



Branston & District u3a – 10th January 2021

Dear Member,

Good morning, as I write this it's a lovely sunny day, if somewhat cold, and it's been good to have some sunny days interspersed amongst the dull grey ones, it does lift your spirits in these challenging times. There are some very negative things going on at the moment, but I am beginning to hear of people receiving their Covid jabs, so there is something positive going on.

We continue to make progress within the u3a, having had a couple of Group Zoom meetings this week, not without the odd problem, but still progress. And this coming Thursday the Readers Group meet. During this week's Photography Group, one of our members couldn't contain his need to take photos – or at least screen grabs, and the image below shows, that we were enjoying the occasion – in fact it looks like Alan is about to fall off his chair with laughter!



Quiz Time

Phil and Angela Applewhite were first to get their answer to last week's crossword to me, the answer being "For Auld Lang Syne". They were inevitably closely followed by Janet Foster, although a little birdie tells me that she didn't complete the crossword, but guessed the answer – not difficult in the circumstance! Chris Hodson and Arch also arrived at the same solution – and discovered that the Polyword was Panettoni (with 40 other words).

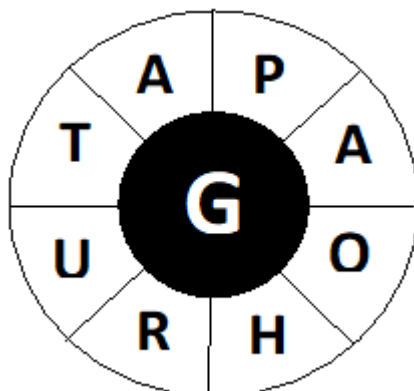
The solution to the crossword is attached, and below there is a list of possible polywords from my homemade word finder. I downloaded the word list from the internet many years ago, and can't vouch for the validity of some of the words, and I notice that the spellchecker in Word doesn't recognise a number of them, so feel free to ignore those that you don't recognise.

atop, nape, neap, nope, open, pain, pane, pant, pate, peat, pein, peni, pent, peon, piet, pina, pine, pint, pion, pita, poet, pone, pont, pote, pott, tape, tipt, tope, topi, inapt, inept, nepit, opine, paeon, paint, panne, panto, paten, patin, patio, patte, penna, petit, piano, pieta, pinna, pinon, pinta, pinto, piton, pitta, point, potin, tapen, tapet, aptote, opiate, optant, panton, patent, patine, patten, pineta, pinnae,

pinnet, pointe, ponent, pontie, potent, tapeti, tenpin, tinpot, tiptoe, patient, pinnate, **panettoni**

This week we have another crossword, this time with the name of a well-known British landmark in the shaded square. As always, just let me know what the landmark is, there's no need to send the completed grid.

There is also another Polyword. See how many words of 4 or more letters you can find using each letter only once, including one with all 9 letters. The centre letter must be included in each word. Capitalised words and plurals are not allowed. My wordfinder gets 40 words.



It's Liver so it must be Wednesday



There is another impressive short story from our Creative Writing Group this week. Called "It's Liver So It Must Be Wednesday", and is written by the Group Convenor, Lesley Leslie – so sit back and enjoy!

Online Talks

If you prefer to stretch your mind, Lynn Snelson has sent details of more Mirthy Talks coming up over the next few days; "Tales from the times of the British Raj", "Poisons for Medicine" and "The Lake District: A Celebration and a Warning". Lynn tells me that one of the talks is free to watch, the others are £2.99 each. [The link to register is here.](#)



Stamps for Medical Detection Dogs



Just before Christmas, I promised to let you have the details for letting Jo Randerson have any postage stamps that you would like to let her have to pass on to the Medical Detection Dogs charity. Some Members will remember the talk that we had from one of its representatives, telling us of the fascinating and important work that the charity does. Jo's address is **36c Lincoln Road, Branston, LN4 1PA**, and I know that she will be pleased to receive any stamps that you have, as long as

there is a reasonable margin of envelope surrounding the stamp, and the stamps are not creased or torn.

Rules, what Rules?

I'm sure that by now, we all know what the lockdown rules are, but just in case you need clarification, I received an update from North Kesteven Council, a copy of which is attached. It seems to me that there are still some ambiguities, such as what counts as exercise and whether we can travel to take exercise, but hopefully [the document at on this link is helpful](#).

Those Scams Again

Barbara Nicholson has forwarded a message from Lincolnshire Police regarding a scam relating to Covid inoculations. [You can visit the website by clicking on this link](#).

10 Points to Ponder on 2020

Still on a Covid theme (what isn't nowadays?), but with a little light-heartedness, the following came to me from Vernon Goddard;

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. 2019: Stay away from negative people.
2020: Stay away from positive people.
3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house & their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came to my house & told my dog.... We had a good laugh.
5. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot barge pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practice social-distancing from the fridge
.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the Garden. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.

10. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller with a mask on and ask for money

The Offer of a Lifetime!



- or at least of a year! If by chance you don't have a calendar this year or if you want more, I have a number to spare. For Christmas, I'm in the habit of having calendars with my wildlife pictures printed for family and close friends. I didn't realise until after we had sent them out that some of this year's were mis-printed - months in the wrong order, and in one case the dates printed in Danish. When I complained and asked for a refund, I not only received a part refund, but also 16 more calendars. So now I have some spare! They are A5 sized, opening up to A4, and can be wall-mounted. If you would like one, just let me know and I will try to get them to you in the next few days, regulations permitting. A small donation to Lincolnshire Wildlife would be appreciated but definitely not mandatory. Incidentally, this offer comes despite item 1 in the "10 points to ponder", above!

Watts Going On

I have included the latest newsletter from Nicholas Watts of Vine House Farm in case you are interested. It's always a good insight into the state of local farming as well as the wildlife on their farm.

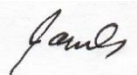


Nature Trail

Wasn't it a wonderful day yesterday! After breakfast I decided to go down to the "jungle" to see what wildlife was about. I told Janet that I would be "just a few minutes", but 2 ½ hours later, returned home with some photos of the two Stonechats that seem to be enjoying life near Cliff Farm, and you can see the results below. There seem to be quite a number of Stonechats around at present, with several in the area of Neville Wood (on the way to Wasps Nest) a few days ago - and yes, I did walk there. There's also a photo of one of several Reed Buntings in the field off Station Road that is being developed. I had quite a bit of difficulty getting the birds in the right light as there were dogs wandering about unleashed and spooking the birds - great frustration, but it's not the greatest photo!

That's it for now, I look forward to hearing from you with your contributions, for which I'm always grateful.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, which appears to read "James".

James Hewson, 4 Chartridge, Branston, Lincoln, LN4 1UE 01522 828780

Female Stonechat



Male Stonechat



Reed Bunting

