



The Deepings Third Age Group

Reg. Charity No: 1166782

NEWSLETTER

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Issue No. 202

JULY 2020



Chairman's Reflections



I apologise for the picture! Following my self-inflicted humiliation last month, on learning that I had once hit 14 stone, and shed 3½ of them at Slimming World, our Editor decided that this trend should be continued, and “requested” that a “before” photo was supplied. Fortunately not many photos were taken in this state, except for this one, which Sue used to refer to as “a beached whale in Argostoli harbour, Kefalonia” – very funny! There will be no further such humiliations, or I will not be able to retain my authority (?) as your Chairman!

There will be no spontaneity left in life after this pandemic – you ladies have always been used to making an appointment to have your hair done, but now we chaps have to as well. So now we have to book to eat out, drink, have some fish and chips, and even go to the tip!

I eventually managed to book a slot at the tip (sorry – Recycling Centre), which meant that I had two weeks to attack that holiest of man caves – the garage! I don't think I have attempted to sort it out since we moved in 1982, instead, when things started to encroach on the floor, another shelf was hastily erected! A thorough examination of the jam-packed shelves revealed that most of the shelf space was taken up by potentially very useful tins and plastic containers – most of them empty! Out went three quarters of them!

The next most obvious target was the large quantity of timber, in a wide variety of sizes and thicknesses, that was bound to come in handy sometime. However, on reflection, whenever a piece of wood was required to do a job, there was seldom a piece in the garage of suitable dimensions, and a new piece had to be obtained from the DIY shop anyway. Chucking out three quarters of this wood turned out to be more difficult and long winded than dealing with the containers. Several pieces went from the “scrap” pile to the “retain” pile, and back again several times, as they just seemed too useful to get rid of! The trouble is that it seems that we of the post-war generations are genetically programmed not to waste anything that might still have a use, or a value!

With the same principle in mind, about four years ago I decided that I had a lot of good quality and useful items that I no longer had a use for, but that someone else would love to own, so I opened an Ebay account. In preparation for the rush of sales that would surely follow, I began collecting any strong and ideally sized cardboard boxes, carefully collapsing them, and storing them – yes you've guessed – in the garage! Carefully tucked into every available space, I found enough boxes to package up the whole contents of the house! The tip isn't taking cardboard at the moment, so it all had to be cut up and stuffed into my recycling bin. I stayed out of sight when it was collected, in case the tightly crammed contents didn't come out of the bin, or the weight pulled the handles off! In case you were thinking that it was rather short-sighted of me to get rid of all my boxes, I must confess that I have only tried to sell on Ebay once in the past four years – a collection of good quality 35mm cameras – and nobody bid for them, so I am sure that stock will be replenished before I need a box again!

I felt great elation, as I set off with a heavily laden car, on one of the longest journeys for three months, to the tip at Bourne, complete with all the paperwork necessary to gain entry. The gate guardian couldn't find my booking on his list, but fortunately he wasn't an absolute “jobsworth”, and let me in anyway! Mission accomplished – now I can start hoarding all over again.

I hope that you are all staying safe, and enjoying the opportunity to do all these things that have been put off for so long!

Best wishes

Garth

Chairman

Well, I asked for it but I honestly didn't think I would get it! Full marks our Chairman! I promise to behave and revert back to your normal photograph in future—mainly because I prefer it! As you know, I have been trying to spread a little humour and sunshine in these last few Newsletters and appreciate your help. NO WAY WOULD I WISH TO DIMINISH YOUR AUTHORITY. (And if you believe that you will believe anything!) A

PLEASE ENSURE YOU READ

PAGE 2

PLEASE CONTINUE TO READ THESE ARTICLES AS THEY ARE TOPICS THAT WILL DETERMINE THE FUTURE OF **YOUR U3A** AND WE ARE OPEN TO ANY COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS THAT YOU HAVE.

Where do we go from here?

The Committee had an actual meeting in June, outdoors and socially distanced, and reviewed our plans to move our U3A forward, within the various regulations and restrictions that are in place to deal with the effects of this pandemic. The regulations were eased on July 4th, and are expected to be updated on 1st August.

We will continue to keep our Members informed at every step of the way. In our decision process we will take notice of any suggestions or feedback that you communicate to us – after all, it is **your** U3A.

Where have we got so far :-

Membership Subscriptions.

In recognition of the fact that, apart from our excellent newsletter, the U3A has not been delivering the usual activities since March, and the pace of the easing of the regulations that govern what we can offer, we have decided to extend the Membership year further, until **31st December**.

This means that membership renewal forms will be available from November, with payment due by 31st December. Applications will not be processed until January, and **must** be accompanied by a stamped and addressed envelope to enable Membership Cards to be posted back.

We are not in a position yet to tell you what the Subscription level will be for 2021. It will be the minimum level that we can manage with, depending on our assumptions of what we will be able and allowed to do, and, importantly, what we judge that you are prepared to do.

Annual General Meeting.

These proposals are yet to be cleared by the National Office of the U3A, and, by implication, the Charity Commissioners.

In view of the latest extension of the current Membership year, we are going to revert the AGM to its original timing in October.

As explained last month, we are proposing an “electronic” AGM, but not by any of the available video conferencing systems. The notice of AGM, minutes of the last AGM, the audited accounts, and the Resolutions, will be published in the September newsletter, giving one month’s notice. We would adopt an “opt out rather than opt in”, approach, by asking only for “not in favour” responses, by email (or telephone if no email is available), by one week before the nominal AGM date. Silence will be taken approval. This is to avoid having to handle up to 500 physical responses.

One of the resolutions for the AGM will seek permission from the Membership for specified Committee Members, who were due to stand down in October, having reached the Constitutional limits on length of continuous service, can, if willing to do so, serve for a maximum of a further 12 months, until the 2021 AGM. The majority of the present Committee were due to stand down in October, and it was felt to be unfair to drop our current problems and decisions in the lap of a largely new Committee, even in the unlikely circumstances that we would get enough volunteers to fill the spaces.

Group Activities

The following comments are intended to explain what we CAN do, but we understand and respect the fact that it is not necessarily what you will want to do.

We cannot, and will not, put any pressure on Groups to resume meetings - it must be their own individual decision, when they feel they are willing, comfortable, and able to do so, are allowed to by the regulations, and are able to maintain remaining distancing and hygiene requirements.

There are very different regulations that apply to indoor and outdoor meetings, so we will deal with them separately :-

Outdoor Groups

The most obvious groups in this category are the Walking and Cycling Groups.

.../...

The current regulations are that up to six people, from up to six households, can meet outdoors, but must practice social distancing (ideally two metres, but a minimum of one metre if that is not possible). Car sharing between people not in the same household or “bubble” is only allowed in exceptional specified circumstances (see Gov.uk/Coronavirus). A pub lunch is now a possibility, but would have to be pre-booked, and take place under the rules of the establishment, maintaining distancing and hygiene regulations. We will be working with the Group Leaders to develop a proposal on how to conform to the U3A’s Risk Assessment requirement, and how to deal with more than six participants.

It is possible (weather permitting) that other Groups might feel able to meet outdoors, in private gardens or public spaces for instance, but they would also currently have to conform to the six person maximum, and would need to provide a Venue Risk Assessment to operate under the U3A banner. If any Group Leader is considering this, then please contact the Committee.

Indoor Groups

The current Government regulations mean that Groups cannot meet indoors. The restrictions were eased on 4th July, but only to the extent that only “bubbles” (which cannot be changed from the original content), and members of any two households (with distancing etc.) can meet in a private house.

Some indoor venues are in the process of opening, but they are only offering the use of the facility, in some cases with a maximum occupation limit, but it is the responsibility of the hirer to use the facility in conformity with the current regulations. Regulations concerning the use of these indoor spaces are easing (eg gyms), but currently U3A Groups cannot use them.

When indoor Groups are able to meet again, a Venue Risk Assessment process will have to be put in place

Monthly Meetings

In the light of the current regulations, and their rightly cautious easing, we are now assuming that it is unlikely that we will be able to have a monthly meeting in the remainder of this year. This is reinforced by our understanding that the Methodist Church, although now free to do so, has no plans to re-open yet. Even if it did, there would still be a capacity limit, and we understand that the Coronation Hall is re-opening with a capacity limit of 35.

After a careful consideration of the “two shift” meeting idea, we have decided that it is impractical, and not financially viable. When we do return to monthly meetings, they will be restricted in size, and attendance will have to be pre-booked. This will mean that you may not be able to attend every month.

As you can see – there are a huge number of uncertainties in these discussions, and the decisions will be firmed up as we learn more about Government and National Office guidelines, but we feel that you should all be kept informed of developments, as much as possible.



Garth.

For and on behalf of The Committee

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
Lyall Seale	Speaker Finder (Co-opted)
David Blessett	
Ann Holmes	Newsletter Editor (Co-opted)
David Scott	Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster

.../...

YOUR

NEEDS YOU

Our current Group Coordinator will be stepping Down in October, after four years in the post, and we thank her for her efforts in that period.

This is an important job, particularly in the current circumstances, when we are trying to get Groups back on their feet. We must fill this vacancy in October, so I ask you to please consider if you could step up to help our U3A with this task. **GARTH PERRY, Chairman**

NEWS

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP (July 2020)

That Was the Week That Was

Have you ever wondered if the day or week you were born has influenced your life? Do you read your star sign every day and wonder what is in store for you? The following artists were born in the week of July 12th to the 16th. Not in the same year but none the less it is quite interesting that these dates produced famous painters. I suppose with research, the same can be said for other weeks during the year but because the U3A magazine will be published around the weekend of July 18th, I thought July 12th would be the place to start.

1. July 12th 1917—Jan 16th 2009 Andrew Wyeth



The windows open as the veils of illusion lift to expose the reality of time and the dream is understood'.



2. July 12th 1824—May 6th 1898 Eugene Boudin (teacher of Monet)

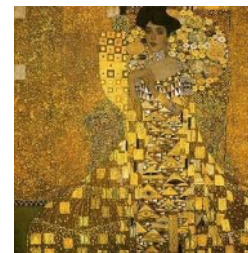
'Everything that is painted on the spot has always a strength, a power, a vividness of touch that one doesn't find in the studio'.



3. July 14th 1862—Feb 6th 1908 Gustav Klimt



'All Art is Erotic'



4. July 15th 1606—October 4th 1669 Rembrandt



'The best history is like the art of Rembrandt, casting a vivid light on selected causes. On these which were best and greatest, it leaves all in the shadows unseen'.



5. July 16th 1723 - Feb 23rd 1792 Joshua Reynolds



'Few have been taught to any purpose who have not been their own teachers'.



6. July 16th 1486-September 29th 1530 Area-del-Sarto



'Never lose the first impression that has moved you'.

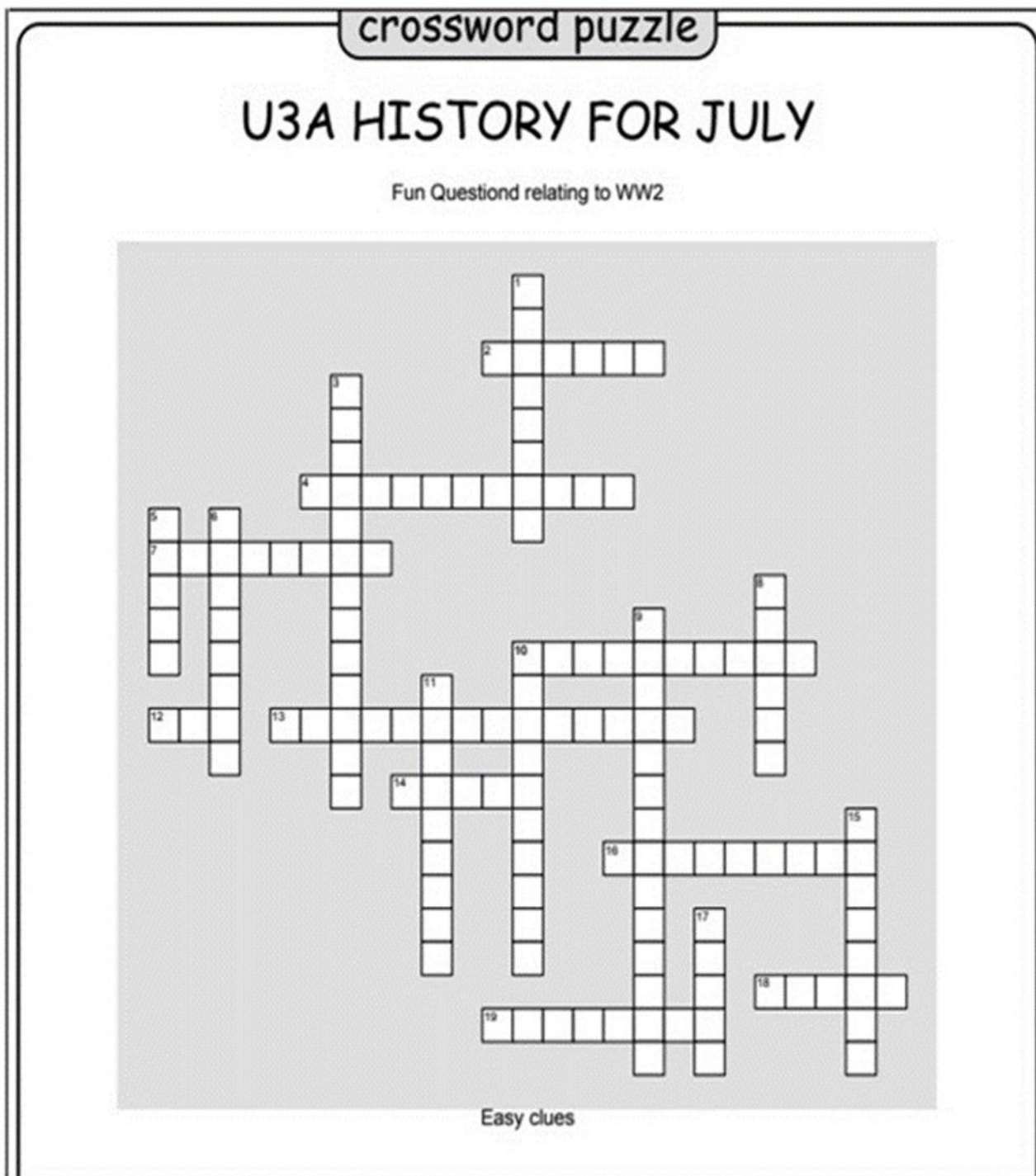


Hope you all have a good August and that you keep well. Just think, we have the 'flu season to look forward to!

SANDRA JONES
Group Leader

Gosh, you set me a challenge with your contributions this month (second is on page 4) Sandra! Thanks go to David Scott for his help in getting the History cross word from a pdf into Word format (necessary when using Publisher) and I hope I have managed to display this Art report more or less as you intended but using less space! Ann

SANDRA HAS SENT A CHALLENGE INSTEAD OF A REPORT THIS MONTH. BRILLIANT IDEA! A.



QUESTIONS

across:

- 2: Leader of Germany in WW2
- 4: Goods under the counter
- 7: Moved into the countryside for safety
- 10: You needed this for food
- 12: Got any Chum?
- 13: Under German occupation.
- 14: Over paid and over here!
- 16: PM during WW2
- 18: TV series set in Hastings
- 19: Put that light out

down:

- 1: Famous war plane
- 3: Vera Lynne favourite
- 5: 75 years ago
- 6: Arthur Lowe and Co
- 8: King during WW2
- 9: Children's Book dealt with evacuation
- 10: Undercover in France
- 11: Forces Sweetheart
- 15: TV comedy taking place in France
- 17: Bombs over London

Answers: See page 7 (No cheating please!)

U3A QUILTING GROUP



Hello everyone. I hope you are keeping safe and well. There is no official report from our group but most of the members having been sewing away at home.

Some of the group have been very busy sewing rather than Quilting and have 'done their bit' to help out with resources to keep everyone safe in the terrible time we have been experiencing. This includes scrubs, bags for dirty scrubs and masks for adults and children. Well done ladies.

Others also made the fabric clocks, work set from the last session. It's amazing from the same pattern how different these turned out. I'm sure like all groups we can't wait to get back together and do a catch up

MARGARET GRIFFITHS
Group Leader

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Once again, lockdown prevailed, and we were unable to gather for our June meeting. So courtesy of Terry, we had a most enjoyable virtual meeting, chosen by Anne Jones, whose theme was "Classical Creatures". Appropriately enough, in the week before zoos and wildlife parks were to be allowed to open, Anne took us on a wide-ranging journey through the musical fauna.



We opened with the Flight of the Bumble Bee, played by George Malcolm at express speed on the harpsichord, which prompted Terry to give us an illustration of the mechanism of the harpsichord as compared with that of the grand piano.

Next came Saint-Saens' Carnival of the Animals, enough to stock any self-respecting zoo. Two heavyweights for ballast -- Flanders and Swann's Hippopotamus Song, and Cyril Stapleton's Elephant Tango. Nicola Benedetti gave us Shostakovich's Gadfly, then we had the Overture to Die Fledermaus (The Bat). Some lighter Elgar -- Moths and Butterflies from the "Wand of Youth" Suite -- was followed by Ibert's Little White Donkey. King's College Choir gave us John Tavener's The Lamb (which personally always makes me feel slightly sea-sick!), then Mendelssohn's O for the Wings of a Dove brought back for Terry--memories of times with Peterborough Cathedral Choir. We ended fittingly with Vaughan Williams' beautiful The Lark Ascending, played by violinist David Nolan.

Thanks are due to Anne for her choice of a most intriguing and enjoyable programme, to Terry for his hard work behind the scenes, and to Liz for the programme layout and artwork.

Report: JIM PRINGLE
Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

U3A THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP



It felt very odd not to be together this month as July is our traditional summer buffet. With one or two exceptions, we normally meet in Mike and Sandra Bowers' lovely garden for gardening chat followed by a sharing meal together, with everyone bringing a dish such as Kay Parker's famous chicken or one of Liz Noble's cakes.

It would have been extra special this year as Friday 3rd July was a special birthday for Sandra (there's a 0 involved but we're not saying which!). We were looking forward to celebrating together. Instead, we'll just have to look back over photos of the other meals we've shared together in the Thursday Gardening Group section on the Deepings U3A website that David Scott so brilliantly curates for us. Let's hope we can get together again in person soon.

LINDA HILL
Group Leader

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

Our 'virtual' meeting this month is from Phil Jones and he entitled it 'NOW YOU HAS JAZZ'. Jazz is certainly what we got and we knew it would be an interesting programme, given Phil's knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject.



Beginning with Bing Crosby and Louis Armstrong, plus the 'Jazz All Stars,' we heard 'Now You Has Jazz' one of the best recordings I've heard that sums up the whole thing. The Peddlers played 'Comin' Home Baby' and Eddie Harris and Les McCann intrigued with the 'Compared To What.'. There was even a mention of Tutankhamen! He would have been surprised. What is a Jazz programme without Kenny Ball and His Jazzmen? We got two items - 'The Music Goes Round and Round' and 'Potato Head Blues'. 'Dog My Cats,' and 'Jeannine' came from Cannonball Adderley and 'Reefer Man' was sung by Cab Calloway. Keely Smith, Louis Prima with Sam Butera and The Witnesses performed 'Come Back To Sorrento' and 'Robin Hood / Oh Babe' referring to Maid Marian as a 'chick' which was different but no doubt connected to Robin!

Louis Prima without Keely this time, (they did divorce) sang 'Pennies From Heaven' and with Sam Butera and The Witnesses, performed 'Sing, Sing, Sing.' Then Louis sang his hit tune, 'Buona Sera'. Three from Eddie 'Lockjaw' Davis followed, 'That Old Black Magic', 'Last Train From Overbrook' and 'Bingo Domingo'. Intrigued by the 'Lockjaw' nickname, I asked Phil about it and he said that it was due to the way he clamped his mouth down on his saxophone.

Our morning ended with another puzzle - 'Eddie 'Cleanhead' Vincent, who played 'Friday Fish Fry'. (A nice thought.) Once again Phil was able to answer my question; why 'Cleanhead'? Apparently Eddie wanted his hair straightened and went for some treatment. Unfortunately the Lye treatment administered not only straightened it, it removed it too! All of it!

Playing the CD at home and sharing the experience with the group gave a certain amount of connection, so a big thank you to Phil for something enjoyable and different. Report; ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PETER BAYLIS / ANNE JONES

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

Firstly, thank you one again for the very kind messages I received about the June issue of our Newsletter. I admit it isn't an easy task but, with considerable help from all of you, it seems to somehow 'come together' each month. Thanks too to David S and the Delivery Team.

This page has proved particularly popular and we begin with something from a very special member—our one and only (to date) Honorary Member—I am sure you will enjoy reading it as much as I did! Apologies for quality of photograph. A.



Nancy's contribution begins -

Nancy Titman, proud to be an Honorary Member of U3A sends good wishes to everyone. (Nancy's own words!)

A TALE OF TWO VE DAYS

On 8th May 1945 I was privileged to be in Central London celebrating the end of the War in Europe with thousands of soldiers, sailors and airmen from many countries and civilians young and old, all singing, dancing and behaving like excited children. It was a Day of Days—the joy and relief was indescribable.

On 8th May 2020 we were at war again; the enemy the deadly Coronavirus that had put the world in Lockdown. We could not mark the 75th anniversary of VE Day though I put out a couple of little flags.

However, Rachel who lives across the Green, and is a 40s fanatic as well as a singer put up a microphone and invited her neighbours to sit by their front gates between 4.30—5.30 pm when she would sing wartime songs for us to mark VE day.

We put little tables out set with afternoon tea and were delighted to join in singing and clapping as we heard the old favourites. Towards the end of the concert a Police Car drew up near the Cross and a Police Woman made her way to my gate. She had come to investigate, having had a complaint that a noisy party was going on at 8 Church Street. It was not a joke. Luckily she saw the funny side of the story and had a good laugh with the rest of the socially distanced party goers!

What a headline it would have been:

CENTENARIAN ARRESTED FOR HOSTING WILD PARTY.

Thank you for sharing this with us Nancy—this editor is proud to have had the chance to publish your VE day experiences and Deepings U3A is proud to have you as a member. A

Poetry is another subject proving popular with a lot of our members so here are two more. The first from IRENE BEEKEN (several of you enjoyed her choice last month) :

This is my wish for you,

Comfort on difficult days,
Smiles when sadness intrudes,
Rainbows to follow the clouds,
Laughter to kiss your lips,
Sunsets to warm your heart,
Hugs when spirits sag,
Beauty for your eyes to see,
Friendships to brighten your being,
Faith so that you can believe,
Confidence for when you doubt,
Courage to know yourself,
Patience to accept the truth,
Love to complete your life.”

by *Ralph Waldo Emerson*

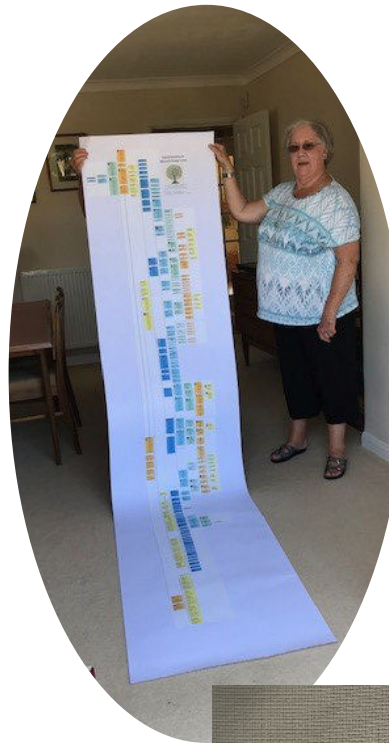
The second is another topical composition by ANNE JONES

MUSIC AND SUNSHINE.

Music and Sunshine, we welcome them in
To lives sadly lacking in contact with kin.
Meals out, coffee mornings,
No; no socialising.
Down days, fed-up days, it's hardly surprising.
Surely music and sunshine have helped day to day.
Music and Sunshine have helped in their way?
Life will become 'normal,' well; normal's subjective.
But we have had the time to be a little reflective.
Sunshine filled days - that vital spark.
Music that may lighten a day that is dark.
It could be that soon, our livers will be changing.
Life will not need those rules, just a slight re-arranging.
And we've proved , if anything, that we can cope.
With Music and Sunshine, and something called - HOPE.

Thank you to both Irene and Anne. If **YOU** have a favourite poem and would like to share it, please let me have it. A

WHAT DID YOU DO DURING LOCKDOWN NANA/ GRANDAD



Like our Chairman, Garth, many members took the opportunity during Lockdown to complete DIY tasks, decorating, gardening tidy cupboards, etc. However some turned to learning new skills, crafts, or other interests to while away the days.

Liz, our Membership Secretary and long time member of our Family History Club , worked on her own family tree. At first I thought she had been designing wallpaper but each column and colour details her various ancestors dating back to the 1700s. She and Terry have grandchildren so the 'tree' is still growing of course.



Kath Allen has completed this cross stitch, no doubt dreaming of days on the beach whilst stitching it!.



I have been a fan of cross stitch for many years and although 'a work in progress' I thought I would include it. It's my way of coping with life without our U3A activities due to Coronavirus.

ANN



Hopefully it will look like this when completed! ➡

TO FINISH—REMINDERS OF DAYS OUT AND/OR HOLIDAYS



Top two photographs are from Pete Allen and bottom two from Eddie Adams. Grateful thanks to both of you for responding to my urgent request so promptly. ANN



Someone sent me this last year, and I thought it was very funny. When I stumbled across it this week, it didn't seem quite as amusing, because it seemed to sum up so many of my lock-down days!!

Garth.

HAVE YOU GOT AAADD?

I went to the doctors yesterday, and have been diagnosed with Age Activated Attention Deficit Disorder. This is how it manifests itself:

I need to wash my car. As I start towards the garage, I notice there's mail on the hall table. I decide to go through it before washing the car. I put my keys down on the table, and go to put the junk mail in the bin, and notice that the bin is full. So I decide to put the bills back on the table to take out the bin. But then, I think, as the post box is only around the corner from where I leave the bin, I might as well pay the bills first. I take my chequebook off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left, so I go to my desk in the study, where I find a bottle of Coke that I had been drinking. I'm about to look for my cheques, when I notice that the Coke is warm, so I decide to put it in the fridge. I head towards the kitchen, when a vase of flowers on the counter catches my eye - they need water. As I put the Coke down on the counter I notice my glasses, which I've been looking for all morning. I decide I'd better take them back to my desk, but first I must water the flowers. I fill a jug with water, and then I spot the TV remote on the kitchen table. Tonight, when I go to watch TV, I'll be looking for it, so I decide to take it back to the TV room, but first I must water the flowers. I splash some water on them, but some spills on the floor. So I put the remote down, to wipe up the spill. Then I head down the hall trying to remember what it was I was planning to do

Now, it's the end of the day, the car isn't washed, the bills aren't paid, there's a warm bottle of Coke on the kitchen counter, the flowers aren't watered, and there's only one cheque left in my cheque book. I can't find the remote or my glasses, and I don't know what I did with my car keys. I try to work out why nothing got done today, and I'm baffled, because I've been really busy, and now I'm really tired. I realise that this is a problem, and I'll try to get some help, but first I'll check my e-mails!

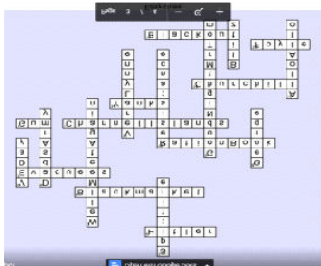
Anything here that you recognise?

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Thank you to everyone who has sent a contribution for the Newsletter this month. I hope there is something of interest to most members but if there isn't may I politely suggest the remedy is in your own hands. All contributions (within reason of course) are accepted and to date I haven't had any that weren't!

I am particularly looking for photographs for the front page. I feel I have flogged flowers to death and it would be good to have an interesting picture to start the Newsletter again, as we used to. It doesn't have to be 'competition' standard nor do you have to be a member of a Photography group, Just a reasonable photograph with a few words saying what and where would be most helpful please. Closing date for all reports/photos : **FRIDAY 8TH AUGUST.**

Our Chairman will be delighted there will be no more flowers—he has complained he has to cut his Reflections short to accommodate them!! ANN



- Down: 1: Spitfire 3: We'll meet again
5: VE Day 6: Dads Army 8: George
9: Goodnight Mr Tom 10: Resistance
11: Vera Lynne 15: Alilo Alilo 17:
Blitz
- Across: 2: Hitler 4: Blackmarket 7:
Evacuees 10: Ration Book 12: Gum
13: Channel Islands 14: Yanks 16:
Churchill 18: Foyle 19: Blackout

ANSWERS

History July Quiz

A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

Our 'walk' this month has been provided by Lyall Seale and is Part 1 of the Coast to Coast Walk by some of our Walking Group members in July 2011

Coast To Coast Walk ~ Western Section

Some members of Our Walking Group decided to do the Coast to Coast Walk in the summer of 2011 in two stages so that we could be back in Deeping for our various meetings. At the end of June, six of us set off from St Bees to do the western section across the Cumbrian Fells - Godfrey Parkes, Brian Thornthwaite, Geoff Collett, Flo and Glyn Sykes and Lyall Seale. Norah and Brian Littler would join us for the eastern section, doing this section later.



Earlier that morning we had been transported from Kirkby Stephen, the base for both walks by the *Packhorse* organisation who would transport our bags between our B&Bs.

Our first four miles of walking were to the west and north along the coastal cliffs instead of eastwards.. The weather was beautiful, S W Scotland, Isle of Man and N Wales being visible as we walked. By afternoon we were on the top of Dent (a curious name for a hill). At 350m it was the highest point of the day. We finished the day at the *Shepherd's Arms* Ennerdale Bridge having covered 14 miles. Along the route we met several other walkers whom we would see, and at times chat with, along the route on most of the following days.



Next morning we had an easy walk to and along Ennerdale Water (except for taking the difficult option to get past Angler's Crag. Then, it was up Ennerdale to *Black Sail Hut* (the most isolated Youth Hostel in the country) where we lunched with many others. We then climbed up along Loft Beck and on to Grey

Knott (600+m) for fabulous views of mountains and lakes and then down past the Honister Slate mines to the *Langstrath Hotel* in Stonethwaite, again covering 14 miles on the day.

On the *Langstrath Hotel* wall is a plaque "In loving memory of a sunny day in Borrowdale". Very true - it drizzled for about ¼ hour as we arrived and a bit harder for ¾ hour as we left, walking along the Stonethwaite Beck and then climbing up towards Greenup Edge (at 620m), donning our raingear along the way). Luckily it was the only rain we felt over the two weeks of our trek.



Three of us then walked the ridge along Calf Crag (540m) Gibson's Knott (410m) and the Lion & Lamb (405m) for spectacular views, whilst the other three followed the main route down the valley to Grasmere. Having travelled 10 miles with lots of ups and downs we stayed at the *Glenthorne Guest*

House run by the Quakers, requiring a visit to the pub after dinner.

On the fourth day we walked to Great Tongue and climbed up to Grisedale Edge (600+m) and then down to Grisedale Tarn (a small lake) where we visited the Brothers' Parting Stone. This has poignant lines of William Wordsworth's poem "the Brothers" carved into the rock to commemorate the last parting of William and his brother John in 1800. John commanded the *Abergavenny* which was lost with all hands in 1805.



Four of us diverted to do the high route, whilst two followed the main route down the valley to Patterdale. We climbed progressively up Dollywagon Pike (860m), High Crag (885m), Nethermost Pike (890m) and Helvellyn (950m) with stupendous views. There is a plaque on Helvellyn to

commemorate the first landing and take off on a UK mountain by an aircraft in 1926

Having covered 12 miles, we stayed at the *Oldwater View Guest House*, a haunt of Wainwright the walking guidebooks author, Brian and I sharing "his room". Next day, we climbed up to Angletarn Pikes (560m) with views back to the previous days' route, having a break at Angletarn.



Along the ridge to The Knott (740m) and then to Kidsty Pike (780m) with views of the southern end of Haweswater. Then down to and along the length of Haweswater, a long way!!!! before following a stream through a wooded valley, and across fields to Shap. There we stayed *The Hermitage Guest House* having covered 16miles. An interesting house

with 1691 over the door. That evening, eating out, we remarked that it was so quiet this must be a one horse town a minute later a single horse was led past!

We left Shap, with mineral industries but otherwise rural setting, and crossed the M6 on a footbridge. Walking for most of the day in very hot weather on undulating moorland or fields and alongside miles of dry stone wall we arrived at the *Jolly Farmer's Guest House* in Kirkby Stephen having covered 21miles, celebrating the end of the first stage with tea and scones laid on by the proprietor.



PART TWO: THE EASTERN SECTION IN AUGUST ISSUE.