!

- Question: How many days in a week?  
Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday
- Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?  
Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.
- Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?  
Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.
- Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?  
Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.
- Question: Why do retirees count pennies?  
Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.
- Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?  
Answer: NUTS!
- Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?  
Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.
- Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?  
Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.
- Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?  
Answer: Tied shoes.
- Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?  
Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff here
- Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?  
Answer: Normal.
- Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?  
Answer: The never-ending Coffee Break.
- Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?  
Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.  
And, my very favourite....
- Question: What do you do all week?  
Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING. Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

## SERENITY

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied....  
'Two years older than me'. 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented..  
She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman: 'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked... She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

# Mirthy.

## Online with Mirthy Talk

**Mirthy talks July and August at 10 am**

**15 July Mad Bad and Dangerous by Tim Barney**

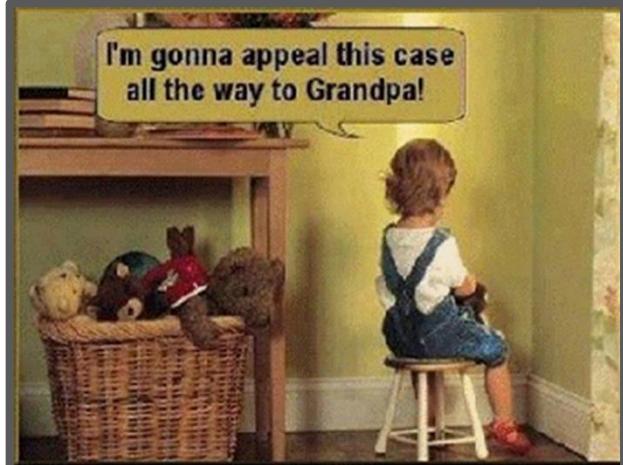
This entertaining talk is about military ideas, inventions and operations that in one way or another, failed to make the grade. Incompetence, haste and wishful thinking have all played their part, in some of the most scandalous disasters in military history. Sometimes truth really is stranger than fiction! Parts One and Two both include a number of examples from land, sea and air.

**19 August It's Not What You Say by Alan Jones**

Ever wondered why you feel attracted to some people and avoid others? Most of us form an opinion about someone in just 90 seconds and rarely change our mind. But it is not based on the way people speak, or even what they say. Discover how Body Language speaks louder than words when we communicate with each other.

A father guides his child by holding his hand, a teacher who teaches from his experiences, and a friend who plays with his child. He loves his children unconditionally and also allows them to learn from their mistakes. A father is always right; he can strictly say "No" when it is needed. A father is someone who lets you fall and allows you to try again; Father is indeed a gift from God.

Remember the fun activities like letting you ride on the shopping trolley and sitting on his lap in the car while driving. And of course, the shout of delight as he lets go of the saddle and you sail off on two wheels.



Spot the 10 differences on the bottom picture [answers on the web](#)



MANY OF THE EVERYDAY ITEMS WE USE ARE TAKEN FOR GRANTED,  
BUT WHEN THEY WERE INVENTED, THEY CHANGED OUR WORLD FOREVER. WHO  
INVENTED THE FOLLOWING

GOOD LUCK

- 1 TELEVISION
- 2 HOVERCRAFT
- 3 POSTAGE STAMP
- 4 SMALLPOX VACCINE
- 5 POLAROID CAMERA
- 6 MECCANO
- 7 WIND UP RADIO
- 8 VACUUM FLASK
- 9 PRINTING PRESS
- 10 JET ENGINE
- 11 PORTLAND CEMENT
- 12 IN 1830 EDWIN BUDDINGS FIRST MACHINE WAS MADE OF WROUGHT IRON AND WAS 19 INCHES WIDE – WHAT WAS IT
- 13 IN 1852 ELISHA OTIS INVENTED A SAFETY DEVICE FOR WHICH TYPE OF TRANSPORT
- 14 THE HAIRDRYER, STAPLER AND NEON LIGHTING WERE ALL INVENTED IN WHICH COUNTRY
- 15 IN 1903 MARY ANDERSON WAS GRANTED A 17 YEAR PATENT FOR WHICH USEFUL DEVICE
- 16 WHAT DID RENE LAENNEC INVENT IN PARIS IN 1816 CONSISTING OF A WOODEN TUBE
- 17 IN THE 1840'S WHICH BRISTOL CHOCOLATE FACTORY BEGAN MASS PRODUCED CHOCOLATE BARS
- 18 SEEING BURRS ON HIS DOGS FUR GAVE SWISS ENGINEER GEORG DE MESTRAL THE IDEA FOR WHAT
- 19 WHAT NATIONALITY WAS THE INVENTOR OF THE BALL POINT PEN LASZIO BIRO
- 20 WHICH WOMAN INVENTED THE PHRASE “NOT TONIGHT DARLING I’VE GOT A HEADACHE” - ALL OF THEM !!!

From Brian Starkey [Answers on the web](#)

Please support the next edition of the Coronavirus Times with items for others to enjoy.

We only have three or four regular contributors. If we don't get your support we will have to consider the future of CVT.

Our deadline for the next edition is 20 August 2021

We need to hear from you

All items sent will be considered Please send to [newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:newsitems.brackleyu3a@gmail.com)  
Many thanks.

Please continue to take care. Editors

We apologise for any errors or omissions you may find in this Newsletter