



Crawley u3a

Lockdown News 3/21

March 2021

Dear members,

Welcome to the March edition of the Crawley u3a newsletter. There are some promising signs of Spring with warmer weather and beautiful spring flowers. The roadmap from lockdown gives us hope that we can start meeting up again later in the year. Some groups are already thinking about planning some activities and Walkers Extra are hoping to restart bubble walks of 6 at the end of the month.

It was wonderful to see so many of you at the AGM, which after a few sound problems at the beginning, progressed very smoothly. We did have issues with voting which has prompted the Committee to begin a review of our procedures. We will keep you in touch with any developments.

A recording was made of the meeting and the link circulated to members. If you need any further information about viewing the meeting, please contact me.

We were very pleased to welcome two members who joined the meeting by phone. This could be a solution for other members without the internet to join in meetings in the future, although obviously they would be unable to see any photos etc displayed. Again, please contact me for more information.

The Committee was re-elected with the exception of Jean Elmer whose term of office was completed. Jean has been an absolute stalwart for our u3a organising an incredible range of interesting and diverse speakers as well as organising our (once!) regular coffee mornings, Open Days and events in the Community. She was instrumental in setting up the RUGs (Really Useful Group) a willing band of members who cheerfully dispense the tea and coffee and stand at external events chatting to the public about our great organisation.

We are delighted to welcome Liz Tennant as our new Speaker Organiser and wish her well in her role.

We are still keen to recruit an Events Organiser to oversee our various events once these recommence, hopefully later in the year.

Please contact me or one of the Committee for more information. We are a very supportive group and will help the new incumbent every step of the way.

As a reminder, the Committee is:

Chair: George Redgrave

Vice Chair: Jim McGough

Secretary: Alan Pay

Treasurer: Phil Light

Membership Secretaries: Ann and Stewart Sole

Groups Coordinator: Peter Beckley

Communications: Jan Morris

Following the business of the AGM, we were entertained by Ann Sole's very illustrative talk about life in Ecuador. The flowers in particular were spectacular.

AGM 2021

Looking ahead, our next AGM will be held on Friday 12th November at 2.30pm.

U3a National Open Day

The National Open Day will take place on Wednesday 2nd June when u3as across the country stage events to celebrate and promote our great organisation. Following the announcement about the path out of lockdown we are confident we can stage a small event in the town centre but we need your help. Do you have any photos of u3a activities from recent years or can you provide a short summary of an Out and About trip or a particularly interesting walk? Or do you have any other ideas of how to promote the u3a. Please email me:

newsletter@crawleyu3a.org.uk

Coffee mornings

Would you like to meet up for a chat one morning? We plan to trial a virtual coffee morning on **Friday 26th March** via Zoom. Participants will join the Zoom meeting as usual then will be allocated to a group who will divide off for a 20-30 minute chat. Bring your own coffee! Many u3as offer this facility as a chance for members to keep in touch until we can meet up in person.

March Monthly Meeting

The speaker this month is Mary Smith with a talk entitled :- A Schoolgirl's War. . Mary was headteacher of a secondary school until 2014 and has recently produced a book entitled "A Schoolgirl's War". This features the exquisite and highly original art work of an art teacher during WW2, who set out to document in paint and pencil the lives of school children as the war unfolded. There is not a similar collection of paintings anywhere. She has recorded in paint the disruption to school life - the air-raids, the doodlebug attacks, the lessons in underground shelters - which were experienced by school children across the South-East of England.

Several u3as nationally have enjoyed Mary's talks with comments including:

"Very professional and informative , with good quality pictures used to enhance the story. We would certainly recommend."

" It was a very interesting talk and she was so clear in her delivery. The illustrations were very good too"

"This is an excellent talk. We had Mary last month and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it. As you say, an excellent delivery and good illustrations. Definitely to be recommended."

The link for the meeting on **Friday 12th March at 2.30pm** will be emailed nearer the time.

Accessing newspapers and magazines online.

Did you know you can access newspapers and magazines online for free if you are a member of West Sussex Library, using a service called Press Reader. Follow these instructions from your PC.

1. You will need a library card number
2. Log into www.westsussex.gov.uk
3. You will see a box. Click libraries top left
4. In next box click eLibrary top second from right
5. In next box click read eNewspapers bottom second left
6. (close down Coronavirus box if it obscures the screen)
7. In next box scroll down to How to access Press Reader and click on Read eNewspapers in green below.
8. Top right next to the words Gift Cards is a little pawn like figure. Click on it.
9. In next box you will see Library or Group
10. Type in West Sussex
11. When West Sussex appears in box you will be asked to type in your library number
12. Do so and you will be able to access a range of newspapers and magazines from a variety of countries.

The service can also be accessed via your phone, tablet or ipad using the Press Reader app.

Horley u3a

As advised in a recent email, we have been approached by Horley u3a who would like to invite our members to share some online activities. The first 2 groups on offer are Welsh and Improvised Comedy. Please contact Horley u3a direct if you are interested.

It is hoped we can reciprocate the offer by inviting Horley members to join some of our online groups and talks. If your group is able to accept extra members please contact me.

We hope to extend this cooperation with other local groups.

The Princes in the Tower – what if they did not die there

As envisaged by Gerry Law of the History Group

Richard III was not a happy man in the Summer of 1483. His brother, Edward IV, married the Woodville woman, widow of Sir John Grey, who had fought for Lancaster producing two sons, both of whom with claims to succeed their father ahead of Richard. An earlier threat to Richard's ambitions had come from his older brother, George, Duke of Clarence, but he had changed his allegiances more often than most men changed their hose, so it was not difficult to persuade the King to incarcerate their brother in the Tower. It was even easier to find two willing and able men to send Clarence on his final journey where died fully realising, from a practical demonstration, just how harmful to health was an over indulgence in wine.

When Edward IV died Richard saw his chance and set about exorcising his opponents with the plots executed (note relevance of the word) by his bestest buddy Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham. Edward invited Henry to dispose of the illegitimate Princes causing Henry great consternation and referring to Richard as resembling Herod. Richard advised Henry that if he couldn't do it, he knew a man who would. As Henry left the room a dark figure emerged from the shadows..

Richard summoned the Constable of the Tower of London, Sir Robert Brackenbury to a meeting also involving the shadowy figure of Catesby. Brackenbury also showed a reluctance to murder the Princes in cold blood but in a rare conciliatory gesture Richard offered him the chance to retire to his estates.

Brackenbury and the Duke of Buckingham met and agreed they were both reluctant to undertake a task that was certain to send them to purgatory come Judgement Day. Instead they hatched a cunning plan.....

The cell door opened to reveal two heavily cloaked men each of whom was carrying a bundle. One of the men gestured to the boys to be silent. The bundles were laid onto the straw which served as bedding and the two men indicated for them to follow them out of the cell. They rode far into the night stopping only once they were clear of London.

It had been easy finding two boys of about the right ages from amongst those recently deceased from within the peasant class of London. Suitable sums of money assuaged the parent's guilt at parting with their dead children, especially as Buckingham promised that they would get a burial fit for a king. Dressing the corpses in the quality velvet robes of the nobility was no problem to the Duke, and only he knew where the real Princes were located.

"So it is done, Catesby?" asked Richard.

"It is, my Liege. A gentleman who had been a soldier but who had gambled away all of his money was only too keen to do the task."

"And he had no knowledge of the identities of the boys?"

"None at all, and even if he did, he is unable to tell of it."

"How so?"

"At this moment, Sire, his body should just be floating on the tide past Greenwich. His head lies some distance deep within a dung heap at Southwark."

"Then a good night's work in every way. And what of the bastards – where do they now repose?"

They have been entombed under the steps in the Tower which lead to their last residence. They will never be discovered!"

"But what of Buckingham? Where is he?"

"Gone, Majesty!"

"Gone!"

"Disappeared – as if he had never been."

Less than 2 years later Bosworth Field lay covered in the bodies of those killed in Richard's last battle. Amongst those who died alongside Richard were Catesby and Brackenbury. Meanwhile, in Scotland, two young boys were becoming accustomed to a new life as part of the Scottish royal household.....

Hats for Innocent bottles

Age UK are again asking for help from knitters and crocheters to make hats for Innocent drinks bottles. For each bottle sold Age Concern receives 25p. For more information please see:

[:https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/the-big-knit/#:~:text=The%20money%20raised%20through%20The%20Big%20Knit%20will,your%20hats%20sent%20in%20is%201%20October%202021](https://www.ageuk.org.uk/get-involved/fundraise/the-big-knit/#:~:text=The%20money%20raised%20through%20The%20Big%20Knit%20will,your%20hats%20sent%20in%20is%201%20October%202021)

“You think English is easy?”

Check out the following, courtesy of Marlene Davis:

- The bandage was wound around his wound.
- The farm was cultivated to produce produce.
- The dump was so full that the workers had to refuse more refuse.
- We must polish the Polish furniture shown at the store.
- He could lead if he could get the lead out.
- The soldier decided to desert his tasty dessert in the desert.
- Since there is no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present to his girlfriend.
- A bass was painted on the head of the bass drum.
- When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.
- I did not object to the object which he showed me.
- The insurance was invalid for the invalid in his hospital bed.
- There was a row among the oarsmen about who would row.
- They were too close to the door to close it.
- The buck does many things when the does (females) are present.
- A seamstress and a sewer fell down into a sewer line.
- To help with planting, the farmer taught his sow to sow.
- The wind was too strong to wind the sail around the mast.
- Upon seeing the tear in her painting, she shed a tear.
- I had to subject the subject to a series of tests.
- How can I intimate this to my most intimate friend?”

Homonyms or homographs are words of like spelling, but with more than meaning and sound. When pronounced differently, they are known as heteronyms.

Technology huh!

Thanks to Peter who sent this clip from the Daily Mail.

Now that your school is not open
With lessons on something called Zoom
We thought you should have a computer
Of your own, to keep up in your room.
We wanted to buy you a mainframe,
That's a computer of sorts you'll agree,
But the man in the store, I'm really quite sure
Was as confused as your Grandad and me.
He said it might bite if not treated right,
And bugs can get into its brain
We needed a wall in case it caught fire
And re-boots — he found hard to explain.
Somewhere there's a ram and also some spam —



We haven't eaten that in a while.
We mustn't do fishing but surfing is good,
I said I can't swim but YOU certainly could.

Looking at Grandad, he mentioned his widgets,
By now I was floppy and starting to fidget.
Grandad knew widgets make beer nice and fizzy
But both of us now were feeling quite dizzy,
So to avoid the store's virus we put on our masks
And left in a hurry without parting with cache.
And so my dear Grandson, we tried as we said
But we're off to buy notebooks and pencils instead.

P.S. The sign on the door said 'No phishing' as well,
You'd think someone in Currys would learn how to spell.

*Ann Stewart,
St Clears, Carmarthen.*

Please continue to let me have any items for inclusion in the newsletter.

Jan Morris
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