



The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 200

MAY 2020

Flowers in celebration of VE Day 75 and our 200th edition



Chairman's Reflections

See! As I predicted in the last newsletter, as soon as the restrictions began to ease, the weather deteriorates!

Little has happened this last month, but, encouraged by the length of time that we are spending on the phone, talking about things that, in normal times, we wouldn't bother to mention, I will ramble on about a few things that I have been up to.



I have plenty of jobs on my "to do" list, but most of my time seems to have been spent on unlisted jobs, that I have spotted on the way to start the listed ones. Take the cupboard under the stairs – I went in there to find something that I needed for a job. During the course of the search, lots

of things had to be taken out, and in the end it just had to be emptied! It turned out to be like Dr Who's Tardis – how could the contents of that small cupboard possibly fill my dining and utility rooms? I realised why Sue had banned me from Kleeneeze and Lakeland – an extensive range of useful gadgets that I just had to have – all still in their original wrapping! So then the task became deciding how many of these things were to be put back in the cupboard, or disposed of. Then, of course, the cupboard just had to be re-decorated, before the contents were crammed back in. Just another 30 minute task that extended to three days – and I still hadn't found what I was looking for!

After this diversion, I eventually got to the job that I had initially set out to do, in my small downstairs loo. Just a small task – finally putting the door on a cupboard that I built about 12 years ago!

The cupboard had been built, in situ, to fill and disguise the gap where a rather large boiler had been. There was, however, a design fault, because the outside corner of the cupboard overhung one edge of the hand basin, and care was needed when raising the head from the basin. All that was needed was to slope the front of the cupboard – easy eh? No! - it couldn't be taken fully apart without destroying bits of it, so it had to be done on the wall! Unfortunately the side was a framed panel, so I couldn't just saw a bit off it, but had to take about 4 inches (old money), out of the centre, and re-join it. Some long forgotten geometry principles were needed, to work out how much to take out of the side panel, and what angle to cut the front of the cupboard. Sawing was interesting – one foot on the stepladder, one braced on the basin, left shoulder and ear pressed painfully against two unmoveable shelves, and still unable to get straight in front of the cut. Anyway, it eventually worked out, and the door was fitted, but then the grouting of the tiles now looked tired against the newly stained cupboard!

There followed a couple of very painful days, squeezing into small spaces and carefully removing the old grout. It nearly got serious one day, when, squatting on the floor, with one leg wrapped around the toilet pedestal, and the other one around the basin pedestal, I realised that I couldn't work out how to get up! I had my mobile in my pocket, and contemplated calling the Fire Brigade to come and extract me, but imagining what the reaction might be, spurred me on to work it out, painfully, for myself! And so my slow progress down my job list goes on!

I hope that you are all safe and well, and coping with the current restrictions. Once again, we are very grateful to Ann Holmes for getting this newsletter together, and to Dave Scott for helping with a selection of photographs.

Best wishes, *Garth*, Chairman,



GREETINGS FROM AN OLD FRIEND

This Newsletter is number 200. Number 1 was one side of an A4 sheet of paper dated July 2003 and was written by our Founding Chairman, Rosemary McCulloch (and yes, she used the title 'Chairman'). Although she has lived in Australia for some years she is a Life Member of our Group (a rare breed as we only have three). ANN



"The U3A family is world wide and friendly and supportive wherever you are. I am once again President of Northern Beaches, Sydney U3A which has 1,600 members – or it did have that number before coronavirus! Here in Australia we are permitted to go out shopping and go out to take exercise. This last concession means that most of us take 2 hour walks each day and I am going for a cycle ride this afternoon. Although we are now over half way through autumn, the weather is still warm and sunny.

I wish The Deepings U3A all the very best and am hoping to come over to UK as soon as the travel shut-down is lifted. So, maybe, we shall meet again in the fairly near future.

The very best of good luck to you all
ROSEMARY McCULLOCH"

CORRESPONDENCE

The response to last month's Newsletter was amazing and I thank you for the phone calls and texts I received as a result, but I think the team who delivered copies to members in all parts of the Deepings who are not on line deserve a big vote of thanks too.

The very first message I had, read -

"A big thank you for sending the newsletter as it has kept me in touch with reality! Can we have more memory lane photos if you publish again next month or whenever"

In the absence of our usual reports of group activities I am only too pleased to continue the theme. ANN

Judy Robinson who was Leader of the Carriage Driving Group wrote -

It was a nice surprise to see the photo of Magic in the carriage in the latest edition of the newsletter. I'm pleased to say that he is still in good health though an old pony now and in semi-retirement. Sadly, we lost his mother Penny a couple of months ago at the amazing age of 38! Penny was the schoolmistress pony who accepted learner drivers with very good grace and lots of patience. She was also an excellent driving pony and excelled several times in the Deeping Show, as did Magic. JUDY ROBINSON.

I recently received this photo of two of our members who are now resident in Rose Lodge Care Home in Market Deeping. Joan Curtis (left) and Jessie Turner (right). Both were members of our Jazz, Swing and Big Band group and Jessie was an enthusiastic member of the Listening to Music group. Joan comes to the monthly Monday meeting when possible. It's good to see them looking so well and although the home is in lock down at the moment I hope it will soon be possible to visit them again. ANN



Now a few contributions from our Members:

ISOLATION REPORT FOR APRIL 2020



I thought I would write a report for the U3A monthly update due out in May. Not that the History or Art Appreciation groups have met since earlier in the year. To think we wondered whether to cancel our April speakers! It all seems so long ago.

It was a brilliant idea to send the members an update from The Chairman and others to try and keep us involved with what is going on. Also to raise our spirits. I asked Ann if it would be an idea to have some light hearted contributions/reports from the existing groups. She was delighted so I thought I would start the ball rolling.

Doesn't it seem an age since we last met? The thoughts of summer trips away have diminished and been replaced by thoughts of loo rolls and flour.

When walking the dog this morning, my mind wandered to the Christmas get together. Should we book in early to avoid disappointment!! Should we send for the menu well in advance?

To the present and observations from the daily walk:

- Has anyone noticed how many Skips have appeared lately? Everyone must have had the same idea. The garage, the shed, the overgrown garden all need to be SORTED. If you haven't done so, time is running out, it will soon be Christmas.
- Have you got a dog? Is yours resembling a long haired hound of the Baskerville kind? Ours didn't used to molt but nature is taking revenge and a trim is long overdue. We would have a go ourselves but it is too dangerous, especially around the tender parts. Our regular dog trimmer has given up through ill health and finding a new one will be difficult. Any ideas out there?
- Do you also need a haircut or have you been doing it yourself? Are we going to recognize one and other when next we meet? My head looks as if I have a permanent grey hat on. I keep looking at the scissors but not succumbed as yet. My husband resembles the mad scientist from the film, 'Back to the Future'.

Have you been doing on line learning? Mary and I have been learning a foreign language via 'Duolingo'. Mary learning Italian whilst I have been attempting to re learn French. I now know why I found it difficult as a teenager! Today's on line programs are so much more interesting than just learning lots of verbs. Or maybe I wasn't listening enough when I was 15. Mary is looking forward to ordering a Cappuccino with her newly acquired Italian skills and I am anticipating a visit to Café Rouge. This will be when we are freed from the Lockdown of course!

Lastly, have you tried to do Pilates on line? A few of us belong to a Pilates group that meet at The Green School when life is normal. We have great fun so thought an on line group would sustain us through the doom and gloom. Then, an idea was mooted to replace the Thursday lesson with an on line one. The first week it was via WhatsApp. This was successful to a point. The point being only three people could join in at once!! The answer to our prayers came in the form of ZOOM. The annoying thing is, everyone else seems to manage it except me! I just wish David Scott or Geoff Whittle could be on hand to guide me through the process! As Victor Meldrew (was it him) used to say 'Is it me'. Don't answer that.

Dame Vera Lynne was on Radio 4 this morning. She is 103 years old. In the words she made famous, 'We'll Meet Again'.

The Lockdown Top Ten

1. Please Release Me
2. I Will Survive
3. I want to Get Out of This Place
4. I'll Walk 'Behind' You
5. From a Distance
6. Look Through Any Window
7. We're 'Not' Going On A Summer Holiday
8. I Want To Break Free
9. Eleven More Weeks and Ten More Days
10. School's Out For Summer

Keep Safe! SANDRA JONES

U3A WEDNESDAY GARDENING GROUP

Hello everyone! Obviously no report again this month but Jean and I wanted to keep in touch with everyone. There is certainly no excuse for weeds in the garden this year but, now, after one of the wettest winters on record, I, for one, am now praying for rain. The crops on the farm are certainly desperate for a drink.



I hope you are all keeping well and managing to avoid this dreadful virus. We wondered what we would all talk about and how they would fill the newspapers after the General Election, unfortunately, we now know. JANE COOKE

Group Leaders: JEAN FOSTER / JANE COOKE

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP

It'll come as no surprise that we were unable to meet at Gill Ronaldson's home to look around her garden this month. As we should have been with Gill the weather was wonderful as it always is when we visit her - the sun seems to shine every time!



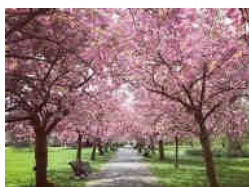
We have, instead, been sharing lots of photos between us of the things in bloom in our gardens (like Marjorie Fitzjohn's wisteria) and keeping one another up to date with our garden projects from erecting new sheds, growing vegetables, revamping areas and planting up scores of begonias.

Next month's visit is postponed to June 2021. Let's hope we'll be able to go then!

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

I trust you are all keeping well and safe at the moment! I'm sorry not to be able to welcome you to rural Rutland this week for our planned music morning. I can't hope to match Terry's effort of last time with his excellent music CD and information, but I can tell you what I intended to do.



Those of you with good memories may remember that John McCulluch, who was instrumental(!) in setting up the group in 2004, said that he collected piano concertos and he played us one by Adolf von Henselt. I think most of us do enjoy the various well known concertos but I was going to play a couple of lesser known ones, at least as a starting point for the morning.

Shostakovich wrote all sorts of music and his second piano concerto is worth listening to I think. The second movement is particularly lovely. Leopold Kozeluch was a contemporary of Mozart and therefore very different from Shostakovich! I enjoy listening to his 5th piano concerto. These can both be heard on line, or I could include them when it is my turn again, but that might be a long time away I'm afraid!

Anyhow enjoy your music and I hope to catch up with you again soon. All the best. FRANK MILLS.

By the time this is published the group will have received and hopefully listened to, the CD Terry has prepared for us this month. I suspect most of us will be listening to it tomorrow morning when we would normally have had our meeting. If we are lucky there may be a report on Terry's selection later in this Newsletter. ANN

Now for something different. Normally this piece would be a no, no for our Newsletter (no religion, no politics) but times are different and it was submitted by our Chairman so any fall out to him please! Ann



Clarity of communications ?!

There are plenty of politicians, experts, pundits, and commentators, who have the safe position of never having to take any responsibility for anything in the current situation, going on, interminably, about how the Government is not clearly communicating its policies.

Whilst playing through some of my many Cassette Tapes (you can see that I am well up on modern technology!), I came across the following quotation, which was read out at the start of a recording of a 1991 News Quiz (then under the Chairmanship of Barry Took, with Alan Coren, Richard Ingrams, John Wells, and Ian Heslop).

From an advertisement in the local press, concerning a small local amusement park :-

"To avoid speculation, please note that during the winter we will open every day at 11.30am, except Monday and Tuesday, when we are closed.

When we are open, we will close at 2.30 pm, reopening at 7 pm, before deciding when to close, except on Sundays, when, as we are obliged to open 30 minutes later, we don't close until 30 minutes later, but then don't reopen.

When the weather deteriorates, we often open the catering much earlier, and not close until much later, except when there is no point in opening. When we are open, food is available at normal meal times, so obviously there may be times when we are open, but not serving food. However, we won't of course be serving food when we are not open - that would be silly!"

BEAT THAT BORIS!

ODDS AND ENDS:

Our friend, Barbara Baylis, who is brilliant at almost any craft you can think of, sent me this photo, Barbara 'turned' the vase herself on her wood lathe and spent hours creating the daffodils in needle lace.



Has anyone else done anything of interest craftwise during the lockdown? I have heard of a lot of internal painting and decorating being done but if anyone has crafty photos they would like to share with us, please let me have them for the next issue. ANN



I thought you might like this limerick I wrote for a friend, sadly no longer with us. It was read out on BBC 2 a while ago.

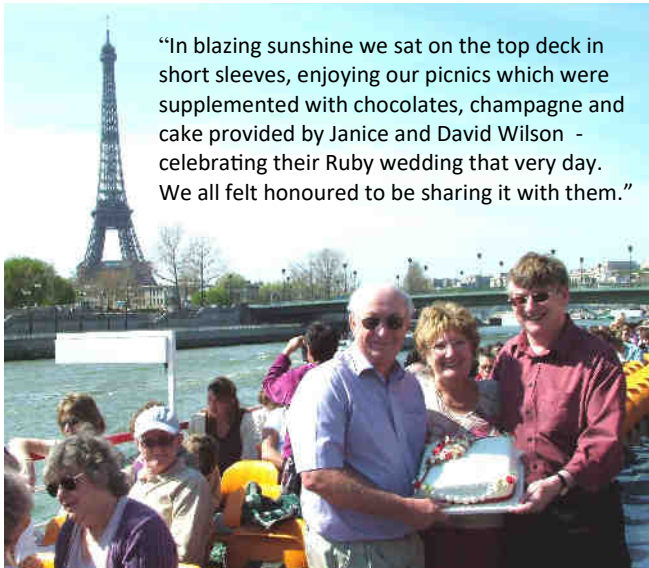
A LADY NAMED LAURA,
QUAITE NAICE
LIKED DRINKING NEAT GIN
OVER ICE.
WHEN OFFERED SOME
TONIC
SHE WENT SUPERSONIC -
CRYING OUT 'THERE'S NO
ROOM IN THE GLAICE !

Ann Jones.

Above clip was sent by Irene Beeken (Poetry Group).

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Continuing our 'walk' we have to re-track a little to April 2005, when we enjoyed our first weekend away. Thirty seven of us left Deeping on "April fools" day for Dover and a ferry crossing on our way to Paris. Apart from one member of the group having her handbag stolen, we had a wonderful time, the highlight being a cruise down the Seine on the Saturday afternoon. This is a quote from the original report in the Newsletter :



"In blazing sunshine we sat on the top deck in short sleeves, enjoying our picnics which were supplemented with chocolates, champagne and cake provided by Janice and David Wilson - celebrating their Ruby wedding that very day. We all felt honoured to be sharing it with them."



Over the years we've had many unusual objects to illustrate our various lectures. Here are just two; right: (2006) a talk entitled "Ladies Underwear (and no, Brian didn't model them) and left (2008) the Discussion Group talked about 'nurses' uniforms and suspenders, with liberty bodices as an after thought!"



The May 2008 issue contained two items that caught my eye—this photo of our old friend John Bloomfield modelling a Yeoman of the Guard uniform at the Monday meeting and the following poem.

There is no name with it so if anyone recognises it please let me know. The initials 'JM' come to mind but I cannot be certain!!



SPECIAL POEM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS!

A row of bottles on my shelf
Caused me to analyse myself.
One yellow pill I have to pop
Goes to my heart so it won't stop.
A little white one that I take
Goes to my hands so they won't shake.
The blue ones that I use a lot
Tell me I'm happy when I'm not.
The purple pill goes to my brain
And tells me that I have no pain.
The capsules tell me not to wheeze
The red ones, smallest of them all
Go to my blood so I won't fall.
The orange ones, very big and bright
Prevent my leg cramps in the night.
Such an array of brilliant pills
Helping to cure all kinds of ills.
But what I'd really like to know
Is what tells each one where to go!



In 2007 the Photography Group then under the leadership of Dave Pendry, paid the first of three visits over the years to a rehearsal of the Troop of the Colour. I remember it involved an early start to catch a train to Kings Cross but well worth it.

The 'Weekenders' Group began in 2008 and the Cycling Group in 2009. Unfortunately we do not hear too much of the Weekenders in the Newsletter because their meeting date usually falls after the Newsletter has been printed and they forget to take cameras on outings? Happily we usually hear from the Cyclists on a monthly basis.



Photo on right seems to fit the Oporto and Santiago holiday period so I have used it to fill an awkward gap! Cheers Irene, wish we were sharing a bottle now!

It seems we will be unable to restart our U3A meetings for a while yet and whilst I am quite happy to continue putting a Newsletter together each month until we can resume, I do need input to enable me to do so. This month I have had to resort, perhaps too heavily for some of you, on 'Memory Lane' items.

So I appeal to ALL MEMBERS (and this includes Committee Members and Group Leaders) please put your thinking caps on. You must have favourite poems, jokes, wise words, even grumbles within reason, that could be shared with the rest of us. How about a few words on what our Deepings U3A Group means to you.

Many of you appreciated the flower display on the front page last month. I have continued the theme this month but despite my best efforts it's a poor imitation simply because my material was displays from Church Flower Festivals—all I had in my library. I think you will agree, flowers growing in gardens work much better so please Gardening Groups and anyone else who has flowers in their garden, send me some photographs.

My thanks again to David Scott. Sorry I did not finally use the Oporto holiday photos you sent, but when I looked back at the Newsletter issued after that holiday I felt there was no need to re-invent the wheel and used the original report and photos. Re-reading Enid's report was so interesting I decided to include it too. Unfortunately I forgot to correct the page numbers so please do not think you have missed two pages.

Better stop now or I shall be in competition with Garth and his ramblings! ANN

FRIDAY, 6th JUNE, IS DEADLINE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS PLEASE

Email : Deepingsu3anews@gmail.com

Committee Members 2019/2020

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



HOLIDAYS R US



The holiday group has just completed another successful and rewarding seven-day trip – this time visiting the northern parts of Portugal and Spain. Once again Brian Thornthwaite had done an excellent job arranging pick-up points around the Deepings, thus getting all 30 of us on board the coach at the crack of dawn on April 21st ready for the journey to Stansted.

At Stansted we met our tour manager Eric who officially took over his duties at Santiago de Compostela airport where we also met our coach driver Costa and his double-decker coach. This coach meant that we had a splendid view from the upper deck, though we were sometimes perturbed by a view in the mirror which revealed Costa on his mobile phone!

Our ultimate destination was Santiago de Compostela, to which pilgrims come to worship at the shrine of St. James the Apostle. However, we first travelled south to the start of our journey in Portugal which is in the same time zone as the UK.

On our way to our first overnight stop in Viana do Castelo we stopped in the Galician town of Pontevedra where a few of us took a ride on a tourist train that transported us up and down the seemingly impassable narrow streets of this quaint old town and gave us an idea of the place in a short time.

After leaving Pontevedra we continued our journey to Viana do Castelo, crossing the border formed by the River Minho and following the river and the coast. Our hotel in Viana was a luxurious pousada perched on a hill next to a basilica and with spectacular views out to sea. That evening we enjoyed a three-course dinner as a group. For the rest of the trip we stayed in hotels on a bed and breakfast basis.

The next morning there was a short stop to explore the old town of Viana where we noticed many buildings with blue and white tiled walls – a sign of Moorish influence. We then continued south along the coast to Oporto where the attraction at our hotel was the bar with panoramic views on the 17th floor. This was where panic set in amongst the bar staff when more and more members of our party emerged requesting sandwiches! Some folk never did get their food before leaving for the tour of the city with its cathedral, bridges – including one designed by Eiffel of Parisian Eiffel Tower fame – and port lodges. The latter are actually in the town of Vila Nova de Gaia on the other bank of the River Douro. We visited a family-run winery where the intricacies of producing ruby, tawny and white port were explained to us before we sampled both red and white port. After the port wine tasting some of us stayed down by the River Douro, enjoyed a boat trip followed by a meal in a riverside restaurant.

Having sampled the port the previous afternoon, we were taken on Day 3 on a tour of the Douro valley where the grapes are grown in the terraced vineyards. This valley with its steep-sided hills and sheltered position has a special microclimate – freezing in the winter and extremely hot in the summer – thus producing grapes of a rich flavour. We experienced some of this heat on the very day when the air-conditioning on our coach failed! Nevertheless we enjoyed the wonderful scenery as viewed both from the coach and from the short train trip between Regua and Pinhao.

It was on this evening that an Italian restaurant near our hotel gradually attracted more and more of our party until there were 22 of us dining there! As the evening progressed we saw the staff scuttling off across the road to a café for more supplies of

bread and rolls! The one and only chef seemed to be juggling between baking pizzas upstairs and dealing with the rest of the cooking downstairs. We fear that some of the pizzas became burnt offerings! Most of us agreed that the food was excellent when it arrived.

The next day was spent visiting three places of special interest: first there was Guimaraes, a former capital of Portugal with a castle, now ruined, where the first king of Portugal was born; then there was Bom Jesus do Monte, a religious shrine with a grand staircase leading up to a Baroque church. On both sides of the staircase are chapels featuring the 14 Stations of the Cross using life-size figures to present very graphic portrayals of the scenes. Our final visit was to Braga, a town claiming to have the oldest cathedral in Portugal.

That evening some of us decided to wine and dine at a restaurant in Liberty Square in Oporto as we had heard vague rumours about music and fireworks in the square later that night. Heavy rain began to fall so we retired to our hotel bar on the 17th floor hoping for a panoramic view of proceedings. Eventually we gave up and retired to bed, only to be awoken at midnight by the sound of fireworks. Unknown to us April 25th was a national holiday to mark Liberty Day when Salazar's government was deposed in a peaceful coup in 1974.

On Day 5, Liberty Day, we regretfully bade farewell to Oporto and environs. It is an area as yet largely undiscovered by British tourists and where not so many Portuguese speak English. Until a few years ago French was the first foreign language taught in schools. What they lack in English they make up for in friendliness and helpfulness.

We had one final coffee break in Portugal at Ponte de Lima, the bridge over the River Lima built by the Romans. Then it was time to adjust our watches again as we crossed the border into Galicia/Spain and headed for Santiago de Compostela.

Once at the Gran Hotel Santiago battle commenced. The hotel management had double-booked some of the rooms. It took the efforts of our tour manager, aided and abetted by the coach driver and finally by our ever-patient, ever-cheerful Brian weighing in, to sort out a solution. The result was that 13 of us stayed at another hotel about 3 minutes walk away. Late in the afternoon there was a guided tour of Santiago.

On Day 6 most of the party walked about 3 kilometres along the Camino de Santiago, the famous Pilgrim's Way from France to the tomb of St. James in Santiago cathedral. The afternoon was free.

As we were staying in two different hotels it was difficult to assemble everyone in one place for a meal on the last evening. However several of us ended up at a nearby restaurant where Brian, by now addicted to lamb chops, was faced with one gigantic chop (did it really come from a lamb?!) which warranted a 'before' and 'after' photograph!

Our final day found us on our way from Santiago to Stansted and thence to the Deepings. So ended a wonderful holiday. I must express my thanks to Ann and Brian Thornthwaite for organizing everything for us and to the wonderful group of fellow travellers who kept their sense of humour in all situations. Where are we going next?????????

Report by Enid Withers.

MEMORIES OF A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY IN OPORTO AND SANTIAGO
 Sorry I didn't have room for all the photographs you sent me.

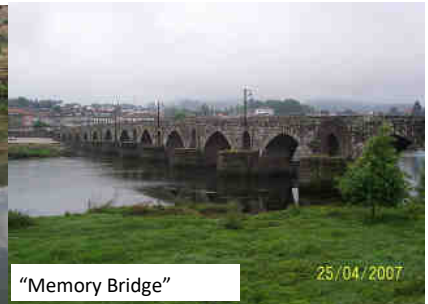


Temple Santa Luzia



Douro Valley

23/04/2007



"Memory Bridge"

25/04/2007



Smile!



Bom Jesus, Braga



Oporto Cathedral



Port tasting.



Oporto



Silent musicians



Douro Valley



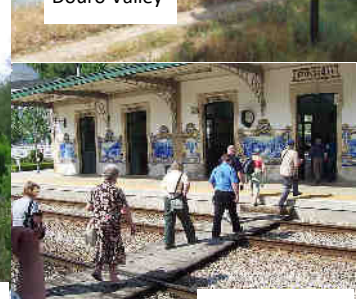
Cheers!



Sir Brian ?



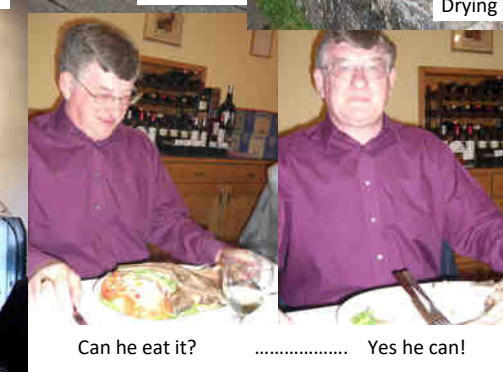
Drying Shed



End of the Line



Unusual pose with Christ with one arm down.



Can he eat it? Yes he can!



Santiago de Compostela



Fruit market



This group walked 3 kms of the Pilgrims Trail



A genuine Pilgrim.