

## A Word from our President

Dear Member

Welcome to our third Bulletin. We hope that you are enjoying some of the lock-down easing. Unfortunately, the future still looks uncertain and caution seems to be the word of the day. But we will come through this together and we hope that the Bulletin helps to keep us all in touch.

Stay safe.

*Ursula Steiger*

## Zooming Tips

In the past few months we have seen a gradual development of online talks and courses for our members. With autumn fast approaching we hope to offer more until we can meet again face to face. Meanwhile, here are some tips you may find helpful.

- Learn how to turn on and off your microphone and video camera; the icon will be visible somewhere on your screen.
- Do the above when asked to by the host or tutor of the meeting.
- A Zoom meeting can be ruined by coughs and gurgles and whispered conversations between two people attending together whilst unmuted.
- Similarly, noises such as washing machines and dishwashers, as well as external noises like sirens, can be very disruptive. Please try to participate from a calm environment.
- If your video is on, avoid multi-tasking as this can be distracting for the tutor and others.
- Find out how the chat button works as this can be useful if you want to chip in.

There are a number of videos on YouTube that explain how Zoom works and how to get the most out of your experience. We are also available to answer questions and offer help. If you already know all the above and more, please do not be offended. We hope the points will be useful to those who are new to Zoom and have asked for advice.

Happy Zooming!

*Pam McGregor and Ursula Steiger*

## Annual Proms

Music lovers, don't forget that the proms are happening. These will be re-runs of previous concerts and among them many old favourites and gems you might have missed before. Such great treats!

## The 27<sup>th</sup> International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival 2021

It has been a bad year for so many of us because of Covid-19 and of course the 2020 Gilbert and Sullivan Festival has had to be cancelled. Now, though, is the right time to think about the 2021 International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival as something positive to look forward to in August 2021.

Earlier in the year Bernard Lockett gave us a talk on Gilbert and Sullivan and has sent us the following details. Bookings can be made now and there are discounts available for group bookings, the allocations for which will be held with nothing to pay until June 2021.

**31 July–7 August**

Buxton Opera House

**8–22 August**

The Royal Hall, Harrogate

Ticket prices range from £21–£38. Group discounts per performance: 15–30 applicants, 10%;  
over 30 applicants, 15%.

For further details and Box Office, tel: 01422 323 252.

### There'll Be Bluebirds Over ...

Meets at Bredin are no more  
Nor our walks along the shore  
We don't meet en masse and sing  
No one's swimming in the seas  
Or identifying bees  
There's no dancing in a ring.

We don't soar into the blue  
In a glider built for two  
Or take trips out for the day  
We're not learning how to speak  
French or German, Ancient Greek  
No one hears recorders play.

I'm sure painters ply their trade  
Quilts and jewellery is made  
But it's really not the same  
When there's no one there to say  
'You have done so well to day'  
And to help you up your game.

Mr Dickens only read  
All alone when we're in bed  
No one plucks a music chord  
Disco music fails to rock  
And our sailboat stays in dock  
With no novices aboard.

Who'd have thought there'd be a day  
When a speck of DNA  
Could mutate and cause such pain  
But the time will come I'm sure  
When this virus is no more  
USA will shine again.

*Jocelyn Thomson*

### Life Goes On

Some of the learning and activities courses that were in progress prior to lock-down have been developed and pursued during this period and here are just a couple of pictures showing what has been achieved.

**Knit  
and  
Natter  
Group**



*The ladies from the group have been very productive during lock-down.*

I have now collected 25 blankets, 30 bonnets, 4 jackets and 3 knitted breasts. These all go to the premature baby unit at The William Harvey Hospital. They are very much appreciated by the nurses and the mothers.

*Lilias Adamson*

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**Watercolour  
Painting**



*The Gathering Storm, an imaginary landscape*

It was Andy's McNally's course that gave me the impetus to have a go. This is one of several I painted during lock-down. I used acrylic as it is easier to correct when things go wrong, which they inevitably do when starting out.

*Dave Caley*

## Book Review

### ***Empire (How Britain made the Modern World)* by Niall Ferguson**

Revisiting my bookshelves I came across this book which is very apt at this time of Black Lives Matter. It is an interesting read and doesn't hide how British interests, starting with piracy and trade, grew into an empire covering a huge clump of the world. Sometimes it was led by greed, sometimes by evangelising and always in the belief that European values were superior to the rest of the world's. Having grandsons of mixed race, this renews my interest in discrimination. But it is wrong to rewrite history in the name of political correctness. Of course we should give opportunities and status to all people. Read this book and face up to where we came from and how we can live well today. It is priced at £9.99 and is currently in stock at Waterstones, Canterbury.

*Reviewed by Rosemary Welsh*

## More Glorious Insults

If you enjoyed the Glorious Insults in July's issue, then here are a few more.

- \* *I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here.*  
Stephen Bishop
- \* *He is a self-made man and worships his creator.*  
John Bright
- \* *I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial.*  
Irvin S. Cobb
- \* *He is not only dull himself; he is the cause of dullness in others.*  
Samuel Johnson
- \* *He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up.*  
Paul Keating
- \* *He loves nature in spite of what it did to him.*  
Forrest Tucker
- \* *Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?*  
Mark Twain
- \* *His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.*  
Mae West
- \* *Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.*  
Oscar Wilde
- \* *He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts . . . for support rather than illumination.*  
Andrew Lang (1844–1912)
- \* *I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it.*  
Groucho Marx

*Submitted by Mary Telford*

## **And Out of the Mouths . . .**

### **Children Writing about the Ocean**

- \* *This is a picture of an octopus, it has eight testicles.*  
Kelly, age 6
- \* *Oysters' balls are called pearls.*  
Jerry, age 6
- \* *If you are surrounded by ocean, you are an island. If you don't have ocean all round you, you are incontinent.*  
Mike, age 7
- \* *Sharks are ugly and mean, and have big teeth, just like Emily Richardson. She's not my friend any more.*  
Kylie, age 6
- \* *When ships had sails, they used to use the trade winds to cross the ocean. Sometimes when the wind didn't blow the sailors would whistle to make the wind come. My brother said they would have been better off eating beans.*  
William, age 7
- \* *Mermaids live in the ocean. I like mermaids. They are beautiful and I like their shiny tails, but how on earth do mermaids get pregnant?*  
Helen, age 6
- \* *Some fish are dangerous. Jellyfish can sting. Electric eels can give you a shock. They have to live in caves under the sea where I think they have to plug themselves in to chargers.*  
Christopher, age 7
- \* *The ocean is made up of water and fish. Why the fish don't drown I don't know.*  
Bobby, age 6
- \* *My dad was a sailor on the ocean. He knows all about the ocean. What he doesn't know is why he quit being a sailor and married my mum.*  
James, age 7

## **Try This**

Can you out-smart your foot?

This will boggle your mind. And you will keep trying over and over again. But you can't, it's pre-programmed into your mind.

Step 1. Without anyone watching you and while sitting at your desk in front of the computer, lift your right foot off the floor and make clockwise circles.

Step 2. Now, while doing this, draw the figure 6 in the air with your right hand.

**Your foot will change direction. And there's nothing you can do about it!**