

# CALDICOT & DISTRICT



## Newsletter July 2020

[www.u3asites.org.uk/caldicot/home](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/caldicot/home)

Reg Charity No. 1071447

### CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello everyone

Well another month has passed by and we are still in lockdown. Things are getting a little easier now and it would appear there is light at the end of the tunnel. As you all know England rules are ahead of ours but that is not such a bad thing. I would prefer to be safe than sorry and therefore I urge you all to keep to the 2m social distancing until such time that we can be sure Corona virus is almost gone. Apparently this could take some time but as things are easing off it is better to stick to the Welsh advice.

Like many of you I am lucky to have my family living close by and they have really looked after my wellbeing but there are those that are not so fortunate. Again there are people who, like my granddaughter, are front line workers and really make sure no-one goes unattended. These people have been heroes and deserve all the praise than can be given.

The Third Age Trust have been constantly in touch with advice on how and when our U3As will be able to relax the rules and "get back to business" but they have to be aware that there are many U3As in Wales and therefore will not relax maybe the same time as those in England. Until such time as we can get back to business please take care. I personally cannot wait to see you all again and all the group's get together.

Whilst we have had this period of no meetings I was wondering if anyone of you thought about any new groups you would like to see set up. If so please let someone on the committee know and we can take it from there. Also if you have any stories to tell of your time in lockdown then please send to our Editor Angela Hodson-Hirst, it would be interesting to see how others have coped.

Well this is all for this month here's hoping things improve even more before our next newsletter.

Stay Safe everyone remember it's not over yet!!

**Pam Caines**  
**Chairman**

### TREASURER'S CORNER

Whilst very few of this year's annual subscriptions have been as yet, paid by members it is expected that these will be forthcoming when we resume our meetings and activity groups. Consider that we are obliged to contribute £3.50 per head to the Third Age Trust for membership and a further £3.10 per household receiving TAM, the periodical, you will appreciate we are running on a shoestring as it is. This year's fees have already been paid, by the Committee to the Trust from our reserves which we need to recover to maintain a healthy financial position.

**Tony Hodson-Hirst**  
**Treasurer**

## **COPY FOR THE NEWSLETTER**

We welcome reports from all groups for inclusion in the Newsletter or forwarding to our website. **Word doc** is preferred and should be sent to: **leechpool@talktalk.net** or tel. **01291 424997** by midday on the **26th JULY 2020**

Typed or handwritten notes should be submitted a few days earlier if possible. Please try to limit reports to about **300** words. **Angela Hodson-Hirst, Editor.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Should you change your address, telephone number or email address please let me know so that our records are up to date. Contact details: tel: 01291 424997 email: [leechpool@talktalk.net](mailto:leechpool@talktalk.net)

**Angela Hodson-Hirst**  
**Membership Secretary**

## **MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION**

Membership subscriptions are due however because of the current situation subscriptions will be collected when groups resume their meetings.

**Angela Hodson-Hirst**  
**Membership Secretary**

## **LINK SECRETARY**

I would ask that if you hear of any member(s) who reach their 80th, 90th, 100th birthdays, Golden, Diamond, Platinum Wedding Anniversaries or even Marriages between members to please contact me so that I can send a Congratulatory card.

Also, if you hear of any member, in your group, or their family who are in hospital, sick or any other reason I would be grateful if you would please inform me. [bettybun55@gmail.com](mailto:bettybun55@gmail.com)  
Tel: 01291 421484

**Betty Waite**

## **CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED**

In order for me to keep interest going in ***your*** Newsletter in this otherwise depressing time I am asking you for contributions.

Did you enjoy reading Betty Waite's story of how her parents met and married in Palestine and their moving to St. Arvans? If you did then others would be interested in your story so please, for future Newsletters, send me your contributions. I don't mind if you send handwritten contributions.

Stories, anecdotes, puzzles or what you feel about the Corona-19 crisis all would be welcome.

**Angela Hodson-Hirst**  
**Newsletter Editor**

## **THANK YOU**

We would like to thank all friends and U3A members for the cards, flowers and messages of sympathy we received following the passing of my mother, Molly.

**Helen Wormald and family**

I would like to thank you all for my lovely cards, flowers, etc. which I received for my special Birthday. We should have been in Jersey, but I had a wonderful day despite lockdown.

**Beryl Lewis**

## **MARGARET JOHN**



Margaret sends her sincere thanks for the flowers and card that we sent to her in celebration of her 100th Birthday. She had a wonderful day with her family. Margaret sends her love and is looking forward to returning to her own home once lockdown eases.

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CEO**

The Chief Executive Officer of U3A, *Sam Mauger*, has sent a video message to all U3A members. Watch it by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yNQUSV9uW0w>



Sign up for the National U3A Newsletter at

<https://u3a.org.uk/newsletter>

U3A news around Wales

<https://u3asites.org.uk/walesu3a/page/15061>

U3As Keeping in Touch and Keeping Busy

<https://sites.google.com/view/dysguchwerthinbyw/home>

## **WELSH GOVERNMENT COVID ADVICE**

From 1 June 2020 Coronavirus restrictions in Wales will allow people from two different households to meet each other outdoors. They will still need to stay two metres apart. They should remain within five miles of their home.

### **4.1 Advice on Wales Government website**

#### **4.1.1 Seeing people from other households outdoors**

As of 1 June, people from one household will be permitted to meet outdoors with people from one other household at a time provided they stay local. It is important however that advice on social distancing (staying at least two metres apart) and personal hygiene should be followed.

There is no limit to the number of people from each household who can meet outdoors. If you are part of a household of five people, for example, your entire household could meet another family of five. However, you should be aware that while meeting outdoors is considered to be low risk if other advice is followed, risk cannot of course be eliminated, and the risk does increase as larger numbers gather.

Carers are considered for these purposes to be members of a household – so if for example one person in each household had a carer, both of those carers could also be part of a gathering between the two households.

You may only meet up to one household outdoors at a time. However, you may meet members of more than one household in a day, as long as those meetings are separate. However, gatherings outdoors which include members of more than two households are still illegal, and you can be fined or prosecuted for participating in such a gathering.

There are no time limits for any such outdoor meetings or gatherings, or legal limits on the activities that can be undertaken outdoors so long as physical distancing can be observed.

#### **4.1.2 People who have been shielding**

People who have been shielding can now take exercise outdoors and meet people from another household, as long as it takes place outdoors. There are two changes to the advice for this group:

- outdoor exercise is unlimited, as long as individuals strictly follow social distancing rules and hygiene practices.
- those who are shielding can meet outside with people from another household – but should not go into another person’s house or share food with them.

#### **4.2 Risk Assessment**

It is not clear that any U3A activity could easily take place within these restrictions.

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus>

Welsh government response to the Coronavirus and the steps they are considering as they lead Wales out of the pandemic

Coronavirus regulations: frequently asked questions updated 22 June 2020

<https://gov.wales/coronavirus-regulations-guidance#contents>

A married couple in their early 60s was celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary in a quiet, romantic little restaurant.

Suddenly, a tiny yet beautiful fairy appeared on their table. She said, ‘For being such an exemplary married couple and for being so loving to each other for all this time, I will grant you each a wish.’

The wife answered, ‘Oh, I want to travel around the world with my darling husband’. The fairy waved her magic wand and – poof! – two tickets for the Queen Mary II appeared in her hands.

The husband thought for a moment: ‘Well, this is all very romantic, but an opportunity like this will never come again. I’m sorry my love, but my wish is to have a wife 30 years younger than me’.

The wife and the fairy were deeply disappointed, but a wish is a wish. So the fairy waved her magic wand and poof!...the husband became 92 years old.



The moral of this story: Men who are ungrateful should remember fairies are female....

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### **CLARKES BUTCHERS**

Now also doing meat packs: BBQ, SUNDAY

Delivering twice a week Thursday & Saturday  
Call 01291 420364

### **BRADBURY MILK**

01291 421177

### **THE CASTLE INN**

Vegetables, dairy, pantry, meat, lovely cream teas and Sunday lunch boxes

[www.castleinn-caldicot](http://www.castleinn-caldicot) 01291 430830 after 10am  
Order by 2pm delivery same day. Order after 2pm delivery next day  
Free delivery Caldicot and Chepstow

### **FRATELLI**

Online orders from 4pm – 9pm Wednesday - Sunday

[www.fratellicaldicot.co.uk/](http://www.fratellicaldicot.co.uk/) 01291 408200

### **PICKLED PUMPKIN CATERING**

Food boxes, meat, food boxes, pantry and more, with competitions, for special treats, on their Facebook page

<https://pickledpumpkincatering.co.uk/shop/product-category/diy-kits/>

### **THE PORTSKEWETT INN**

Take away for main meals and pizza Tuesday – Saturday 12-1.45pm and 6-8pm

[www.portskewettinn.co.uk](http://www.portskewettinn.co.uk) for menu  
01291 430505

### **THE HUNTSMAN**

Wednesday: Curry night

Friday: Pie and Mash

Sunday: Lunch (chilled ready meal) £12 & £6 child. Desserts: £3

Open now: Market stall selling dairy, pantry items and Cask Real Ale!

Text/ call Alli on 07766237915 or 641521

Take away meals. Sunday meal can be collected Saturday or Sunday. With Phil delivering on Sunday morning if needed.

For collection only

## UPDATES

**THE HUNTSMAN:** Hoping to open up the middle of July for serving food outside.

**PORTSKEWETT INN:** Now serving cakes and coffee for takeaway. Whole cakes and cream tea boxes with 24 hr notice.

### **PORTSKEWETT SAMPLE MENU**

Homemade 4 x Fudge Brownie £3.20  
Homemade Chocolate Éclair £1.30  
Homemade Strawberry and Crème Patisserie Tart £2.40  
Homemade Chocolate Orange Tart £2.40  
Homemade Macarons Box of 4 £4.00, Box of 6 £5.50

8" Sausage Roll £1.15  
4 x Sausage Rolls £4  
Bacon and Cheese Slice £1.45  
Pepperoni Pizza ½ Baguette (cold) £1.50  
Margherita Pizza ½ Baguette £1.25

All subject to availability.

Drinks/Snacks

Coffee £2.30

Chocolate Yazoo £1



Danish pastries, homemade strawberry tarts, homemade marshmallow cones and homemade chocolate eclairs



**CASTLE INN:** Hoping to open 7th July. Holding car boot sale Sunday July 26th 9am – 12noon

## **MY SISTER by Betty Waite**

I love you.....I really do  
With the kind of love only you know too  
We may not say so as often as we should  
But for you to know is really, really good

As kids we quarrelled and fell out often  
But with age we've changed and our attitudes softened  
Our two lives couldn't be further apart  
You to travel and me not to start

To stay at home was my part in life  
While you have struggled and had lots of strife  
You've coped everything thrown your way  
Your family close with you everyday

I admire you also for being brave as can be  
And wish I could help and for you to see  
That you're thought of with love and affection too  
**MY SISTER, MY FRIEND** this is just for you

### **THIRD AGE TRUST ANNOUNCEMENT U3A DAY AND CORONAVIRUS**

The decision has been made to postpone our first national U3A Day from 3 June 2020 to **Wednesday 2nd June 2021**.

Many U3As have invested time and energy into planning creative and informative events to raise the profile of the movement. We have a long lead-time for this new date so plans can be reviewed and rearranged including venues and guests.

As you are aware, U3A Day is planned to maximise the opportunity to raise our profile nationally as well as locally. Nationally, we will work towards signposting media attention to **Wednesday 2nd June 2021**.

We will continue to update resources and advice on the national website. This helps us keep each other up-to-date with what is happening. The closed **U3A Day Facebook site** has a wealth of ideas and discussion points and is a very positive community.

It is also recommended that as many individual members sign up to the national online newsletter (<https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>) to receive regular updates as to advice and measures being put in place during this unprecedented time.

The annual event, which will take place in Volunteer Week on the first Wednesday in June, will show the amazing and diverse things that our members get up to and challenge preconceptions of what being an older adult means. The 2021 event will be enhanced by the multitude of projects, activities, outcomes and new approaches to communication that have emerged as a consequence of the 2020 Pandemic Lockdown period.

Let's look forward to a time to celebrate the wonderful organisation that is U3A! Thank you for your support.

## WALTER PAYNTER – A QUIET MAN

Recent editions of the U3A Third Age Matters have featured the sinking of The HMT Lancastria during the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from France in June of 1940.

I read with interest the different accounts of U3A members from all over the UK, who had lost fathers or whose fathers had survived what has been described as “The forgotten Maritime Disaster of World War 2” These stories were of significance to my family, because Corporal Walter Charles Paynter 63386 of REME who was a survivor of the tragedy. Walter was in fact my Father in Law.

The TAM articles prompted me to re-investigate what had happened to Walter during the BEF evacuation and how he had come to be on the Lancastria on June 17th 1940? To say that there were gaps in our knowledge of Walter's war years is an understatement. Like many men of that era Walter did not want to talk about the war, as the title suggests he was also a quiet man and we only had sparse information about the Lancastria disaster from him. We did, however, have some information from Doris (his wife) and anecdotal information that Judi, my wife, from what she could remember about Walter saying during her teenage years.

We knew that Walter (who was very deaf) had said that his hearing was damaged when he along with other survivors was strafed and incendiaries bombed whilst they were in the water as the Lancastria sank. We also knew that Walter and his mate Jonny Ball went through the war together and that they were members of the Lancastria Society that was formed after the war to ensure that the memory of those who lost their lives were not forgotten. We have Walter's Army Pay Book and some information, from copies of his Army/war records that proved very useful, in cross referencing with publications and books that had been written about the Lancastria and the evacuation. We also knew that the subsequent political decisions that were made by the War Cabinet and Churchill at the time were made, in order to lockdown all sources of information about the disaster, during the war years but that had lasted for 25 years. So that also added to the mystery of what happened to Walter and the thousands of men like him on 17th June 1940?



So let's put Walter into context in all of this. Prior to the outbreak of War, he was a Fitter and Turner in a pit in the South Wales valleys and had also been an Army reservist since 1937. He was married and had a daughter Majorie aged 2. So in 1939 like thousands of others he joined up and was shipped out to France as part of the British Expeditionary Force to halt the invasion of France and Belgium by German Forces. As I said earlier, Walter was in The Royal Engineers, but he was also in (The Heavy Recovery Section) and that proved to be a significant factor in piecing together his story.

Most people will know of the withdrawal of the BEF in France and the subsequent evacuation of approx 338,000 troops from Dunkirk starting on 4th June 1940. What is less well documented is that a further 191,000 troops were rescued from all along the French coast during the following weeks leading up to June 17th. Another fact that does not fit easily alongside the gallant rescue at Dunkirk is that many of the last men to be evacuated from France were not fighting men, but engineers, RAF Ground Crew, Naafi staff, pay clerks, etc. It appears that the Standing orders of evacuation were to get as many men out as possible and destroy all of the equipment that would fall into enemy hands. The books that I have read clearly identify the role REME had at the time was to destroy vehicles and equipment and not to repair them. This assists another piece of evidence and helps to establish where Walter was at the time and why he was on one of the last ships out of France. From his war record and Army Pay Book we were able to establish that he had been part of the REME Heavy Recovery Repair Shop that had its base near Nantes. Apparently it had been part of the main supply and maintenance networks that linked Nantes and St Nazaire since the outbreak of war. However the jigsaw pieces of what Walter did and where he was based during the 14 days between Dunkirk on June 3rd and when he boarded the Lancastria 17th June are only partly filled.

What is very clear from the historical documents that we have read is that thousands of men like Walter headed for St Nazaire from all over Western France. The German advance was so rapid, that escape routes were cut off, notwithstanding the fact that the Luftwaffe had total domination in the air and as men made their escape they were subject to constant aerial attack. The Atlantic Port St Nazaire it seems became one of their last hopes of getting home. Significant also is the fact that St Nazaire was one of the few ports big enough to take a liner the size of HMT Lancastria who could take 1,300 men. In the last days before the French surrendered, St Nazaire was overrun with troops and refugees trying to get away and subject to constant air attacks and bombing.

So we know that Walter made it to St Nazaire from Nantes, but we do not know what he endured to get there and when he boarded the Liner. What we do know however from survivor accounts was that when he did get onboard he was relieved to be “going home”.

Thousands of men boarded the ship and initially they each had a ticket to tell them where they were billeted. It appears that there was a hierarchy in terms of rank and unit as to where you were placed on ship e.g.: RAF personnel were put in the hold, officers had their own quarters below decks, because it was safer for them to avoid being shot at by enemy planes. We know that eventually the ticket system was abandoned and it was estimated that between 5,000 and 9,000 men and handful of women and children were on board when the Lancastria sank. We have no idea where Walter was billeted on the Lancastria, when she was hit by German bombs. The accounts of survivors tell us that thousands of men in the holds or below decks lost their lives either from the direct hit of the bombs or that they were unable to escape. This is pure supposition, but if he were below decks, because he was small and slim in stature he, like others in their accounts of events, stripped off his uniform and heavy boots and climbed through a porthole. If he was on deck then because the ship listed so badly as result of the bombs fracturing the oil tanks he may well have as some described in their accounts “simply walked or jumped into the sea and tried to swim away” from the suction of the sinking ship dragged him under.

The Lancastria sank in just 28 minutes in that time she had listed so much, that the last people on board were basically on the hull. We do know that fewer than 2,500 people survived that day. I can only surmise what Walter did to survive when he was in the water. He had told Doris that the bombing or being strafed when he was in the water had been a factor in him losing a great deal of his hearing.



However now in hindsight we can also attribute his ‘weak chest’ and bronchial condition was not due to the pit as we had first thought. In fact it was due to him swallowing oil, when he was in the water before being rescued. We are not sure how long he was in the water, but Judi and Doris remembered that he said that it was hours and not minutes before he was picked up. Goodness

knows what Walter saw and endured during those hours in the sea. I recently reread the book on the Lancastria Disaster written by Jonathon Fenby. Survivor accounts in the book identify harrowing tales of how men died, because they could not swim and lost a hold on something because of the slippery oil. That same oil choked others when they became too tired to swim or even float anymore. And we wondered why Walter and others did not want to talk about it!

The quiet man and the other survivors could not have told their story in any case. Mr. Churchill the Prime Minister at the time immediately stopped all information about the disaster from being discussed and imposed a ban on it being reported in the British press. That was because he thought it would damage the morale of the country following defeat in France, choosing instead the heroism of events that had taken place in Dunkirk as a better option for history to remember. The Telegrams that were sent to the wives and families of those who had perished on board the Lancastria simply said that they were “missing in action” so relatives thought that they had died in the Battle of France or possibly taken as prisoners of war. The government also imposed a “D” notice on the information about the Tragedy. That meant that no one could look at the official records for 25 years.

What then of Walter he was with his unit Transport section of were shipped out to been on The battle of El Alamein.



when he returned home? His Army Records show that in August of that year then posted to the HRS Motor REME in the UK. On October 1st he and his Unit Egypt as was his best mate Jonny Ball who had also Lancastria. We think that Walter was involved in the But that's for further investigation.

That is however not joined the Lancastria up by survivors and of the memory of those who perished alive. It was not until the “D” notice had ended and the official government records were opened and much of the information that we have researched became available and verified.

the end of Walter’s story. Judi remembers that he Society with Johnny Ball. The Society had been set relatives of The Lancastria deceased to keep the thread

From the Lancastria Society information we were able to see that it was not until 25 years after the release of information, that some widows and their families know that the last resting place of their loved ones is actually on the Lancastria and that they have at least some closure. There is a cruel twist also, because the British government still refuses to designate the site of the Lancastria Wreck as an official War Grave. The French government does so honour the dead every year at a plaque in the Port of St Nazaire. Interestingly, so do the Scottish with their Ceremony and statue in Clydeside.

On June 17th 2020 it will be 80 years since the disaster. Walter passed many years ago, and I believe that there are only a few if any of the original survivors are still alive. Indeed those relatives who have travelled to France in the past, to commemorate and honour the men who rest on the Lancastria by throwing flowers into the Sea on the site of the wreck, will not be able to do so this year because of the pandemic.

It will also be interesting to see if there is any media coverage to mark the “Greatest loss of life in maritime history” also as a relative of a man who died on board said “they will not be remembered in most history books of World War Two”

In telling Walter's story I no longer see him as the gentle small man, who was deaf and had a bad chest. He was a quiet man yes, but a man we celebrated on VE Day and we will toast again on June 17th 2020.

**Rob Harry**

## **SECOND ZOOM DIGITAL COMPETITION**

1st Maureen Rhymer



2nd Ann Taylor-Heard



3rd Peter Bartlett



Max Boyce MBE has written a beautiful poem, in his own inimitable way, about these troubled times called 'When Just The Tide Went Out' (which can be sung to the tune of 'Hymns and Arias')

*'When Just The Tide Went Out'*

*Last night as I lay sleeping  
When dreams came fast to me  
I dreamt I saw JERUSALEM  
Beside a tideless sea  
And one dream I'll remember  
As the stars began to fall  
Was Banksy painting Alun Wyn  
On my neighbour's garage wall  
And dreams like that sustain me  
Till these darkest times have past  
And chase away the shadows  
No caring night should cast  
But times like this can shine a light  
As hardship often can  
To see the best in people  
And the good there is in man  
And I remember Swansea with nobody about  
When the shops were closed like Sunday  
And just the tide went out*

*And I remember Mumbles with the harbour in its keep  
And the fishing boats at anchor that trawl the waters deep  
And I heard the seabirds calling  
As the gulls all wheeled about  
But all the town was sleeping now  
And just the tide went out*

*And when these days are over  
And memories remain  
Of children painting Rainbows  
When the sun shone through the rain  
And I thought of all the nurses who stretchered all the pain  
And I hope they never get to see a time like this again  
And I prayed last week for Boris  
Who knocked on Heavens door  
And I thought of voting Tory, which I've never done before  
And though the sun is shining now I've no immediate plans  
So I'll write a book on 'Staying In' and 'Ways To Wash Your Hands'  
And I'll remember mornings with nobody about  
When the shops were closed like Sunday  
And just the tide went out.*

## **ONE FOR THE GOLFERS MISSING THE GREENS!**

### **GOLF GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ**

1. Which golfer was known as the Walrus?
2. Which course is the traditional home of the Masters?
3. What is the maximum amount of time allowed to look for a lost ball?
4. In 1967 which golfer made the first televised hole in one?
5. Who won his only British open Golf Championship at Royal St Georges, Sandwich in 1985?
6. Over how many holes is The Open Golf tournament contested?
7. Who did Nick Faldo sensationally beat to win his third Masters?
8. In August 1996 who made his surprising debut as a pro in the Czech Open?
9. Which South African won the British Open in 1949, 1950, 1952 and 1957?
10. Which trophy is held for women's teams from the United States & UK/Ireland?
11. Which US president's home was alongside the course on which the US Masters is played?
12. Who captained the European team to victory in the 1995 Ryder Cup?
13. Who headed the European Order of Merit between 1971 and 1974?
14. Who opposed the US in the Ryder Cup between 1973 and 1977?
15. Who was involved with John Daley in the 1995 British Open play-off?
16. Who was the first non-American post-war winner of the US Masters?
17. Who won the English Amateur Championship in 1975 aged 18?
18. Who won the US Masters in 1986 for a record sixth time?

**Answers next month**



**Submitted by**

**Paul and Dot Bristol**

The rose is “for your eyes only” and has travelled from our Essex garden to Portskewett via Mathern.

It's never looked so good!

## GARDENING

Hello everyone. Hope all our members are keeping well in these strange times.

My apologies to those who have not yet received their refunds for gardening trips cancelled. Although the majority of refunds have been made, we are now awaiting a new cheque book before we can complete the refunds, my thanks for your patience and also thanks to Sheila for all her hard work organizing this.

I hope you have all been making the best of this lovely weather in your gardens. Relaxing, as well as working and keeping the weeds at bay and lawns cut! Remember, at the beginning of this lockdown situation, I told you my husband dug up most of our lawn to make a vegetable patch. Well I am please to say that we have today cooked the first courgettes, very nice too! Everything is certainly springing up and looking good – different varieties of beans, carrots, salads, peppers, squash, beetroot, spinach, kale, and of course tomatoes and cucumber. They are all coming on a treat, so Andrew is now forgiven for digging the lawn up. I did not think such a small space would produce so many edible goodies. Plus, plenty of work to keep us occupied whilst we cannot get out and about. They all seem to be doing great alongside the flowers.

Although the R.H.S. and N.G.S. Gardens are now gradually opening up, by making an appointment only, all the R.H.S. Flower Shows have been cancelled for this year. Importantly, there will be no toilet facilities or restaurants open in any of the gardens.

July is a glorious time to take it easy, but there is also plenty to do and enjoy your garden:-

- Now is an ideal time to plant autumn flowering bulbs, such as Nerine.
- Lawn growth generally slows towards late summer, so raise the cutting height of your mower slightly as the month progresses.
- Check plants in greenhouses and conservatories for pests such as whitefly, red spider mite, mealy bugs and scale insects. Yellow card sticky traps are a simple way of monitoring pests, treatment may be necessary to reduce populations.
- Treat your indoor plants to a cleanup. Wipe dust from smooth leaf plant with a damp cloth and use a soft brush for spiny or hairy leaf plants.

Keep safe and enjoy your gardens.

**Pauline Marx**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

No change from last month. No holidays booked unfortunately. If you require your money back that you have paid for the Jersey holiday, as some have paid the full amount, please let me know as I am able to write cheques for refunds.

I am still hopeful for this holiday to take place next May as I have transferred deposits over rather than lose them. The money is safe in the Special Events Bank account so there's no need to be concerned.

With regard to monies for the King and I, I have had the ticket money returned from ATG ticket people so I am able to refund you all once I can get a second signature on the cheques. Now that I can visit Tony I will endeavour to return all owing as soon as possible.

Thanks for your understanding

**Pam Caines**

## DRAMA

Well not much to report here. Dianne and I have been reading plays lent to us by our own Keith in readiness for when we can get back together. There are some cracking comedies which I am sure you would enjoy. All Dianne and I have to worry about is will we all remember the words!!

Here's looking at you all. Cheers

**Pam Caines**

## WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING DURING LOCKDOWN?

Perfecting my bread making skills  
from this.....



Which could have been used as a discus

**Angela Hodson-Hirst**

to this! Scrummy!



## MORE LOCKDOWN LINGO

Coronials	As opposed to millennials, this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus quarantine. They might also become known as “Generation C” or, more spookily, “Children of the Quarn”.
Furlough Merlot	Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working also known as “bored-eaux” or “cabernet tedium”.
Coronadose	An overdose of bad news from consuming too much media during a time of crisis. Can result in a “panicdemic”.
Getting on your Wic	Vexing noise levels from neighbours doing their daily workout with Joe Wicks, the Body Coach. Star jumps and burpees sound like a stampeding herd of buffalo.
Miley/Billy Ray	Rhyming slang for coronavirus, as in popstrel Miley Cyrus (ie ‘virus’) or her country crooner father Billy Ray. Sample usage: “I’m suffering with a touch of the Mileys” or “I’m achy-breaky and displaying Billy Ray symptoms”. Which one you use is a useful indicator of your age.
Claphazard	Someone so enthusiastic about saluting our care workers that they forget all social distancing guidelines, start hugging their neighbours and high-fiving passing pedestrians.
The elephant in the Zoom	The glaring issue during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention. E.g. one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

Doughverkill	One's social media feed being dominated by smug photos of home-made sourdough or banana bread. If making sourdough is so great, how come you'd never done it before March?
Quentin Quarantino	An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make amateur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.
Covidiot	One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others can be said to display "covidioy" or be "covidiotic". Also called a "lockclown" or even a "Wuhan-ker".

## **KEEPING IN TOUCH**

Throughout this long lockdown period there have been many appeals to keep in touch and share your experiences during this time. We should all be inspired by the ideas, get-togethers and experiences of Pam our Chairman in the June newsletter – Elizabeth Close will never be the same again. Thank you, Pam. Also Rob our vice chairman for flying the U3A flag on his house on VE day. Many of you keep in touch with family and friends in ways you would not have imagined before this time. This is what U3A is all about, learning in the broadest sense, laugh and live. Let us know about your experiences, favourite music, walk or current topics. We would like to hear from you. Have you found some new experience or occupation or re-visited old pastimes.



Recently Adrian & I were loaned a 1000 piece jigsaw. It is many years since we have done a jigsaw. This one was a challenge, we were both excited at finding that elusive piece and also frustrated but the joy when it was completed but the sorrow to have to dismantle it to return it to its owner!

Some of our experiences have come from the continuing support by convenors, some we would not have considered but have found enjoyable e.g. computer zoom sessions. Each morning we look forward to emails which have been sent of music, jokes etc by Brian our Stragglers Convenor which has happened every day throughout lockdown. Thank you, Brian. We also look forward to a regular weekly one from one of our U3A friends.

Our thanks go to Pauline & Sheila for their contact and return of holiday monies. It is reassuring to have written reports from Convenors of continued contact with their members. I also have permission to include the following from Jan & Wendy. Thank you both.

*I also continue to keep in touch with my Jive Dance Group Members and we are pleased to report that at this time they are all safe and well, keeping busy with walking, gardening and decorating.*

***Wendy Protheroe***

*One thing that Lockdown has taught me is how fond I am of my Music Appreciation Group. I have missed them all on each 4th Thursday of the Month when it should be our meeting. I spend my time on the day to how they are coping. Things will get better and just think of all of the parties we will have when we can get back together again.*

***Jan Potter***

Look forward to meeting you all again. Take care and keep safe.

**Glenice Dallow**

## **DID YOU KNOW? - BEGINNINGS**

I was born in Salisbury, in my Nan's terraced house. Over the next few years, because my parents were Ministers, we moved to Reading, Motherwell in Scotland, Pontypridd, Ynysybwl, Treforest, Nash, outside Newport and then finally Caldicot. At the age of 15 when I could leave school, I went to live with my Grandmother in Salisbury. I worked as a switch board operator, using plugs connected by leads, if you weren't careful it could end up looking like a bowl of spaghetti and you would have to spend hours detangling it all.

Several years later a friend of mine, who I had dated for a while, brought a boy to church. He was an American Airman staying in one of the rooms in his parent's house. His name was Lloyd, "Everyone calls me Skip though" he replied. I had no idea how exciting my life was about to become.

When Skip was sent back to America I was devastated. That was that. I received a letter from him, asking me to be at the phone box down the road at a specific date and time, I remember thinking "That's really that then" That conversation totally changed my life. Skip proposed, I said yes and preparations were made. I was moving to America!

I travelled to London to be poked, prodded and tested to obtain a VISA and with a job already offered and accepted, I was all set.

I was 18, I wore my hair in a bee hive, liked the Beatles, and thought of myself as quite fashionable keeping up with all the latest trends. The last conversation I had with Skip on the telephone before I set off, he told me, "Don't wear a mini skirt for the journey, they aren't really the 'done' thing over here"

March 1968, my father hired a minivan so that the whole family could take me to Heathrow. Mum, Dad, and 6 siblings, it took all my powers of persuasion to talk my mum out of bringing the family dog.

We turned up at the airport, a family from a small village, totally amazed. Before even getting into the airport, the two youngest, decided it was great fun to run in and out, in and out, of the automatic doors, none of us had ever seen doors that opened by themselves, this was a great game.

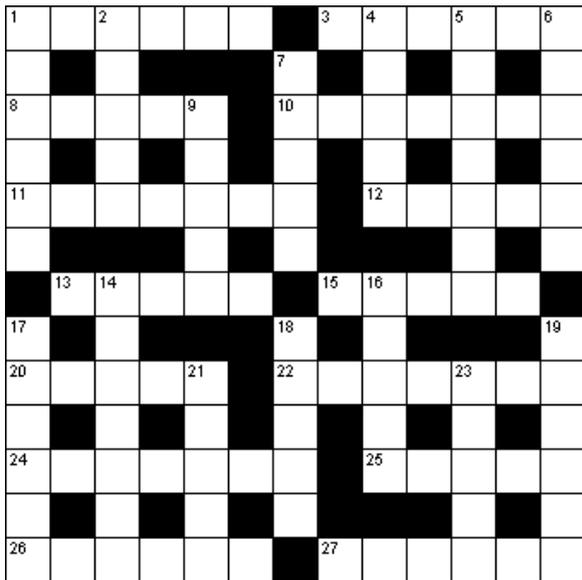
A girl, who had never left Britain, who had never been on a plane I arrived in New York at a busy Airport. I didn't have a clue where I needed to go to catch my connecting flight, so as any introverted person would do, I followed a nice looking couple. Can you imagine if they had been going to California not St Louis?

The plane landed, I was there, and I was in St Louis. Now remember earlier, I mentioned our last conversation? Picture this, me walking off the plane and down the steps, a plastic carrier bag printed with a Union Jack in one hand, Beehive in perfect condition, knee high black boots polished to an inch of their lives, and .....wearing a mini skirt. It's a red rag to a bull to tell me not to do something. The day I met back up with Skip, he greeted me not with open arms, but rather holding his face in his hands.....

Read the next instalment 'Early Days in America' in next months' newsletter

**Linda Stewart**

**JULY CROSSWORD**



**ACROSS**

**DOWN**

- 1. Bicycle for two (6)
- 3. Legal (6)
- 8. Metal bar (5)
- 10. Voter (7)
- 11. Choices (7)
- 12. Stingless male bee (5)
- 13. Ire (5)
- 15. Accumulate (5)
- 20. Entice (5)
- 22. Recess (7)
- 24. Let go (7)
- 25. Automaton (5)
- 26. Riding seat (6)
- 27. Repented (6)

- 1. Sartor (6)
- 2. Evening (5)
- 4. Make better (5)
- 5. Asinine (7)
- 6. Food store (6)
- 7. Laconic (5)
- 9. Fish (5)
- 14. Wandered (7)
- 16. Type of musical scale (5)
- 17. Begins (6)
- 18. Bet (5)
- 19. Combined (6)
- 21. Path (5)
- 23. Relating to a city (5)

**June's solution**

M	A	R	I	N	E	R		R	E	A	C	H
A		E				A		U		V		A
C	I	V	E	T		I	G	N	E	O	U	S
A		U		I		S		G		C		T
B	R	E	A	T	H	E		S	T	A	R	E
R				A		D						D
E	Q	U	I	N	E		S	E	C	O	N	D
		N				I		A				E
C	H	A	O	S		M	U	S	I	C	A	L
R		W		H		P		E		H		I
E	V	A	S	I	V	E		L	Y	I	N	G
P		R		N		D					M	H
E	N	E	M	Y		E	M	I	N	E	N	T

**LET'S DO SUDOKU!**

**June's Sudoku solution**

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

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

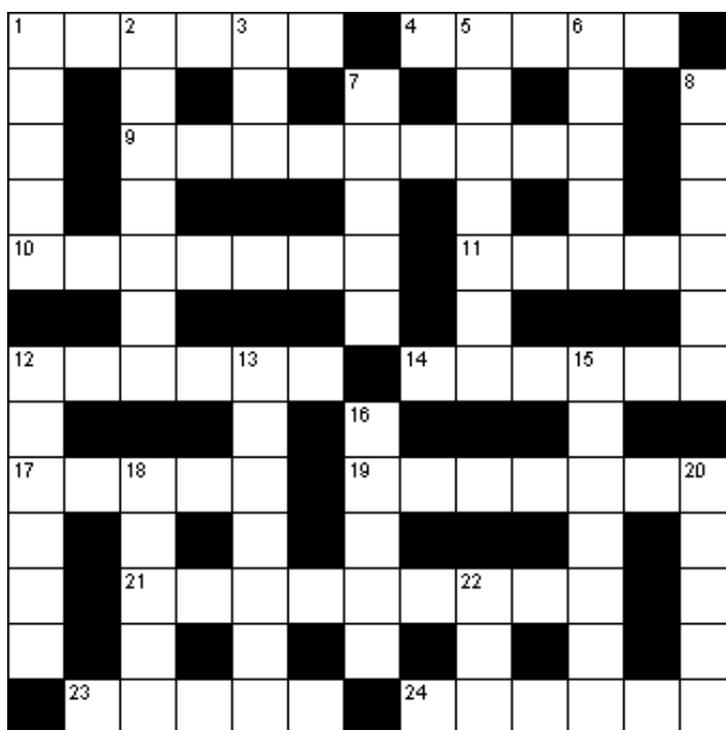
Solutions next month

**NINE LETTER WORD PUZZLE – Submitted by Pat Oxenham**

How many words of 4 letters or more can you make using only these letters? Use each letter only once in each word. There is one 9 letter word

N	I	C
L	G	T
U	B	H

**CRYPTIC CROSSWORD**



**Across**

- 1. Bank employee, who can say (6)
- 4. Balance found in muesli bran (5)
- 9. Crumbling old places fell down (9)
- 10. Not as old as that confused Reno guy (7)
- 11. Plenty of land in tarmac resort (5)
- 12. Opposed to poetry (6)
- 14. Purloins duck between beginning and end of shifts (6)
- 17. Last letter in some game (5)
- 19. Tolerates some token duress (7)
- 21. Alter code when moved (9)
- 23. One of the Earps, sounds interrogative at first (5)
- 24. Shuffle a paper then come into view (6)

**Down**

- 1. Sum up tall youth, essentially (5)
- 2. Let cure become a lesson (7)
- 3. Find a fish in a wee lake (3)
- 5. Begins tantrum in a moment (7)
- 6. Palindrome instrument (5)
- 7. Found in large scale drama crowd (5)
- 8. Hesitates to use spa turbulence (6)
- 12. Committee on a ship (6)
- 13. Evidence of injury, allow for redness (7)
- 15. Shorten a river crossing (7)
- 16. Serenity, sounds like part of something greater (5)
- 18. Nobleman with ponytail is before his time (5)
- 20. Grasp earnest weapon, essentially (5)
- 22. High point found in octopus (3)

## **CALDICOT & DISTRICT U3A**

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