



Crawley u3a

Lockdown News 4/21

April 2021

Dear members,

Welcome to the April edition of the Crawley u3a newsletter.

In the March edition I omitted to welcome Maureen Wicks as our new President. Maureen has been a member of Crawley u3a since 2011. She first joined Art Appreciation 2, Out and About 5, Walkers 2 and then started History 2 in 2014, where she still acts as Group Leader. She is also leader of the Quizzing Group. She joined Music Appreciation but only managed to attend one session before we were all locked down! She joined the committee in 2015 as Vice Chair and was elected as Chair in 2016. Her term of office ended in 2019 and she now feels very honoured to have been elected as President in 2021.



**After Lockdown –
a cautious resumption of some activities for small informal groups**

As restrictions are starting to ease from 29th March and groups of up to six people are able to meet up outdoors, some of you may wish to take part in simple activities and meet up with a few friends – not seen for far too long! These do not need to be formal group activities, just a few friends sorting the arrangements out themselves. There are of course still some restrictions– such as indoor meetings and car sharing etc, but with a bit of planning there are still things that we can do as the weather improves.

First away are likely to be the walking groups of course but for other groups – here are a few ideas:-

A stroll and a picnic (packed lunch) in the park. Pick a day, cross your fingers for good weather and meet up on a park bench with a few friends. If you pick a location where you can park close by, put some fold up garden chairs in your car and sit in a socially distanced group for a chat over an al fresco lunch.

Take your own lunch (or maybe pick up some fish & chips) and meet in members gardens – or how about a coffee morning in the garden (just bring your own flask and biscuits). At the moment it is not possible go indoors – even to use the toilet – so don't plan to be in the garden too long!!

It won't be long before outside hospitality resumes and pub or café lunches are possible again so even with social distancing, you may enjoy the company of a few friends over lunch in the garden or terrace. Put me down for a steak and kidney pie and a pint of Harveys at The Plough, Ifield – I look forward to that one day soon.....

Neighbourhood strolls. There are some fantastic short locals walks around Crawley, such as Tilgate Park, Buchan Park, Worth and Grattons Park, Ifield Ponds etc. Some people who have lived in Crawley for years have not explored other areas so why not show them your local walk.

How about a trip on the bus to Horsham or East Grinstead for example. If you are happy to use the buses at the moment you will probably find that they are virtually empty!

Train trips are not out of the question, Out & About 7 did a few trips under Covid 19 restrictions last summer and by travelling away from London we found that the trains were certainly not busy and we are now considering visits to places such as Shoreham, Lewes, Chichester etc. With a bit of careful planning you can find pleasant strolls away from the busy town centres.

All of this is of course subject to government rules and guidance – as well as your own views on how and when to venture out again. When you are ready for it, enjoy it!

Phil Light

A Schoolgirl's War

March monthly meeting talk

Our March speaker, Mary Smith, entertained us with an interesting talk about school life in World War 2 with many delightful illustrations painted by the school's Art Teacher. For anyone wishing to buy her book, (£12 per copy including p&p) the details are:

By cheque: made payable to Mary Smith, and sent to 6 The Landway, Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent ME14 4BD

By bank transfer: contact Mary directly at marysmithjones@hotmail.com and she will send you the bank details

By bank card at www.mggs.org/war

Coffee morning

Thank you to everyone who came along to our virtual coffee morning recently. Following a brief introductory talk, members were split up into small groups enabling them to chat to others they may not have met before. We hope to hold another meeting in the coming months.

Virtualtrips.io

While travel is still restricted, members may be interested in this web site which shows virtual tours of tourist sites from around the world. It is free to join and the trips are free (but do need to be booked) with the option to tip the guide at the end. This is a format used by the many free physical walking tours we have personally enjoyed in recent years.

Minutes Secretary

The Committee is looking for a new Minutes Secretary. The role is not arduous and a knowledge of shorthand isn't necessary. Minutes are required for 10 monthly meetings, the AGM and one or two Group Leaders meetings per year. If you would like to take on this role, which brings with it an insight into the inner workings of the Committee, please contact Alan Pay, secretary@crawleyu3a.org.uk

u3a day

We are continuing to plan activities for the national u3a day on Wednesday 2nd June. Lockdown easing permitting, we will be holding an event in and around Crawley bandstand in the Memorial Gardens between 11am and 2pm. Several local dignitaries are coming along and we will have displays and demonstrations from our groups. Please add the date to your diary and come and support us.

April Monthly Meeting

Oh, We Do Like to be Beside the Seaside!

The April Monthly Meeting on Friday 9th April includes a talk by Ian Gledhill. It is a light-hearted look at seaside entertainment over the years, from Bathing Machines to End of the Pier Shows and “What the Butler Saw” machines. The British seaside began with the fashion for sea bathing in the 18th century, but expanded enormously in the 19th century with the arrival of the railways and the era of mass travel. It will look at the specialist buildings which proliferated at the seaside in the 19th century, such as piers, towers and aquaria, that provided entertainment for the masses – not to mention that famous breed, the seaside landlady!

Ian has had a very varied career, from designing underground railways as an engineer for London Transport, to appearing in pantomime with Julian Clary. In between he has worked in travel and tourism, music publishing, television, and especially the theatre, where he has been a director, set designer and opera translator. His main interests include architecture, history, transport and classical music, especially opera and operetta. He began giving talks in 1997, and now gives over 100 a year.

A link for this meeting will be sent nearer the time.

Bayeux Tapestry talk

Horley u3a have invited us to join them by Zoom on Tuesday 20th April at 2pm for a talk on the Bayeux Tapestry by Catherine Stevenson of Newcastle u3a. Catherine was recommended by Camberley U3A and she also gives talks on behalf of the Third Age Trust. For more details please contact Horley u3a on horleyu3ahub@gmail.com.

Earth Matters

A reminder that Ann Sole had started a new group called Earth Matters. This group will be about all subjects connected with climate change and man's impact on the planet, together with solutions being adopted around the planet to attempt to reverse the damage and provide a positive outlook.

The first meeting will be via Zoom on Friday 16th April at 2pm. We will look at a couple of short videos and discuss what we would like to look at first and the format we would like the meetings to take.

Please contact membership@crowleyu3a.org.uk.

A follow-up to the item You think English is easy?

You think English is easy? How about a few place names?

Take the exit slip-road at junction 13 off the M1 and you will find yourself heading towards Milton Keynes (pronounced in the same way as the item you put in your front door to open it – Key; as opposed to the economist John Maynard Keynes, pronounced Canes)

Within the New Town you will find the following original villages:

Loughton pronounced Louwton, as in ouch!

Woughton pronounced Woofton

Broughton pronounced Brorton

and of course, Wavendon, (home of the late John Dankworth and Cleo Laine), pronounced Wavndon not Wave.

As for more rural areas generally and with local dialects, well it's anyone's guess at some places!

Thanks to John and Brenda Crippen.

National u3a newsletter

The latest National newsletter may be found at:

<https://mailchi.mp/u3a/your-u3a-national-newsletter-march?e=cd329ab4a0>

Some random questions....

- At a cinema, which arm rest is yours?
- Why is there a 'd' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
- Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?
- It's ironic that the word funeral starts with FUN?
- Why doesn't Lipstick do what it says?
- If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?
- If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?
- How do you get off a non-stop flight?
- Why is it called rush hour when traffic moves at its slowest then?

New groups

Have you started a new hobby or interest during lockdown? Would you like to share it with other members of our u3a? We are always on the lookout for new groups. From jigsaws to baking, brewing to cycling, flower arranging to fishing. The possibilities are endless. There are around 500 different interest groups on offer by u3as throughout the UK. Epsom and Ewell u3a have produced a definitive list. Why not take a look. <https://u3asites.org.uk/epsom-ewell/page/111261>

All we need is someone interested in a subject to start a new group.

Please get in touch if you would like to offer a new interest group!

Do you know these words?

Compter - A small prison run by a sherriff

Yaffle – A green woodpecker

Sally – part of a bellringing rope

Redd – A hole made by spawning salmon

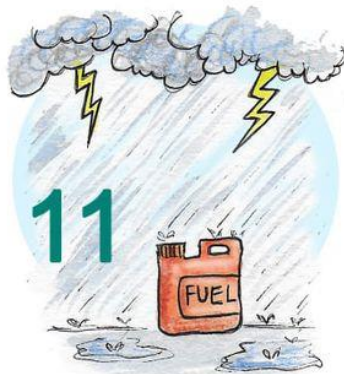
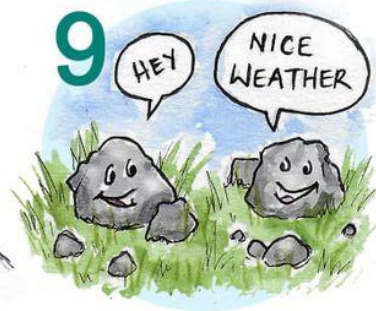
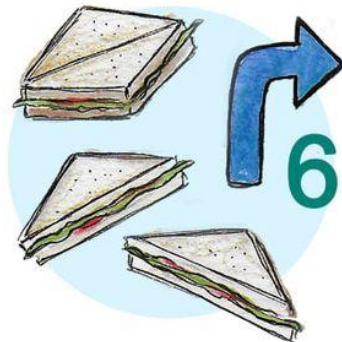
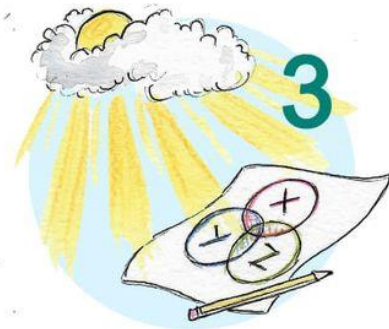
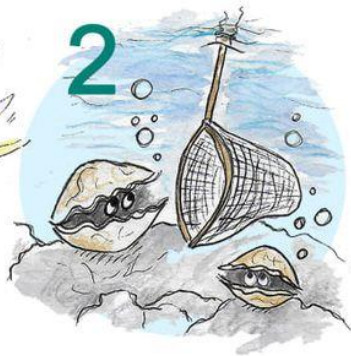
Gambion - A container for pebbles (eg in a wall)

Xylem – A tissue in plants that carries water

Bobèche – A ring on a candle to catch the wax

Thanks to Isabel Baker.

Name that bird!



This is what we, who are aged 70 or 80 years plus, can look forward to.

This is something that happened at an assisted living center. The people who lived there had small apartments but they all ate at a central cafeteria. One morning one of the residents didn't show up for breakfast so my wife went upstairs and knocked on his door to see if everything was OK. She could hear him through the door and he said that he was running late and would be down shortly, so she went back to the dining area.



An hour later he still hadn't arrived, so she went back up towards his room but found him on the stairs. He was coming down the stairs but was having a hard time. He had a death grip on the hand rail and seemed to have trouble getting his legs to work right. She told him she was going to call an ambulance but he told her no, he wasn't in any pain and just wanted to have his breakfast. So, she helped him the rest of the way down the stairs and he had his breakfast. When he tried to return to his room, he was completely unable to get up even the first stair step, so they called an ambulance for him.

A couple of hours later she called the hospital to see how he was doing. The receptionist there said he was fine, he just had both of his legs in one side of his boxer shorts.

I'm sending this to my children so that they don't sell the house before they know all the facts.

Name the birds answers

1. Wagtail
2. Oystercatcher
3. Raven
4. Jackdaw
5. Firecrest
6. Sandwich tern
7. Wheatear
8. Redstart
9. Stonechat
10. Rook
11. Storm petrel
12. Sandpiper.

Jan Morris

Crawley u3a Communications

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