



The Deepings u3a Reg. Charity No: 1166782 NEWSLETTER

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ISSUE NO. 207

DECEMBER 2020



Chairman's Reflections

What a strange year it has been! The situation seems to have had some strange effects on us, particularly on memory and concentration. It was therefore quite reassuring to hear an "expert" on the radio this morning offering an explanation, other than that our faculties were declining. The contention was that these effects were due

to the absence of our usual activities, contacts, and commitments, which normally provide the framework in which we hold our short term memories and schedules. That seemed to make some sense. Certainly I have noticed that I usually know what day it is, because fortunately I take my pills first thing in the morning, and the day is written on my pill box, but I struggle with the date, because I have got out of the habit of looking at the calendar while I am getting breakfast – what's the point when there is hardly anything on it!?

I get very frustrated with myself because every job seems to take much longer than it should do, and I have heard that this is quite a common occurrence. Lack of concentration and of short term deadlines, seem to mean that "work expands to fill the time available". Now that the "end of the tunnel" is in sight, pressure to catch up on the wasted time and get the "to do" list done will inevitably mount!

Circumstances yesterday made me very envious of people who are able or determined to live without computers! I sat down in the morning to do these reflections, and as I hadn't got a clue what to write, I allowed myself to wander off into e-mails (it doesn't take much to distract me when my mind goes blank!), spotted a new release of a free new map from TomTom, and set out to load it on to my device. After several attempts I realised that the computer wasn't recognising it, and so got on to TomTom help desk. A very helpful Technician soon took over my computer, and I sat transfixed for an hour by the speed at which huge lists of data scrolled down my screen in a blur, different screens appeared and disappeared, and decisions taken and buttons pressed.

The outcome was that he discovered that my computer had been infected by two "Trojans" – devices which hackers put on your system which disrupt some of the computer's functions, and enable them to see what is being done online (or so I was told!). I asked why my expensive Avast Security system hadn't dealt with them, and he showed me that it had generated over 4000 warnings, which the Trojans had blocked, but in any case Avast isn't able to block Trojans! To cut a long story short, I had to have a new "Firewall", and have my computer upgraded to Windows 10. This took two hours to install, two hours to load available updates, and an hour to clean up afterwards. There went another day, and still the "Reflections" were no further forward!

It seems that everyone has become increasingly frustrated with the situation and, strangely, I think that this feeling of frustration might increase now that a vaccine is in sight. Sticking to the precautions for this last push will seem more difficult, but I am sure that people of our generation will know that it is very important – we don't want to fall at the last hurdle do we? Christmas will be a very welcomed opportunity for meeting with friends and family. We will have the best-ever present soon, when we get vaccinated, and be able look forward to a New Year during which we can slowly and carefully get back to a more normal life.

Best wishes to you all,

Garth

I did request a pic of Santa Claus seated on Muffin but he'd probably forgotten I had this one! A



*'You better watch out
You better not cry
You better not pout
I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town'*



**MAY THE PEACE AND BLESSINGS OF
CHRISTMAS LIGHT UP THIS GLOOMY
YEAR AND STRENGTHEN YOUR HOPE
THAT WE WILL RETURN TO NORMALITY
SOON.**

**WITH ALL BEST WISHES FROM YOUR
CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE.**



A Christmas present from the Committee.



Our Speaker Finder, Lyall Seale, located, and we have purchased, a little musical treat for you to enjoy over Christmas.

To enjoy the videos you don't need to install anything on your computer or mobile device. All you need to do to watch the videos is to press and hold the "control" button on your keyboard (Ctrl) and left click on your mouse on the link below (in blue), and then type in the relevant password when prompted. The videos can be watched at any time from the comfort of your own home, or wherever you may be over Christmas, as long as you have a computer or mobile device with access to the internet. You can also watch the videos as many times as you wish, between now and Twelfth Night.

Here are the relevant links and passwords:

"In Frost & Snow"

<https://vimeo.com/475841326> Password: wassail

"Introducing early musical instruments"

<https://vimeo.com/477067381> Password: bagpipes

These videos have been made available to our members only. The producing Company, Hexachordia, are happy for you to share the links with your household, so if you have a computer geek (like a Grandchild! – or maybe even a neighbour!) staying with you at Christmas, or if you are staying with one, then they can access the videos for you. In fairness to Hexachordia, this access must not be spread any further than your household. Thank you.

We hope that you enjoy this little present.
Best wishes from the Committee.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thank you - our letter box has been working overtime with renewals since the November newsletter! Very many thanks for all your support and to the great number who tackled payment by bank transfer. Despite a minor problem with the banks being particular over

the name of our U3A (it is THE DEEPINGS U3A) it has been a great success and much appreciated. A big thank you as well to those who thoughtfully sent an sae or sent extra as donation. Again it is much appreciated.

I look forward to receiving more renewals as soon as possible and will be distributing the new badges after Christmas.

LIZ NOBLE

Membership Secretary

01778 342855 Membership@deepingsu3a.com

Jessie Battle is moving away



The end of an era for Jessie, one of our first hundred members, who is moving to be nearer to her daughter in a home in Huddersfield. She has been involved with our U3A in many guises over the years. We

thank her for the support and of course wish her well in her new home. Anyone wishing to contact her should ring either Liz Noble (01778 342855) or me (01778 346907). ANN

As I have a small space here, I would like to apologise if the following entries appear a dis-organised. They are! Although I began assembling the Newsletter earlier this month and with a definite 'plan' in mind, at short notice I was summoned for an operation to remove a cataract. I have had to leave it for a few days before I could continue with the Newsletter during which time many more entries have been sent in. Whatever my plan was I have forgotten and so *in no particular order*

U3A HISTORY GROUP

'HE'S BEHIND YOU' - THE HISTORY OF PANTOMIME

Pantomime was probably our first experience of theatre. Do you know it has a history? I didn't realise how it originated but it started in the 16th century with the Italian street theatre of the Commedia dell'arte with stories of the old man Pantalone, the clown Pierrot and Columbine the girl who was in love with the naughty servant Arlecchino. It is from the Commedia that we get the word Slapstick.



Despite Commedia being performed for Queen Elizabeth in 1602 it wasn't until it spread from Italy to France that it became popular in England.

The actor John Rich who was famous for his Harlequin character, in the late 1600s and early 1700s made slapstick an integral part of scene changing. The slapstick or wooden bat would hit against the scenery to make the scenes change by knocking down a series of hinged flaps. A chase scene would take the characters to many different locations all controlled by Harlequin's magic bat. The scenes would be famous London landmarks or mythical locations.



In the Victorian era, Pantomime had become typical Christmas fare. Due to licensing restrictions, spoken drama was only allowed in 2/3 patent theatres in London. To get round the law, theatre owners had to present music and dancing alongside the spoken word. Eventually laws were slackened and the fairy tale Pantomimes took over.

Oh Yes it Did!.....Oh No it Didn't!!

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

'WATER CONNECTIONS' - Our November programme was compiled by Joy Elliman and as suggested in her title, there was water, everywhere! She began with 'Sailing By,' by Ronald Binge. Ernest Tomlinson conducted the Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra. This piece is familiar to most of us and is a delightful item. Following on we heard Percy Grainger's 'Molly on the Shore,' and then Percy again with 'The Young Brisk Sailor', no surprise that Denis Wick conducted the London Wind Orchestra.

The Nuremberg Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Hanspeter Gmur played 'Air from the Water Music' and 'Wind and Waves' (La Mer) by Debussy. Rimsky Korsakov and 'The Sea and Sinbad's Ship' continued the water theme. Butterworth's, 'The Banks of Green' followed and 'Echoes of a Waterfall,' came after. Taking me back to my school days 'The Keel Row' was played by Bernard Gregor-Smith on cello and on piano - Yolande Wrigley. Then we heard 'The Hebrides Overture (Fingals Cave),' by Mendelssohn, 'Lovely on the Water' and 'Cape Cod Shanty' arranged by Alan Paynes followed by the Cantemus Choir of Spalding conducted by Eric Wayman. Another Eric, Coates this time, (who narrowly missed being my grandfather) composed the Desert Island Discs theme tune, 'By A Sleepy Lagoon. Debussy once more, Martin Jones on piano played 'Reflections in the Water' and Joy's delightful selection ended with 'The Beautiful Blue Danube,' by Johann Strauss played by the Vienna Opera Orchesdra. conducted by Alfred Scholz.

Although the group listened to it in their homes it united us for a little while and it was a very enjoyable morning. Thank you Joy for putting this together and to Terry Noble who once more collated it all and delivered it too.

Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE /JIM PRINGLE



U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP

ART AT CHRISTMAS—THE FOLLOWING PAINTINGS DEPICT THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The lack of literacy in pre renaissance and renaissance times led to the Catholic Church and wealthy merchants to commission a large number of artists to tell the story of the origins of Christianity -The Christmas Story - in pictures. Artists were in constant competition with each other to get lucrative Church contracts which led to the most stunning masterpieces in Western Art. The paintings below are by famous Old Masters. The Artist and the name of the work.



1 Raphael/Nativity



2 Van- der- Weyden/Flight Into Egypt



3 El Greco/ Adoration of the Shepherds



4 Rubens/Adoration of the Magi



5 Gozzoli / Magi



6 Pieter Bruegel the Elder/ Census at Bethlehem



7 Hugo-van-der-Goes / Mary and Joseph on the Way to Bethlehem



8 Rembrandt/ Dream of Joseph



9 Botticelli /the Annunciation



10 Caravaggio / the Nativity

SANDRA JONES

ART APPRECIATION FOOTNOTE : ZOOM MEETING

On November 18th six members got together via Zoom. It was very nice to meet up again and have a chat. This was the first time of trying and was 50% successful. Apologies to the 50% who couldn't, for technical reasons, (and my incompetency), join us.



It is hoped to try again soon and also to have an on line talk from John McGowan, our local printmaker sometime in the not too distant future. We may have to resort to this method of communication until the vaccine kicks in.

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

I read this message from Sandra with very mixed feelings. Although Zoom meetings will probably make my job easier—her reports possibly being less detailed and time consuming, fitting it all in, (not a complaint!) but since lockdown we have all enjoyed the fruits of her research. Many of you have remarked how interesting and enjoyable you have found them. Technology seems to be “zooming” ahead now—please don't leave us 'older members' behind. A

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

The November Concert – The Jazzperson Cometh



This group existed well before I joined. Peter Baylis was leader during my membership; now he's handed over the reins to me. However, while marking Peter's sterling efforts (and once again acknowledging his incredible knowledge of the subject) we have yet to mention and thank founder of the group, Jennie Sharman. Dare I say, she was instrumental in bringing in much music including live sessions at her home.

Our last “concert” was compiled by Anne Jones and a goodly selection of pieces it was. An excellent fanfare for an introduction was Oranges and Lemons by Eric Delaney. Then followed Alan Haven (a favourite of Anne's) on organ, playing Theme from a Jolly Fellow, a sound much of it's day, but nevertheless most entertaining. And what better to follow than Tuxedo Junction and the unmistakable sound of Glenn Miller. The combination so far worked very well and continued apace. A contrast next, from Dixie Mix, a band making music right now. Ain't Misbehavin' is not a new song, but as played by a current band of trumpet, trombone, drums, bass (I might have heard a banjo too) helps to illustrate the wide scope in the title of this group.

There are too many pieces to mention here, but there are some that deserve special mention, such as Here's That Rainy Day Again by the Kings Singers. Mat Monroe made an appearance with I get Along Without You. Louis Armstrong had the saints Marchin' In. An unlikely inclusion but welcome for it, were Flanders And Swann explaining why The Gas Man Cometh. We need a smile more than ever these days, and had the Jazz and Big Band music failed (never does for me) this little tale did the trick and oh, how many of us have been there!

Anne ended a most enjoyable and entertaining concert with the very timely Autumn Leaves by Nat King Cole. A nice touch to conclude an interesting and varied programme of old ones, new ones, neglected ones etc. (haven't I heard that phrase before?). Thanks to Anne for a lovely concert programme.

We're looking forward to the next, all being well, and unusually due before Christmas, it will be compiled by Peter Gray.

Report: PHIL JONES
Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Another zoom meeting this month with some other members too which was good. We tried to keep it to Family History matters only and we discussed the various website offers around at the moment and cheaper versions of getting into the family history search programmes – using the Library was one. Thanks again to Peg Torrance for setting it up and look forward to the next **one**. FH group members – why not have a go?



Report: LIZ NOBLE /Group Leader: JEAN BRENNAND

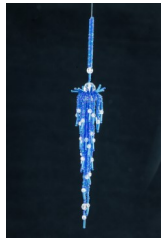
HERE ARE CHRISTMAS MESSAGES FROM LEADERS OF GROUPS WHO, MOSTLY, HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO MEET SINCE FEBRUARY DUE TO ALL THE LOCKDOWN AND TIER RESTRICTIONS. ONE OR TWO REPORTS OF ACTUAL MEETINGS AND OTHER "CHRISTMAS" ITEMS ARE ALSO INTERMINGLED!!

U3A SINGING GROUP

The current situation made me think of a famous wartime song by Vera Lynn - "We'll *sing* again don't know where don't know when".

I am sure that at some point in the future we will reconvene the U3A Singing Group and actually sing (if we can remember how to!) but I suspect it will be some time yet. In the meantime I would like to wish all the Singing group members, and all U3A members, a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year. Keep well and keep smiling.

DAVID PERKINS
Joint Group Leader



U3A ITALIAN CONVERSATION GROUP

Care amice

Spero che tutti avete un buon Natale e un felice anno nuovo. Stammi bene e guardare avanti a nostri lezioni d'italiani l'anno prossimo. Speriamo la primavera.

Continuiamo a parlare!

Tanti auguri

Translation:

I hope you all have a merry Christmas and a happy new year. Take care and look forward to our Italian lessons next year. Let's hope spring.

Let's keep talking!

Best wishes
LYNNE ALCORN



U3A 'WEEKENDERS' GROUP

Ann has kept in regular contact with members via e-mail since March and will continue to do so until we can meet again. However, we are aware that a few of our members are not on-line so we hope they are keeping well and be assured we will contact you when we have a date for starting up meetings. If you are not getting Ann's e-mails give her a ring and check she has your address.

Meanwhile we hope everyone, Weekenders and all members of U3A, are keeping well and have a safe and Happy Christmas and we send our best wishes for a good 2021.

Group Leaders : ANN BRADSHAW / BARBARA McNICOL



U3A TEN PIN BOWLING GROUP

Greetings Ten Pin Bowlers

As Christmas is getting nearer Chris and myself would like to wish you all a happy, safe and a merry Christmas .

2020 as we know has not been a good year for many people, but we hope 2021 will turn out better, so have a healthy and safe New Year and hopefully we will see you all again in the New Year.

Also a healthy, safe and happy Christmas and New Year to all other U3A members from the Ten Pin Bowlers. Cheers for now.

DAVID LUNN / CHRIS PATMAN
Group Leaders

The illustrations used in this column and for Cycling Group show the beautiful bead work Kath Allen has been busy doing during lockdown.



U3A "CHURCH MICE" GROUP

To all members of Church Mice:

We are still alive and kicking, but not church visiting. Although a lot of churches are open, that is mostly for individual visit or worship. We continue to monitor the situation and as soon as it is clear that we can visit churches, we will start again.

Meanwhile a Merry Christmas to you all and hopefully a Happy Church Visiting New Year.

HENRY ROBERTS
Group Leader



U3A CYCLING GROUP

Hi everyone, hope you are all well and managing to get ready for whatever this year's Christmas may bring for you and your families.

Looking back on our Group fortunes for 2020, we were amongst some of the luckier Groups within Deepings U3A and after lockdown actually managed to achieve three decent outings totalling 47.1 miles. *(Hopefully we will be able to resume in January ??)*

I just wanted to thank you for your support during this past difficult year and to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the very best for Christmas and my hope that we all enjoy a much better 2021.

JIM TORRANCE
Group Leader



U3A "PACERS" WALKING GROUP

CHRISTMAS AS IT WASLASY YEAR



By this time we would normally have had our Christmas lunch but alas "normal" is something hard to remember, like nearly everything else it had to be put on hold for this year, however I think we are on the home straight with the advent of a vaccine on the near horizon in the spring.

I have included a couple of collages and photo's (hopefully Ann can squeeze them in) *(sorry—chose the one showing the mostest! A)* to remind you all of last Christmas and also to look forward to what hopefully we will be able to enjoy in the coming spring.

Lynne and I would like to wish you all a Happy and Safe Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year when we should hopefully be able to resume our walks.

LYNNE AND STEVE WHITE
Group Leaders



BEST WISHES FOR
CHRISTMAS
AND THE NEW YEAR
FROM THE HISTORY
GROUP



U3A "WANDERERS" WALKING GROUP

Requiem--Wanderers' 2020 Season.



So farewell then Wanderers' 2020 season ---- you won't be missed, remembered chiefly for the nine or so walks we didn't do due to the you know what. In the meantime the Wanderers have been walking individually, or in approved bubbles, probably in the wrong tier and nostalgically thinking about past days when everything was possible and the sun always shone.

But enough of this negativity! 2021 will see the Wanderers rise again and stride out across the flat fen fields, lunch in pubs [remember them?] and have social intercourse [undistanced]. We will have a comprehensive programme of walks in place early in the New Year ready for instant deployment once we have enough volunteers to lead them!

Until then, Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year,

BARRY & HILARY AKAM
Group Leaders

U3A ACCORDION GROUP

Sadly we have only met a few times this year and not played in public at all, which is the first time since we started I believe.



I just want to wish Valerie, Geoff, Brian, Lynette and of course Paul every joy and blessing for Christmas and 2021. Thank you for all your support, especially Valerie in whose house we practice (luckily the neighbours are not close!), and Geoff for his harmonies. Look forward to seeing you in the New Year when we can let ourselves loose on an unsuspecting public!

JANICE COSHAM
Group Leader

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



It hardly seems possible that last year we were tucking in to our annual Christmas lunch in Peakirk followed by fun and quizzes in the home of Roy and Ann Pettitt. We've hardly seen one another since and certainly not all together. The Thursday Garden Group is one of the friendliest groups of people you could ever wish to meet and I hope that 2021 will see us back together, sharing gardening tips, laughter and food!

Wishing every member a happy Christmas, and above all, a healthy and safe 2021. K.....eeeeeep gardening!

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

Apology for quality of photo—it wouldn't respond to my correction Programme. A

U3A MONDAY WALKING GROUP

Some Hardy Walkers !!!!



Four hardy women and three hardy men left Castle Bytham braving a low temperature of -2 degrees. We headed up onto the frosty high-ground heading towards Clipsham Park Wood. Views from here were all obscured by the thick, heavy mist. We reached the Lodge / Gatehouse at the entry to the Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue and proceeded down the avenue towards Clipsham Hall.

After a short rest and a hard Werthers Toffee, supplied by Garth, we headed through the woods towards Stockton Prison. We carefully wound our way through Addah woods, past the prison, then through Lady Wood. In the woods we were treated to a pleasant aroma of hot food being prepared for the residents of H.M. Prison, and it wasn't porridge we could smell.

Upon leaving the woods, we were treated to another toffee, a soft one, this time supplied by Pat Hanson. We then headed downhill, turning right at the bottom and heading back to Castle Bytham, with Little Haw Wood to our right. Report by RICHARD COULSON

A big thanks to Richard for leading the walk and the stalwart walkers. Unfortunately I'm still unable to join them as I am recovering from a knee operation but hopefully will be back by March or before. Thank you to everybody who has supported the Group and Walk Leaders during Covid 19. We are proposing a walk in January to be led by Helen and Brian, subject to Covid 19 and Tier rules. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a happier New Year 2021. Stay safe and well

STEVE HANSON
Group Leader

Well over 60 years ago my parents often used to take my brother, sister and me to Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue for a Sunday afternoon stroll. I have many times wondered if it was still there and what state the Yew trees would be in now. How lovely it was to see they are still there and well maintained too. It brought back many happy memories of days gone bye! ANN

U3A FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

Wishing the lovely ladies of the U3A Flower Arranging Group, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year. Thank you all for the beautiful arrangements that you created. I hope we will be able to get together as soon as it is safe in 2021.



Special thoughts go to the family of Margaret Mason who very sadly became a victim of Covid recently. She led a workshop for us and then became a member.

Take care, keep safe and have a wonderful Christmas.

PAT LUDLOW
Group Leader

U3A ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES GROUP

Irene and Pam would like to wish all Members of the above group, a very Happy Christmas, and hopefully, a much better New Year. We have missed seeing you all, and we look forward to getting together as soon as it is possible to do so, 'Keep safe and well'!



Kath again!

U3A NATURAL HISTORY GROUP

Jo and Margaret send their good wishes to you all for Christmas.



We look forward to joining together in 2021 for bird watching, bluebell woods and fungus foraging amongst the many gentle pursuits we have missed this year of pandemic.

U3A FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP

Joyeux Noël à tous les membres du French Conversation Group, Mary, Sonia, Michele, June, Tina, Marje, David et Anne. J'espère que vous allez tous bien et que vous avez pu éviter le redoutable COVID-19. Cela fait longtemps que nous n'avons pas pu nous rencontrer et j'ai raté les moments riches et amusants que nous passons ensemble. J'espère que 2021 verra la vie revenir à la normale. Nul doute que vous avez utilisé le temps de manière isolée pour vraiment étudier votre français. J'ai hâte de vous rencontrer tous bientôt et je voudrais profiter de cette occasion pour souhaiter à tous une bonne et heureuse année. Je suis sûr que vous avez tous réussi à vous procurer une bouteille de quelque chose de Noël, alors je vous demanderai à tous de lever un verre. Bonne santé et bonheur, RHAE



Translation:

Happy Christmas to everyone in the French Conversation Group Mary, Sonia, Michele, June, Tina, Marje, David and Anne. I hope you are all well and have been able to steer clear of the dreaded COVID-19. It has been a long time since we were able to meet up and I have missed the eventive and amusing times we have together. I hope that 2021 sees life returning to normal. No doubt you have used the time in isolation to really study your French. I look forward to meeting up with you all soon and would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy New Year. I am sure you have all managed to procure a bottle of something christmassy so I will ask you all to raise a glass. Good health and happiness, RHAE



WORD SCRAMBLE!

SKOICOE _____

ASTAN ULCSA _____

OTH COOLTHACE _____

GLIHES SELBL _____

LOCARS _____

LIMSOTTEE _____

BIGGEEDARRN _____

SHLITG _____

EONGGG _____

VAINTYIT _____

PURHOLD _____

YADNC NECA _____

MOWNANS _____

BEEEDRCM _____

GLANE _____

TINCKGOS _____

U3A POETS AND POETRY GROUP

I would like to wish everyone in the Group a Happy Christmas and a brighter and healthier New Year. I have missed our Poetry meetings very much, also not seeing you all. I hope, during the festivities you will be able to find a few peaceful moments to read and enjoy some of the many Christmas poems. I look forward to our first meeting whenever it will be possible in the New Year. Keep safe and well.



IRENE BEEKEN
Group Leader

U3A WRITING FOR PLEASURE GROUP

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year to all members of the Writing Group. JUDY.



THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

Everyone has heard of the Star of Bethlehem that guided the Wise men to the stable where Jesus was born. But could this have been a real phenomenon?



The account of the star only appears in the Gospel of Saint Matthew. Although Magi is often translated as wise men it would be more accurate to use astrologers. In those days it was believed that events that happened in the sky affected the lives of people on Earth and so astronomy and astrology were inseparable.

The first candidate is a comet. A comet is a ball of rock and ice. As it gets closer to the sun it heats up and produces a stream of gases which are seen as a tail that always points away from the sun. Really bright comets do appear from time to time and have been described as hanging over a particular point, as the Star of Bethlehem is often represented. Halley's comet was visible in the region in 12BC and would have been bright enough to be described as a star. (Herod died in 4 BC and it is thought that Jesus was born in 7 BC.) However the writers of the Gospel would have known the difference between a comet and a star. Also comets were usually seen as bad omens, so it would be unlikely that a comet would mark such an auspicious event.

Could it have been a meteor? Meteors or shooting stars are small particles that burn up in the atmosphere. Larger meteors look as if they are going to land at a specific point. This would explain why Herod's astronomers had not seen the star. But meteor showers are common so this is probably not a viable option.

Perhaps it was a nova. A nova occurs in a binary star system when one of the stars is a white dwarf. (A white dwarf is the core of a star that is left when it has converted all its hydrogen into helium.) The white dwarf draws matter from its companion star and when it reaches a critical mass and temperature it explodes. The visible light from this explosion was interpreted in the past as a new star. In ancient Chinese accounts there is a recording of a nova in 5BC. In that year this star would have risen over Jerusalem and then a few months later over Bethlehem.

It could have been an alignment of the planets also known as a conjunction. In 7BC Jupiter and Saturn were very close together. Because of the relative speeds of the planets, from our perspective Jupiter and Saturn would appear to change direction in the sky.

The conjunction in 7BC was a relatively rare event as it happened three times. The first time Jupiter and Saturn would have appeared in the dawn sky that is rising in the east.

Or yet again it could be a supernova. This occurs when a massive star explodes when it runs out of fuel. A supernova can briefly outshine a galaxy and would appear to be a new star in the sky. However a supernova usually leaves behind a nebula (a cloud of dust and gas) from the explosion and astronomers have so far not found any evidence of this.

Of course there may not have been an actual star at all. Perhaps the writers of the Gospel were just using it as a story telling device. Or perhaps there doesn't need to be an explanation. Depending upon your beliefs, perhaps it was a miracle.

GILL GODDEN
(A member of the Science Group)

A CHRISTMAS STORY FOR ANYONE HAVING A BAD DAY!

When four of Santa's elves got sick, the trainee elves did not produce toys as fast as the regular ones, and Santa began to feel the pre Christmas pressure.

Then Mrs Claus told Santa her Mother was coming to visit, which stressed Santa even more.

When he went to harness the reindeer, he found that three of them were about to give birth and two others had jumped the fence and were out heaven knows where.

Then he began to load his sleigh, one of the floorboards cracked, the toy bag fell to the ground and all the toys were scattered.

Frustrated, Santa went into the house for a cup of Apple cider and a shot of Rum. When he went to the cupboard, he discovered the elves had drunk all the cider and hidden the rum. In his frustration, he accidentally dropped the cider jug and it broke into hundreds of little glass pieces all over the kitchen floor. He went to get the broom and found the mice had eaten all the straw off the end of the broom.

Just then the door-bell rang, and an irritated Santa marched to the door, yanked it open and there stood a little Fairy with a great big Christmas Tree.

The Fairy said very cheerfully, "Merry Christmas, Santa, isn't this a lovely day? I have a beautiful tree for you, where would you like me to stick it?"

And so began the tradition of the little fairy on top of the Christmas tree



WHEN YOUR GOLD TOP HAS TURNED TO SILVER

It was Christmas in the cow shed, the icicles hung round the farm

When Nellie the maid armed with bucket and spade came for to clean out the barn

She worked like a Trogen did Nellie, and the sweat from her brow it did fall,

She had movement and style, as she cleaned up a pile, of dirty old hay from the stall.

But she hung mistletoe on the front and back door, in the hope that a man would come in.

Now Nellie was also a milkmaid and her cold hands were giving her gyp

As she pulled the cow's udder it gave a great shudder and Nellie fell head over tip.

Now fate had not finished with Nellie, for into the Barn entered Dan.

She said "Who are You?" He said "How do you do—I'm Dan the Milk Marketing man".

It was love at first sight for the twosome and Nellie went weak at the knees,

For Dan was so butch, and their passion was such, that the milk almost turned into cheese.

So Nellie and Dan they were married by the Rev. Archibald Froggert,

They set up a shop selling milk and gold top Pasteurised, homogenised, cheese and yoghurt.

They've come a long way since the cowshed So successful are Nellie and Dan

But that Christmas they met they will never forget, Or the cowshed where it all began!



Above two pieces were sent in by Irene Beeken. Many of us will remember, with pleasure, Irene reciting such pieces at Christmas Concerts in the early days of Deepings U3A.

CHRISTMAS PAST...

The Christmas cake rests in its tin awaiting the final fancy trim.
The tree makes its entrance from loft or shed, but why don't we have a real one instead?
The children insist on tinsel and lights.
Balloons in clusters, all squeaky and bright.
The house holds its breath, eagerly waiting for family gathered, the joy their creating....



Well that was the Christmas enjoyed last year, but now our lives have moved up a gear.
Although we still hope to be together or be in touch one way or another, creating that magic that Christmas brings -but - as usual and whatever, making the best of things!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE.

ANNE JONES

CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. We all know that Rudolph has a red nose, but does Rudolph have antlers?
2. Round/Oval candies filled with fruit preserves or cream & covered with chocolate are called?
3. Which country created eggnog?
4. Who said, "God Bless Us, Every One!"?
5. What were Frosty's last words?
6. The most popular item to put on top of a Christmas tree is?
7. How many Wise Men were there according to the bible?
8. After Joseph, Mary and Jesus left Bethlehem, they went to which country?
9. What does "Advent" mean?
10. McDonald's puts what holiday image on bags during the Christmas season?
11. December 24, 1814 ended what war?
12. In "Jingle Bell Rock" everyone is dancing and prancing. Where do they do it?
13. "Greensleeves" is another name for what Christmas song?
14. The custom of finding a button in the plum pudding means what to an unmarried man?
15. What was the most popular toy of 1984?
16. The average number of gifts an adult male gets for Christmas is?
17. What is the main ingredient in gingerbread cookies: Flour, Ginger or Molasses?
18. In It's A Wonderful Life, what did Clarence receive for accomplishing his mission?
19. What river did General Washington cross on December 25, 1776?
20. What song contains the line, "Let's be jolly, deck the halls with boughs of holly"?
21. What city name do the states Kentucky, Indiana, New Hampshire, Maryland, Connecticut and Georgia have in common?
22. This Florida town maintains a fully decorated tree year round?
23. After red and green, what are the two most popular Christmas colors?
24. What popular children's cracker today was introduced in 1902 as a Christmas ornament?
25. Which U.S. President barred the Christmas Tree from being displayed in the White House?

Our continual mistake is that we do not concentrate upon the present day. The actual hour of our life: we live in the past or in the future, continually expecting the coming of some special moment when our life will unfold itself in its full significance and we do not notice that life is flowing like water through our fingers.

Have no idea who said that or who sent it to me. I have had it for quite a while but usually there is no spare space or I forget I have it! Not exactly Christmassy but nonetheless 'food for thought'. A

ADDRESS LABEL



I'm going to be a grandma; I can't believe it's true,
It's absolutely wonderful there's not one baby but two.
There'll be little hands to hold,
With rhymes and stories to be told.
I've craft ideas galore with glue and paints,
And making a mess while icing cakes.
We'll jump in puddles wearing our wellies,
Then home for tea with icecream and jellies.
Planting veg in the garden, and when they have grown
I'll teach you to cook them, while you teach me the phone!
When you have a tantrum and you are feeling sad,
I will know just what to do, I'll give you back to dad!
There's lots to learn and games to play,
I wish I could see you every day.
All the things we will do, but this I do vow
I will not look ahead; I will enjoy the now
To see the world through your eyes when everything is new,
To teach you things as you grow and become 'you'.
I'm going to be a grandma, but I don't feel old.
I can't wait to meet you, in my arms to hold.

GILL GODDEN

Committee Members 2019/2020

Garth Perry	Chairman
Ann Parkes	Secretary
Anne Burton	Treasurer
Liz Noble	Membership Secretary
Phil Jones	Deputy Groups Co-ordinator
Kath Allen	Vote of Thanks Organiser
Lyll Seale	Speaker Finder (Co-opted)
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor (Co-opted)
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this edition of our Newsletter. As always, I couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to Sandra Jones for sending me the various festive quizzes. Unfortunately she didn't send me the answers so you will have to contact her if you don't know them!

We hope you enjoy the videos that Lyll has arranged for you (see details on page 2) and don't forget to check our Deepings U3A web site. David Scott works very hard to keep it interesting and up to date for us.



Very best wishes to everyone for
Christmas and the New Year. May we
soon be able to hold our meetings
again!
ANN

**CLOSING DAY FOR JANUARY 2021
EDITION, FRIDAY, 8 JANUARY**
Please send to
deepings3anews@gmail.com



How Well Do You Know Your Christmas Carols?

Match the title with the lines from the song.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| ___ O Little Town of Bethlehem | 1. Good tidings we bring to you and your kin |
| ___ What Child Is This? | 2. Long lay the world in sin and error pining |
| ___ Love Came Down at Christmas | 3. Please have snow and mistletoe and presents on the tree |
| ___ Go, Tell It on the Mountain | 4. Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day |
| ___ Jolly Old Saint Nicholas | 5. From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold |
| ___ We Wish You a Merry Christmas | 6. Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary |
| ___ Of the Father's Love Begotten | 7. The ox and lamb kept time |
| ___ Carol of the Bells | 8. Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light |
| ___ God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen | 9. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation |
| ___ Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella | 10. The world, they treat you mean, they treat me mean, too |
| ___ Pat-a-Pan | 11. And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains |
| ___ Sweet Little Jesus Boy | 12. On December five and twenty |
| ___ O Holy Night | 13. From the eastern kingdoms come the wise men far |
| ___ Silver Bells | 14. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light |
| ___ It Came Upon a Midnight Clear | 15. Children laughing, people passing, greeting smile after smile |
| ___ Hark! The Herald Angels Sing | 16. The blind will see, the lame will walk, the dead will rise again |
| ___ I'll Be Home for Christmas | 17. O'er the fields we go, laughing all the way |
| ___ Away in the Manger | 18. Star and angels gave the sign |
| ___ Sing We Now of Christmas | 19. Peace on Earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled |
| ___ Angels, We Have Heard on High | 20. Treetops glisten & children listen to hear sleighbells in the snow |
| ___ Silent Night | 21. Lean your ear this way |
| ___ Mary, Did You Know? | 22. The men of olden days gave the King of Kings their praise |
| ___ We Three Kings | 23. Behold, throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light |
| ___ O Come All Ye Faithful | 24. He is Alpha & Omega, He the source, the ending He |
| ___ Joy to the World | 25. Let Earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room |
| ___ Little Drummer Boy | 26. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes |
| ___ The Holly and the Ivy | 27. Round yon Virgin Mother and Child |
| ___ Fum, Fum, Fum | 28. Beautiful is the mother! Hush! Hush! Beautiful is her Child! |
| ___ Jingle Bells | 29. One seems to hear words of good cheer from everywhere |
| ___ White Christmas | 30. The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir |

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OUR CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOU

We have a list of folks we know, all written in a book
And every year at Christmas time we go and take a look
It's then that we realise that these names are all a part
Not of the book they're written in, but of our very heart.

For each name stands for someone who has crossed our path sometime
And in that meeting they've become the rhythm of the rhyme
And while it sounds fantastic for us to make this claim
We really feel we are composed of each and every name

And while you may not be aware of any special link
Just meeting you has shaped our life more than you can think
For once you've met somebody, the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word or a friendly face

So never think our Christmas card is just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between
For when we send a Christmas card that is addressed to you
Its because you're on the list of folks that we're indebted to

For you are part of the total of the many folks we've met
And you happened to be one of those we prefer not to forget
And whether we have known you for many years or few
In some way you have had a part in shaping the things we do

So every year when Christmas comes we realise anew
The biggest gift of life can give is meeting folks like you!

Sincere thanks to Juliet Mills who gave me this poem at very short notice. It was chosen because it fitted the space I had to fill and because the sentiments seem appropriate for the time of year but, in Juliet's words "its not great poetry". Also I do not have the author's name.