

# CHEADLE AND GATLEY U3A

Registered Charity Number:1172853



## NOVEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

### Message from the Chair

Batsheva Samely

Your committee and your friends at Cheadle and Gatley U3A are sending greetings to you! This interim Newsletter is packed full of information, stories, beautiful poems, pictures and drawings, quizzes and news about upcoming events. I hope you'll enjoy browsing!

The photo at the foot of this page is a screenshot of our very first online Zoom meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> October. There were 27 participants and it lasted for just under an hour. It was very much enjoyed by all. We did not have a speaker but instead talked to each other, exchanging personal information as well as news about Interest Groups. We heard about some intriguing research into KitKat chocolates and at the end there was unanimous support for having more such informal Cheadle and Gatley U3A online meetings. Our next meeting will be a



**Festive Christmas Meeting**, taking place on **Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm.**

More details to follow at the beginning of December and we are hoping for many of you to join us online. If you would like to contribute to that meeting by way of readings, stories, songs or in any other way, please let either Lesley or myself know.

The lack of face-to-face meetings also means there is a lack of opportunities to support our chosen charity, Pip's Place. In case you wish to make a donation – in lieu of buying raffle tickets – you can use the link in the Beacon email sent earlier.

The North West U3A region is offering free talks (similar to ones we usually enjoy as part of our Monthly Meetings) on two Tuesday mornings. Details of how to register to hear the talks are also given in the earlier email.

**Grandma flew Spitfires** Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am

**Fool's Gold Winter Warmer** Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> December, 10.30am

I hope you enjoy this Newsletter and wish you well in these uncertain times. Together we'll get through this!



## u3a Rebranding

Lesley Witton

You may have noticed the new logo at the top of the first page. National Office, in their infinite wisdom, decided that new branding was required to revamp our image! The idea is to associate u3a with older people having fun and helping each other and keeping themselves physically and mentally alert. There have certainly been a great many controversial opinions expressed on the Facebook u3a Keeping in Touch site - ranging from 'what a waste of money' to 'I like the fresh new image'. Personally, I don't mind the new logo, but (call me old-fashioned), I do not like the lower case for the name in the body of text and think it looks even worse in the plural (u3as)! What do you think?

## Zoom Shot 2020

Mary Sharples

It is great to see the growing number of members using Zoom to keep in touch. Please join if you can. It really is very easy. Zoom is a video conferencing platform that enables meetings to be held online. You need to download the app from Zoom UK to a computer, tablet or phone. Then wait for an invitation to a meeting and sign in with the information the host sends you. Then you can also join our Zoom Christmas Meeting on December 9<sup>th</sup>. U3A

National are offering Zoom Training events. They are free, and they are for all members. One small step from you! One giant step for Cheadle and Gatley U3A as we "Boldly go" into the "New Normal"! Let us journey together.

## u3a Radio

Brian Green

I would recommend all members to listen in to the newly set up 'u3a Radio'. They have done just one broadcast so far but another is scheduled for November. The broadcast or 'podcast' as it is called in internet vernacular lasts 30 minutes and takes the form of a regular radio programme you might listen to on the more serious BBC radio stations.

There was a variety of topics including brief talks from two Group Coordinators who have had a reasonable success with online meetings which might spark a few ideas not only for now but for incorporating these as part and parcel of u3a activity when normality returns.

There was also a very interesting chat with Sam Mauger, our Chief Executive, on a variety of subjects including Trust u3a which is offering the possibility of online activities to members during this period as well as giving us some of her thoughts on possibilities for broadening the u3a membership going forward. It gives an interesting insight into the thoughts of our Central office.

You get access by simply logging onto YouTube and searching for 'u3a radio'.

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## Lee Fairlie

In early October we had the very sad news that Lee Fairlie had passed away.

Lee was a leading member of our U3A, always smiling, positive, efficient, supportive and quietly energetic. She helped to coordinate our Manchester Celebration Day, was instrumental in setting up the German Interest Group and was a key member of the Ukulele Group. She even started her own Ukulele Group in the residence where she lived. Lee was much-loved and highly regarded by everyone who knew her. She will be sorely missed.

Lee standing in front of the Manchester Heritage Time Line which she devised for our Manchester Celebration Day





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## INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

### **My Angel**

**by Rosaleen Davies**

*An Angel came into my life, so many years ago. He was my comfort, my joy, my heart.  
For half of my life he stayed with me, enriching my days with his light.*

*Then, one day, he was gone. To where, I knew not, or why. Only that I missed his beautiful  
being. I was bereft and knew only that my heart was broken.*

*One night, I dreamt of him. He told me that he would always be with me. In my grief, I  
denied that this could be true. How could he be here when I could not see him, or touch him?*

*In my dream, he comforted me, cherishing me, as he had done for all of his life upon this  
earth. We walked, hand in hand, through a flower filled meadow and his loving words  
enveloped me.*

*He bade me see him everywhere. In every blade of grass that I crush beneath my feet, in the  
sun that warms my face. In the whispering winds I hear his voice.*

*In the night, I look upon the haunting moon. Its pure, silver light bathes my soul and I know,  
now, that he is still here and the reason I cannot see him is because he is forever within me,  
in my heart, wherever I may be.*

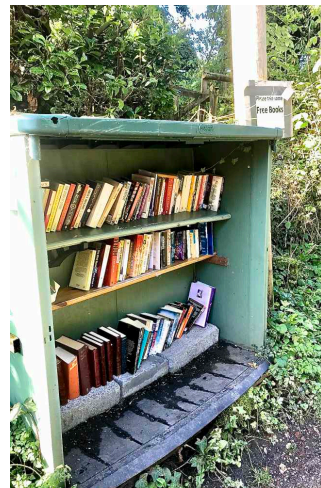
### **View of a new member**

**Margaret Carleton**

I joined Cheadle and Gatley U3A around February this year after retiring and was looking forward very much to taking part in some of the many activities available. I am particularly interested in walking. Unfortunately we went into lockdown in March so I have not yet had the opportunity to join any walks. However, I set myself a challenge during the last few months to walk the whole of the Bridgewater Way (39 miles). The canal runs from Leigh to Runcorn with lots of lovely places along the way to stop off and visit (within COVID guidelines of course). It took me a total of 13 walks to complete the Way. I planned each walk, usually one a week around a 6 mile return trip, using named bridges as my guide along the canal and wherever I finished one walk, that is where I would start the next one. I have walked mostly on my own but had lovely company too (socially distanced) on one or two walks.

The canal route is very scenic in the main parts and I have lots of lovely photographs of stunning views of the canal and its many bridges, old and new and of nature in all its glory. I met and chatted to lots of canal boat owners, anglers, walkers and cyclists along the way - all of whom I have to say were, as I was too, very conscious of social distancing and respectful of each other.

This has whetted my appetite for canal walking and I'm already planning my next one! I'm also looking forward to joining one or two of the U3A group walks and activities as soon as is practicable.





## Garden drama

John Barnard

Those of us with gardens will have found them a blessing during lockdown, especially during the glorious weather we had for long periods. John reports on some recent activity in his garden in Heald Green.

*"First we had a visit from a very colourful Great Spotted Woodpecker looking to see what delights might be on offer in our birdfeeders, then a little later on the same day a Sparrowhawk appeared having brought his own lunch with him. Having plucked a good number of breast feathers from his catch he then took it behind some bushes where he feasted for over an hour.*

*Then just a few days ago a Nuthatch arrived to sample the wares."*





## Blackpool Illuminations

Ann Walker

A year or so ago in the Local History Group we were asked to write about our memories of Blackpool Illuminations from years ago and how they compared with now, which was really appropriate as some of us had just been on a trip to the Illuminations with the Bus Pass Group.

Various members came up with great contributions which were read out at a meeting of approximately 20 people. One of the contributions was a poem by me, and as it's light hearted and amusing it might cause a smile, which is what we all need at the moment.

The Illuminations, oh deep joy,  
Great excitement for a girl and boy.  
I was a fan when very young,  
On a bus, speeding, into the setting sun.

On the A6 we'd go in a chubby charra,  
Through Bolton and Preston  
When the roads were quite narra.  
The excitement rose when we neared the coast.  
"I've seen the Tower first" we would boast.

The glittering beacon so far ahead,  
But first we would stop for fish, chips and bread.  
Onto a glistening tram we would jump.  
The sight down the prom would make our hearts pump.

From flashing of nursery rhymes on the North Shore.  
To the South, the towering Big Dipper would soar.  
In between the light show from block to block  
A chance to buy the famous rock.

Tired and weary on the way back  
We'd sing and dry out our dripping mac.

A good job we took notice when we were small,  
As, when Youth Club boys came round to call,  
We'd be snogging on the back row of the bus.  
"Illumination" of a different sort for us.

The lights which were there, "then" and "now"  
Have changed little over years and are still a "wow".  
The trip we made with the U3A  
Resembled those of yesterday.

First to spot the Tower and fish and chip supper,  
Accompanied by a nice hot cuppa.  
But the main difference being as our life dips,  
Is the travellers no longer have their own knees and hips.

OCTOBER 2020

It is sad to hear Blackpool is in a mess.  
To the government it is sending an SOS  
To help the hoteliers to keep going  
And to continue to keep those light bulbs glowing.

Let's pray that the memories of "the Lights" we all had  
Will be saved for the delight of girl and lad  
Up to and over the age of eleven  
And maybe we will be able to see them from Heaven.

## Ducks at a pond

Josephine May



The photo was taken at a pond in Abney Park during one of Josephine's 'lockdown' walks during the summer

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## GROUP NEWS

These reports include those sent by email and some are summaries of verbal reports given at the Zoom meeting.

### Archaeology

**Lois Evans**

We have been sending information from National Archaeology Group to the members. We are looking to link up with groups such as Local History Group in the spring to try and increase our range of our activities.

### Book Group 1

**Lesley Witton**

We exchanged emails with our reviews of books for the months of March – August, but we embraced new technology in October and had a successful meeting via Zoom and so intend to continue in this way.

### Book Group 2

**Tina Kelly**

Our group of 12 are valiantly Zooming every month. Our 13th member will rejoin us when we meet again. (Cue Vera- it could be a while.)

Zoom keeps continuity and we have recently discussed *Night Boat to Tangier* by Kevin Barry, longlisted for the Booker prize. It drew strongly disparate reactions from the group and was an “out of comfort zone” read; challenging for those of us looking for escape from our Covid world. Our latest Zoom meeting was a lively discussion about *The Foundling* by Stacey Halls, and most people found it an easy though rather undemanding read.

Interestingly, one of our members, who has been investigating Ancestry during lockdown, found out that they are a descendant of Dr Samuel Johnson, “arguably the most distinguished man of letters in English history” and responsible for the Dictionary of the English language. Another ancestor from the same branch was Captain Charles Reade, second in command of St Helena prison during Napoleon’s incarceration but who found himself in charge when the man actually died in 1821!

On a humbler note, we are hoping to bring a celebratory drink and mince pie to our December meeting.

### Bridge

**Linda Ewing**

We have met a couple of times in person before latest measures came into force. It was left to members to consider their own safety in attending which meant that some members chose to remain away. We don’t feel that Bridge is something that lends itself to Zoom and therefore await eagerly the end of restrictions.

### Bus Pass and Explorers

**Janet Farrall**

We hope that our group emails continue to hit the spot as we try to bring a smile together with some news.

Dorothy was pleased that, although it was by accident, she had a real adventure by getting on the wrong bus. It took her (there and back) to interesting places she hadn’t been to before.

Lois H. looks for the positive - “At least they can’t make me redundant!”

Always good to hear from Ginnie on her “lockdown sofa”.

In the absence of trips there have been lots of busy fingers . Margaret Brennan has knitted some lovely Christmas gifts, and there has been sewing and embroidery, painting and cake baking – who makes the best Lemon Drizzle cake then? Can’t wait for lockdown to be opened up so we can have a virus free Exhibition!



Craft work by Margaret Brennan

A good book is a necessity, phone calls are a lifeline, but meeting someone you know, that’s a delight. We are being sensible, we are keeping safe, just need to keep going a bit longer.

### Coach Holidays

**Barbara Ward**

In these days of the shut down, shut in, we are all really looking forward to our holiday in Pitlochry in May. We know that this depends on the virus and the Scottish Government but we are all remaining optimistic and positive.



## Craft

**Josephine Haynes**

Prior to latest restrictions we did hold face-to-face meetings although not everyone attended. We now correspond by email and have also set up a Facebook page for those who are on Facebook.

## Environment

**Peter Briggs**

I am now focusing on 2021 and am looking to hold meetings outdoors (which seems the best way of meeting at the moment) at environmentally interesting locations.

## Gardening

**Heather Wilkinson**

Since March we have not been able to do any of our planned monthly garden visits. We have kept in touch via phone calls and emails, sometimes with photos attached. We have all appreciated the fact that we have our gardens whatever the size. We have had more time to work in them, catch up with maintenance jobs and try out new ideas with borders, plant arrangements, even wage war against our usual pests and diseases! Moreover we have had the time to appreciate and enjoy the quietness and beauty of the plants and wildlife around us, interspersed with the noise of strimmers, pressure washers, etc.



A peaceful garden



A border at Arley hall in July

Caterpillar of the Elephant Hawk Moth (*Deilephila elpenor*)  
spotted in Heather's garden

Editor's note: The Elephant Hawk Moth is one of the most common hawk moths in Britain. Like most moths it is nocturnal and feeds on flower nectar. The adult is beautiful, gold and pink with a body shape of a Vulcan jet aeroplane.

The caterpillars are said to look like elephant's trunks (hence the common name) and have eyespots to scare off predators.

For copyright reasons I don't wish to download an image of an adult from the Internet, but Google it and be amazed!





## History

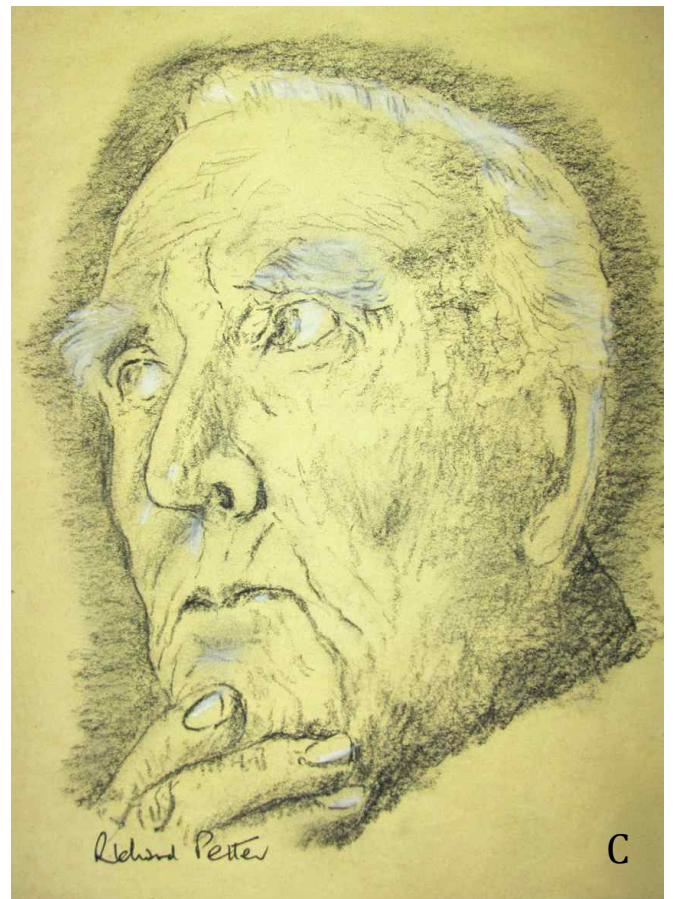
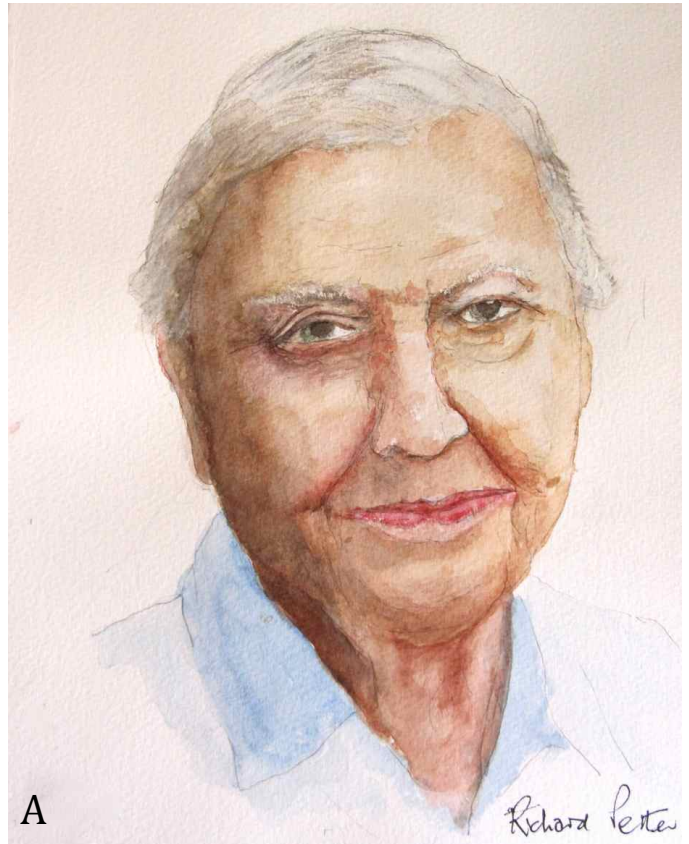
John Houghton

The History Group is maintaining contact with about half our members by regular Zoom sessions. We are currently exploring the Victorian era and each of us is taking it in turn to produce a presentation on a particular subject of interest to the member, ranging from warfare, iron and steel, trade unions and labour relations, to quote a few.

## Painting and Drawing

Huge thanks to Richard Petter for sending these three splendid portraits for us to enjoy.

As the first quiz in this issue, can you identify who they are? I got the first two (who are well-known TV personalities) quite easily, but failed on the third. The answers are on page 13.





## Spanish

Elaine Bowker

The Spanish group continues to meet up every week on Zoom. We have all been able to improve our grammar and vocabulary and confidence in conversation. We have finished using the *Esapaña Viva* book and moved onto another: *Sueños at Intermediate level*. This coming week will be our 30<sup>th</sup> session on Zoom so a testimony to our dedication and perseverance. Thanks to everyone. This following recipe is recommended by Barbara, one of our group.

### Chorizo and Prawn Fried Rice

Simply pull out your pan and whip up this delicious dinner for two, which combines tasty chorizo and juicy prawns with rich tomatoes, spring onions and fluffy rice.

Serves 2

Time 20 mins

420 calories / serving

Healthy

Disfrutar!! Elaine



#### Ingredients

- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 100g (3 1/2oz) chorizo, sliced
- 150g (5oz) raw king prawns
- 1 x 250g pack cooked basmati rice
- 150g cherry tomatoes, halved
- 5 spring onions, finely sliced
- small bunch flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

#### Method

1. Heat the olive oil in a frying pan over a medium heat. Add the chorizo and cook for 5 minutes, or until golden.
2. Add the prawns and cook for 1-2 minutes, or until just pink.
3. Stir in the rice, tomatoes and spring onions. Leave to cook over a low heat for 10-12 minutes, until a golden crust forms on the bottom of the pan and the tomatoes have softened a little.
4. Break up the rice with a fork and season to taste. Scatter over the parsley and serve.

## Ukulele

Ian Ewing

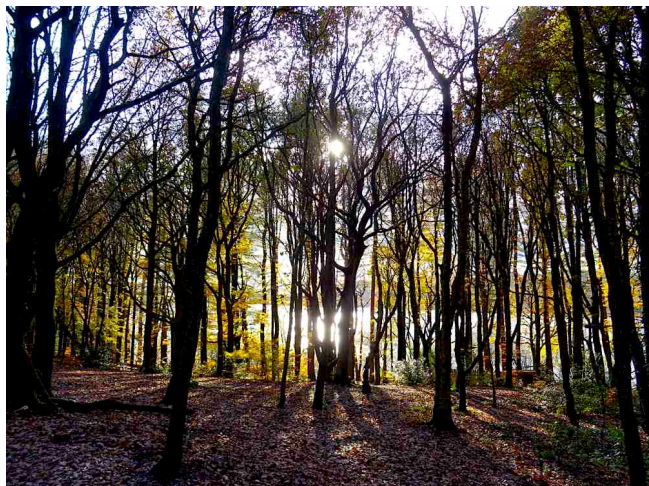
There have been no meetings so far during the restrictions, but should any members of the group wish to try starting up on Zoom I would look to give it a go.

## Long Walks

Allan Witton

We were looking at the possibility of replacing our regular walks on the third Friday (on which there was an average of 12 during 2019) with more frequent walks at irregular intervals for groups of just 6.

Unfortunately, tighter restrictions have made that inadvisable, but the plan is there when the time is right.



On our November walk last year up to Rivington Moor and along Rivington Reservoir





Crossing the canal en route to Lyme Park in November 2018



On Bakestonedale Moor in November 2017 at a capping stone for an old mine shaft which depicts local industries

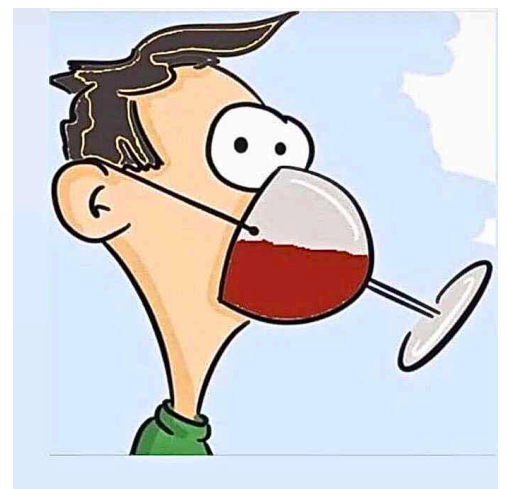
## Wine Appreciation

Peter Bayley

We have been having Zoom meetings every 2 weeks and these have been very successful (as far as we can remember them!)

Editor's note: After considerable research online I have discovered this specialised Covid-19 mask. At £60 each they are quite expensive, but at least they come with a free bottle of Châteauneuf-du-Pape 2015, Château de Beaucastel as a refill.

They are also available in white, which come with a refill bottle of Chablis Grand Cru 'Grenouilles' Louis Michel.





## QUIZ 2 SHARPEN YOUR WITS!!

Do unexpected situations, complicated directions and the necessity for quick decisions throw you off balance? Or are you one of those fortunate individuals who can think rapidly under pressure?

This quiz falls into the 'complicated directions' class included in standard intelligence tests. It will indicate how well you react to the unexpected. I used to use it as an end of term entertainment with pupils at Manchester Grammar School and they loved doing it.

As you cannot write your answers on a printed question paper, you will need to prepare an answer sheet before starting, with the numbers 1 to 20 on separate lines and next to each number write the appropriate numbered response.

Given the average age of readers of this, I have added 50% to the allowed time. **(Time Limit 15 minutes)**

If you stick to the time limit:

score less than 5	time to give up doing quizzes like this!
score 5 to 10	some brain cells still functioning well
score 10 to 15	better than average
score 15+	you must be taking omega 3!

Alternatively, take as much time as you like with the challenge of getting them all right.

The correct (I hope!) answers are on page 13.

(When doing the test to check my answers, our U3A Secretary scored 17 in just over 5 minutes!!)

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If the letter Z appears anywhere before this comma, write Z ..... (1), otherwise write the word ZOO.  
Now unless the word 'word' appears in the word sword write an asterix ..... (2), otherwise draw an X.  
If A is number 1 in the alphabet and B is 2 etc. is F+H even? ..... (3), and if so draw a star if the sum of the digits in the sum of F and H is also even ..... (4), otherwise write an exclamation mark .  
If dogs chase cats and cats chase mice, what single-figure odd number becomes even when viewed upside down ..... (5) otherwise draw a cross ..... (6).

Don't write DISCURSIVE ..... (7) if the word does not contain all of the vowels, but instead write the first four vowels in the alphabet.

Now write the word PEN ..... (8) unless a circle cannot represent any letter of the alphabet.

So much for the alphabet, except that if C is not the third letter don't draw a heart ..... (9) but do draw a star, unless D is not the second letter, in which case write Q

Now for some numbers. Can you count from 10 down to 5? Do this backwards and write the numbers in order ..... (10).

If twice your age is even write your last name ..... (11), and while we're on names, if the number of letters in your last name is more than the number of letters in your first name, then write your first name if it is Gerald ..... (12).

If 5 isn't even and 15 is a multiple of 3, write down half the sum of 5 and 15 ..... (13) unless it is even, in which case draw a star.

If the sum of the digits of this year isn't bigger than the product of the last two digits of the year write a + sign ..... (14), otherwise draw an arrow.

If a BAT can't be a bird but may be something that is not an animal don't write a T ..... (15), but write the letters which appear least often in ABRACADABRA.

Write out this sentence and punctuate it so it makes sense: THAT THAT IS IS .....(16)

Write three words ending in X ..... (17) if a circle is not a square: wait! write three words ending in 'Y' instead, unless a circle is sometimes bigger than a square.

Give the wrong answer to the negative of this question: HOW OLD ARE YOU? ..... (18).

Is it possible for your uncle's brother's son to be your younger brother? ..... (19).

Now, if you've had enough, write UNCLE ..... (20), otherwise write AUNTIE.

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### QUIZ 3 GENERAL KNOWLEDGE

Now for something a bit less demanding, but still with a cryptic element. It originated as a St James' Gatley Mothers' Union New Year Quiz some years ago. Again, as you cannot write your answers on a printed question paper, you will need to prepare an answer sheet before starting, with the numbers for each section. The correct (I hope!) answers are again on page 13.

#### Name that Christmas song

1. 'Round yon Virgin Mother and child'
  - a Jingle Bells
  - b Silent Night
  - c While Shepherds watched
  - d We three kings
2. 'And Heaven and Nature sing'
  - a Away in a manger
  - b White Christmas
  - c Joy to the World
  - d The First Noel
3. 'Tis the season to be jolly'
  - a God rest ye merry gentlemen
  - b Jingle bells
  - c Ding Dong merrily on high
  - d Deck the halls
4. Looked down where he lay
  - a Away in a manger
  - b The First Noel
  - c O Little Town of Bethlehem
  - d While Shepherds watched
5. 'Disperse the gloomy clouds of night'
  - a Come all ye Faithful
  - b Come O Come Emmanuel
  - c Hark the Herald Angels Sing

#### Name that Flower or Shrub

1. Avalanche
2. Waste not, want not
3. A musical instrument
4. He loves to see himself in a lake
5. A Christmas decoration with a sharp wine
6. Deadly sin peculiar to the city
7. A very demure girl
8. A new one does the best job
9. Card game for St George
10. This is the best policy

#### Name that Town

1. Male fortress
2. Part of a candle after battle
3. Cook's pasture
4. A nice hot soak
5. Woollen shawl for honey producer
6. A gang of witches score in rugby
7. What every detective needs
8. Pebble for everyone
9. Township marked for life
10. A decrepit old car
11. They work together on a ship
12. Equine gait over soft fruit
13. Long necked bird at the waterfront
14. Essential to life on earth
15. Way in for male sheep
16. Stay in one place for a while
17. A gem of a virgin
18. The frame of a ship
19. Swift forest
20. South below ground

#### Autumn Images



Golden October in Wythenshawe Park ...



... and Flame red leaves near Sainsburys, by Barbara Joyce





Abney pond



Beech in front of Gatley Hill House



Gatley Carrs



Hawthorn Road

**Editor's Note:** Our Newsletters can be only as interesting as the contributions submitted, so thanks to all those who sent the articles and images which have made this edition so colourful and interesting. Please start collecting material now for the next edition which we hope will be in January.

**Allan Witton**

### Answers to the quizzes

**Portraits**    A David Attenborough    B Jools Holland    C John Le Carré  
(Ed. I thought C was David Dimbleby.)

### Sharpen your wits

1 Z    2 X    3 Yes    4 !    5 9    6 Blank    7 A E I O    8 PEN    9 ♥  
10 5,6,7,8,9,10    11 Surname    12 Blank (or Gerald)    13 ★    14 →    15 CD  
16 THAT THAT IS, IS.    17 Box Fox Cox    18 Your age    19 Yes    20 UNCLE or AUNTIE

### General knowledge

Songs	1. b	2. c	3. d	4. a	5. b
Flowers	1. Snowdrop	2. Thrift	3. Viola	4. Narcissus	5. Hollyhock
	6. London Pride	7. Primrose	8. Broom	9. Snapdragon	10. Honesty
Towns	1. Manchester	2. Warwick	3. Sheffield	4. Bath	5. Rugby
	6. Coventry	7. Leeds	8. Folkestone	9. Scarborough	10. Bangor
	11. Crewe	12. Canterbury	13. Swansea	14. Ayr	15. Ramsgate
	16. Settle	17. Maidstone	18. Hull	19. Fleetwood	20. Sunderland