



Deeping St. James

Issue No. 208

The Deepings u3a

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NEWSLETTER

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Market Deeping

JANUARY 2021

CHRISTMAS LUNCH IN "0Z"



"Hi Ann

Stupidly, I let Ian take the photo (which should arrive in a separate email) so it looks as though we only had one man present!

In spite of COVID 19 restrictions, Northern Beaches U3A managed to have a small luncheon party on Christmas Day. Just north of our picnic there was a bridge over which no cars or pedestrians were allowed to pass! Anyway, the nine of us had a great time.

*Happy New Year
ROSEMARY"*

This message arrived whilst I was having my breakfast on Christmas morning and I thought it would be nice to share it with you all. For 'newer' members, Rosemary was our "founding Chairman" back in July 2003. A



Chairman's Reflections



Best wishes for a Happier New Year. To finish off a strange year, we had a stranger Christmas, but I have to say that it fitted in quite well with my "bah humbug" tendencies!

Funnily, the thing that I am missing most over this festive season is the pantomime, which has been a feature of this time of year ever since I was taken as a child to the Palace Theatre in Plymouth, where I was born! Mind you, it has got more difficult to justify since my Granddaughter moved out – you get some strange looks if you turn up without a child in tow, and randomly borrowing one has become a no-no! Hiding in a crowd of adults can overcome this, but, of course, there aren't any coach outings to join at the moment.

Sue and I joined, and ended up running, PADS (Perkins Amateur Dramatics Society), mainly because it put on a pantomime every year. My Mother was a semi-professional contralto singer, and when she was practicing in the front room, my Brother and I were busy taking the mick in the adjacent kitchen, and as a result could sing in a contralto register. I foolishly demonstrated this at an audition for my first pantomime, and got the part of the Dame, which I held for the next eight years! I only got my kids along to our panto once, when they were about nine, and they sat hiding under their up-turned coat collars on the front row



and delivered a short, but to the point, critical review of my performance – "Dad, you're just an embarrassment". Stinging, but probably justified! The only embarrassment that I can remember during my panto "career" was when my late Mother-in-Law, at the request of Sue I might add, gave me one of her old capacious bras for my costume!

One day before Christmas I wrapped up warm, and ventured into the garage to do a job out there. Before I could get down to the job, I had to clear the top of my workbench, which was covered in things that I had just flung on there when I had finished other jobs. This clearance revealed several small bags of garden bulbs, which were sprouting in the bags. This is becoming an annual habit – the bulbs are purchased at a garden centre, taken out of the car boot, and placed on the workbench, where, instead of being planted, they get covered up and forgotten. So, much to the puzzlement of the neighbours, I was once again seen, through the gathering gloom and descending frost, knelt in the front garden, planting bulbs, and hoping that they will forgive the poor treatment! But bulbs are pretty tolerant of abuse. The classic case of this was when we gave my Mum, who was then in a residential home in Plymouth, an Amaryllis bulb for Christmas. When we went to see her in the Spring, during our usual spring-cleaning of her room and cupboards, we found the Amaryllis box, stripped of its Christmas wrapping paper, with the bulb still inside. It had grown an 18 inch stem, which was coiled several times around the bulb, and was in full flower! It had managed all this, despite being in the dark and having had no water. Makes my bulbs seem very well cared for!

It's a good job we can find something to chuckle about in these times. I can't help thinking about a colleague at Perkins who, as he approached retirement, constructed a long tapered cone out of cardboard, cut a piece off the small end every day, and looked through the cone at the window. When asked what he was doing, he replied that it looked as if the light at the end of the tunnel was coming closer every day. Let us hope that the light at the end of our tunnel is doing the same.

Best wishes,
GARTH, Chairman

Ann's reflection: I, too, was once a member of the Perkins Amateur Dramatic group. Somewhere I have a pic of my only stage appearance, when at the age of 22 I played the part of an old lady in her 80's. My clothes (and hat) were borrowed from my Great Aunt (then 80 plus) and I had one line to say! We had a good makeup man and I was given as many wrinkles as I bear now, but after that I stayed backstage as assistant wardrobe mistress. No—couldn't find pic in time to add!!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – last call!

I am delighted to say that approximately 350 members have renewed and I am hopeful of a few more, as I am sure some forms are buried under the paperwork safely somewhere! However if there are any difficulties with obtaining forms please do let me know.



I would, however remind you that this, January, Newsletter will be the last and your membership will lapse unless subscriptions are received by 31 January 2021 so please do find them and complete the form. (If paying by BACs remember the account name is **THE DEEPINGS' U3A**).

Thanks to the Committee for delivering all the badges to members during Christmas week and now we are all hoping for a better and more active year for U3A.

LIZ NOBLE

Membership Secretary

Membership@deepingsu3a.com

NEWS

U3A LISTENING TO MUSIC GROUP

Our December meeting was another virtual one put together by Terry Noble, who kindly stepped in to fill a gap.



The programme began with 'Lo! He Comes', sung by the choir of Peterborough Cathedral with Gary Sieling playing the organ, conducted by Christopher Gower. Terry also took part on this recording. Then we heard 'Respighi's 'L'adoration dei Maji,' from the BBC singers and the BBC Concert Orchestra conducted by Stephen Cleobury. J.S.Bach's 'Christmas Oratori (1st Mvmt) sung by The Sixteen Choir Orchestra conducted by Harry Christophers, followed. The mood of this piece is heightened by the spectacular use of three trumpets and tympani.

We then heard Corelli's 'Christmas Concerto'. Arcangelo Corelli was one of the first great Italian violinists and composers at a time when the violin was superseding the viol. 'La Nativite' du Seigneur,' is a cycle of nine meditations depicting Christ's birth, written in 1935, describing the Wise Men departing, following the star and the camels trudging through the desert to their destination where they can rest. Jennifer Bate played the organ of St. Pierre, Beauvais.

A delightful piece came next from Rafe Vaughan Williams 'Fantasia On Christmas Carols' with Roderick Williams and the Joyful Company of Singers and the City of London Sinfonia conducted by Richard Hickox. This depicted Vaughan Williams love of Christmas and carols.

The programme ended as all things will, with Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Christmas Mass, 'Messe de Minuit pour Noel.' from the BBC singers and the London Baroque Soloists conducted by Stephen Cleobury. This was a piece in the thoroughly French tradition celebrating the birth of Christ. with cheerful happiness.

Thank you Terry for a lovely Christmas offering. Terry once again delivered copies of the programme to the group so many thanks for that Terry. Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: TERRY NOBLE / JIM PRINGLE

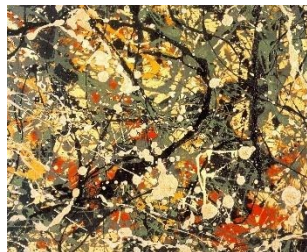
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Anne ended by wishing the Music Group and all members of the U3A a happy and peaceful Christmas and brighter 2021 but this report was not included in the December edition. It seems Christmas Greetings were also sent in for the Family History and Mah Jong groups but were not published. I cannot find either message but apologise if the error was mine. Carol Bracken of the Quilting Group wishes everyone a Happy New Year.

U3A ART APPRECIATION GROUP (JANUARY 2021)

Jackson Pollock

Do you make a terrible mess when you are decorating? Jackson Pollock (January 1912-August 1956) made his living and fortune out of making a mess. Art is in the eye of the beholder and perhaps Jackson Pollock's interpretation of art is not in your eye line!



He is widely known for taking liquid household paint and throwing it on to a horizontal canvass or splashing paint on to a vertical one.

He was American and a major figure in the abstract expressionist movement. He was influenced by Pablo Picasso and enjoyed considerable fame and notoriety. He died in an alcohol related car accident aged 44.

At this time of the year, the Art Appreciation group usually look at the Times Cartoons for the previous year. Here is one that may amuse you!

(Old man is saying: *Bravisimo I've invented Joe Wicks*!!)



HOPE YOU ALL GET VACCINATED SOON !

Happy New Year
SANDRA JONES

Once again I want to pay tribute to Sandra for her two articles. They are always interesting and arrive regularly nice and early, encouraging me to attempt to produce another few pages for yet another month. It is getting harder for me and I am sure Sandra is finding it harder too. So may I repeat my plea—if anyone has anything of they would like to share—photo, joke, information, whatever, PLEASE let me have it.

Email: editor:deepingsu3anews@gmail.com

Another faithful contributor is Linda Hill, Leader of the Thursday Gardening Group. Like most other groups, Thursday Gardening is unable to meet but Linda sent me the following:

THE THURSDAY GARDENING GROUP doesn't usually meet in January so I don't normally send anything this month, but I thought you might need something for the newsletter. Feel free to leave it out if you have enough. I won't be offended! Report as follows:

The Thursday Garden Group doesn't usually meet in January as it's so close to all the Christmas and New Year festivities - remember those? With so many of our members having been unwell, in hospital or alone over the festive period, I just wanted to wish you all a very happy new year and to say that I hope 2021 WILL improve. If nothing else, nature doesn't know about Covid, as illustrated by the first signs of spring in Marjorie Fitzjohn's indoor narcissi that have begun to flower.

Our February meeting would normally be in the home of David and Margaret Scott for The World Famous Annual Scott Quiz. Hopefully we can get together for that later in the year. Happy New Year everyone.

LINDA HILL
Group Leader



U3A HISTORY GROUP

The Great Manure Crisis of 1894 (The Times 1894)

'In 50 years every street
will be buried in nine feet
of manure.'



Things are pretty grim at the moment and even though we have vaccines in the pipeline, life does get rather depressing. However, we are lucky around here, as bad smells are rare, unless you live near a chicken rendering plant or the local farmer is muck spreading!

Mentioning muck, we have to think back to the late 1800s when horse drawn carriages were the norm. This meant that large cities were drowning in horse manure. In order to function, thousands of horses were needed to transport goods and people from place to place.

In 1900, there were 11,000 hansom cabs on the streets of London alone. There were several thousand horse drawn buses, each needing 12 horses per day, making it a staggering total of over 30,000 horses transporting people about. Each horse would produce between 15 and 35 pounds of manure daily. That is a lot of rose fertilizer!!

Manure produced smells, flies, leakage into the water supply and therefore disease. Horses died in the street so there were rotting carcasses to remove.

Rescue was on hand when motorized transport was invented. Electric trams and motor buses appeared. By 1912, the seemingly unsurmountable problem had been solved. (Only to be replaced by another pollution problem).

SO: To quote an 1894 campaign urging people not to despair:

SOMETHING WILL TURN UP

(Hopefully in our case, a successful
vaccine)



SANDRA JONES

U3A FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Our zoom monthly meeting just before Christmas was larger than ever and we all wore suitable Christmas accessories to get us in the spirit (Peg's very ornate sparkly glasses were particularly amusing!) We all discussed the various games and traditions we had in our own Christmas childhood and it was surprising how many were similar, many of us carrying them on today, perhaps slightly modernised. It was a fascinating discussion and we hope to continue the zoom meeting next month. Thanks again to Jean Brennand and Peg Torrance for setting it up and we look forward to the next one.



Sadly since the meeting Josie Smith, who two years ago had taken over joint leadership with Jean from Peg, lost her long battle with cancer.

Report: LIZ NOBLE

Group Leader: JEAN BRENNAND

A friend sent Gill Godden this and she has shared it with us -

2021.....

When Corona becomes a beer again
When Donald is only a duck
When tiers sit on a cake
And when bubbles only exist in champagne.

U3A JAZZ, SWING AND BIG BAND GROUP

(This programme, was originally compiled
in July 2020 by Peter Gray but not 'heard'
until December)



The programme began with Rhoda Scott and her interpretation of 'Summertime' which she portrayed three phases of summer. Track two was the haunting 'Send In The Clowns' played this time by Acker Bilk. Definitely different to the version from the Stephen Sondheim musical. 'Blues for Jimmy Yancy' came from Colin Hodgkinson.

Syd Lawrence gave us 'Johnson Rag'. The Syd Lawrence Band continued playing after his death and has been led by 'Band in the Land,' for 11 consecutive years. Russ Conway, a real family favourite played something different and a play on words here I think with 'The Wee Boy of Brussels'; 'April in Paris' was sung by Billie Holliday and Matt Monroe followed with 'From Russia With Love'. Herbie Hancock gave out with 'Watermelon Man' and then Buddy Rich played 'Nut Bill', not a familiar one to me. 'Unify' came from Dominic Miller, Jacob Collier delivered 'Here Comes The Sun', Jimmy Smith played 'On The Sunny Side of the Street'. Vivek Patel, an American trumpeter composer, is not a familiar guest in our programmes but there is a fusion of Mike Oldfield and Jean-Michel Jarre' but you may think differently!

'American Pie,' was a hit for Don McLean and Ted Heath then changed the mood with 'Swinging Shepherd Blues'. Paul Rodgers an English/Canadian singer songwriter and multi instrumentalist in the 1960's and 70's, played 'Muddy Water Blues'. In 2011 he received the British Academy's Ivor Novello award for his outstanding contribution to British Music. That closed the programme put together by Peter and it was an interesting and engaging selection. Thank you Peter.

Phil Jones also put together a special Christmas offering he called 'COOL YULE' and it was a festive feast of great Christmas themed music ranging from 'Baby It's Cold Outside' to Jamie Callum and 'Show Me The Magic' that has been a real treat and a bonus in this difficult year. Great music from all our members to brighten up a time that has not been one of the best years. Let's hope that 2021 will begin to see brighter days again. Report: ANNE JONES

Group Leaders: PHIL JONES / ANNE JONES

Now for a few items contributed by members which I hope will help brighten your life a little during these seemingly never ending Lockdowns.

CHRISTMAS PAST by Julie Mancey

Well that's Christmas over and done with
We're all out of mince pies and beer
The kids have already broken their toys
And I'm up to my back teeth with good cheer

We're stuffed full of chocolates and nibbles
We've eaten turkey and ham for a week
Nuts, Christmas pudding and trifle
Not to mention bubble and squeak

Peeling and cooking, washing up pots
Watch the Queen on the telly at 3
I'm beginning to feel like a waitress
Taking orders for mince pies and tea

Auntie Mary got tipsy on sherry
At board games, we let Grandpa cheat
Uncle Jim fell asleep on the sofa
Oh' go on then' just one more sweet

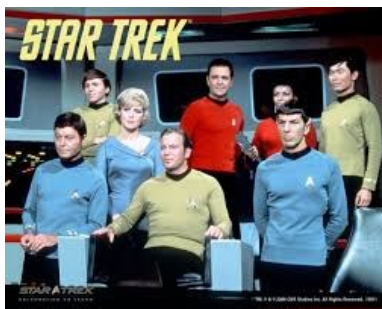
To say, I'll be glad when it's over
Would be a fair statement I'd say
I'd quite like to sleep like a grizzly
Waking up when it's all gone away

I'm not really a grumpy old humbug
I need to make that quite clear
And I bet you a plum pudding sixpence
I'll do it again next year.



This article was written for members of the Science Group some while ago but is now being shared with all of us:

The Science of Star Trek



Ever since the starship Enterprise first whisked across our TV screens in 1969 Star Trek has inspired audiences with its portrayal of a future space faring humanity boldly going where no one has gone before. So has any of the technology used in Star Trek come to fruition in the intervening 50 years. (Surely it can't be that long!)

So perhaps we saw the first plasma TV screen as the main view screen on the ship's bridge. Did Lt Uhuru wear the first Bluetooth earpiece? I will touch on just a few examples of technology from the Star Trek universe.

The Enterprise uses warp drive to travel through space. This is powered by the energy produced from the annihilation of matter and anti-matter. At present Fermilab can produce 50 billion anti-protons in an hour which is equivalent to one thousandth of a watt. So there is still a long way to go.

Some Star Trek episodes mention ion drives. Some spacecraft today have used ion drive engines, known as Hall thrusters. They are much more efficient than chemical rockets and have sent probes to asteroids and comets in our solar system.

How many of you remember that instrument that Mr. Spock always carried over his shoulder, especially when a new planet was surveyed? That was a tricorder. So is there a real world tie-in? NASA has a handheld device called LOCAD which tests for unwanted microorganisms such as E. Coli, fungi and salmonella aboard the International Space Station. With a stretch of the imagination, the tricorder scan could have as its ancestor today's Magnetic Resonance Imager.

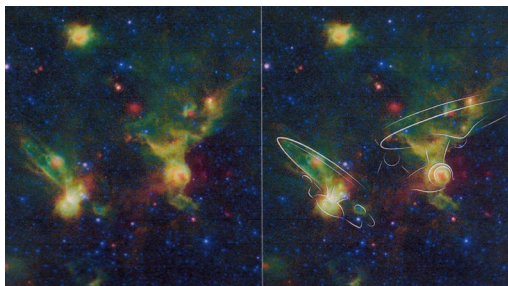
The Enterprise had a tractor beam which was used among other things to rescue shuttle craft and prevent other space ships from fleeing. Is this even plausible? Yes and no. The closest available today are optical tweezers. Scientists have harnessed small lasers into beams capable of manipulating molecules and moving them with precision. They are used to remove bacteria and sort cells and are used mainly for studying DNA. While the beams used in optical tweezers aren't strong enough to dock the shuttle with the International Space Station, it's a step in that direction.

Obviously the crew of the Enterprise needed communicators of some sort. The communicators in the original series were activated by flipping open the lid. This is very reminiscent of the original flip mobile phones. The crew were able to speak directly to the computer and receive a spoken reply. This is now available on mobile phone apps like Siri. In Star Trek The Next Generation the communicators had evolved to being housed in the Starfleet logo on the uniform. With the tap of a finger communication between crewmembers became even easier. There is a similar product available today which can link people on the same network inside an office building. This communications badge can be worn on a lapel or shirt. It's even designed to inhibit the growth of bacteria so it is suitable for doctors.

The replicator was a machine that was capable of creating objects and was particularly used for creating food. "Tea, Earl Grey, hot", as Captain Jean-Luc Picard from Star Trek The Next Generation was fond of saying. At the moment a 3-D printer and recycler called a Refabricator is being developed by NASA. It will enable astronauts to 3D print whatever is needed. It will also be able to recycle all objects back into plastic filament.

The holodeck from Star Trek The Next Generation was a room on a starship used for entertainment and training purposes. It used holographic projections and created holographic matter to give the illusion of being elsewhere and of interacting with holographic characters. Today we have virtual reality which provides audio and visual through a headset or visor, immersing the user in the virtual environment, often allowing users to look 360 degrees around them, walk around and interact with objects through motion tracking capabilities.

Do you remember the VISOR that the engineer Geordi LaForge wore in Star Trek The Next Generation? VISOR stands for Visual Instrument and Sensory Organ Replacement. Geordi was blind but with the use of the VISOR he could see not only in the visible range but throughout the electromagnetic spectrum. Though it might sound farfetched similar technology exists today. A small chip is implanted behind the retina. The recipient then wears a pair of glasses fitted with a video camera. Light enters the camera and is processed through a small wireless computer, which then broadcasts it as infrared LED images on the inside of the glasses. Those images are reflected back to the retina chips, which convert the light into electrical signals which in turn send nerve pulses to the brain.



Just in time for the 50th anniversary of Star Trek in 2016 (it first aired in America in 1966) this image in the infrared was taken by NASA's Spitzer telescope. Can

you recognise any objects in it? They are known officially as IRAS 19340+2016 and IRAS 19343+2026. I think they should be called NCC-1701 and NCC-1701-D. (Right is NCC-1701 and left is NCC-1701-D. For those of you who don't know or can't remember NCC-1701 was the registry number of the first starship Enterprise under the command of Captain James Tiberius Kirk and NCC-1701-D was used in Star Trek The Next Generation under the command of Captain Jean-Luc Picard.)

The only possible way to end this talk is to say live long and prosper.

GILL GODDEN

Now a very different contribution from IRENE BEEKEN:



Sitting at the side of the road, waiting to catch speeding drivers, a Police Officer sees a car pattering along at 22 mph. He thinks to himself, 'this driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!' So he turns on the lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car he notices that there are five old ladies—two in the front seats and three in the back - wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him "Officer I don't understand, I was obviously doing the speed limit! What seems to be in the problem,?"

"Ma'am" the officer replied, "you weren't speeding but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers". "Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly. Twenty two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that A22 was the road number not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. "But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask, is everyone in this car ok? These women seemed awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep the whole time.

"Oh, they'll be alright in a minute Officer—we have just come off the A120!"

Irene predicts we have along way to go and kindly sent me several other "funnies" for future issues. Thanks Irene, all contributions gratefully accepted. A.

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 |
| Lyllal Seale | Speaker Finder (Co-opted) |
| Ann Holmes | Newsletter Editor (Co-opted) |
| David Scott | Newsletter Distribution/ Webmaster. |

A Fun General Knowledge Quiz

There are no prizes if you get all the answers correct, just a warm feeling of smug self satisfaction!

1. Saying the name of which dried fruit was used to encourage people to smile for a photo in the 1800's, before saying "cheese"?
2. What was the name of the tower block where Del Boy and Rodney Trotter lived in Only Fools & Horses?
3. What Italian word for "Scratched drawings" can be found on walls all over the world?
4. Who won the Sports Personality of the Year in 2019?
5. What is someone who believes in antisestablishmentarianism opposed to?
6. Ataulfo, Alphonso, and Keitt are varieties of what fruit?
7. What is the smallest planet in our solar system?
8. Which two country singers famously sang "Islands in the Sun" in 1983?
9. Geoff Hurst famously scored a hat trick in England's 4 – 2 win over West Germany in the 1966 World Cup final – who scored the other goal?
- 10 Which soft drink is commonly associated with Scotland?
- 11 What was the legendary comedy actor Oliver Hardy's real first name at birth?
- 12 How many hearts does an octopus have?
- 13 Who is the longest serving presenter of Blue Peter?
- 14 Queen Elizabeth II is the longest reigning monarch of the UK, followed by Queen Victoria – but who is the third?
- 15 What is the capital city of Switzerland?
- 16 What is the most sold flavour of Walker's crisps?
- 17 Cryophobia is the fear of.....?
- 18 Which of these UK cities is situated furthest west – Bristol or Edinburgh?
- 19 What is the best- selling novel of all time?
- 20 Which European city hosted the 1936 Summer Olympics?

Thanks to Garth for supplying quiz—answers on page 6.

Hopefully following will bring a grin or two. If you have better material—where is it??

WHAT A YEAR!

1. The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
3. The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came to my house and told my dog.... We had a good laugh.
5. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practice social-distancingfrom the refrigerator.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip out to the bins!
10. Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go into a bank with a mask on and ask for money.

MEMORY LANE

These photographs have been randomly picked from the many that have been sent in over the years. If they jog anyone's memory about an amusing incident during the particular outing shown— why not share that memory with us in the February issue.



U3A GOOD FOOD GROUP

Determined to keep going, six households (including our country members in Yorkshire) met via Zoom for our first meeting of 2021 (unfortunately, not in person).



We had agreed in advance that we would try a Charlie Bigham (supplier) main course, purchased via our local supermarket, and most of us had the Meat Balls al Forno . Others had something similar. We all agreed that the dishes were very tasty. For dessert, we went for something from the GU range, something chocolatey, or a cheesecake. Very delicious too. Glasses of wine of the participants' choice were also consumed.

Lots of pleasant chat about keeping well, quiet Christmases, the hope of upcoming inoculation, and looking forward to being able to cook for each other in the future.

Next meeting 1st February, when another members will suggest dishes we could try and discuss together.

KATHLEEN TANNER
Group Leader

SPACE FOR LABEL

QUIZ ANSWERS

(1) Prunes (2) Nelson Mandela house (3) Graftiti (4) Ben Stokes (5) disestablishment of the Church of England (6) Mango (7) Mercury (8) Kenny Rogers & Dolly Parton (9) Martin Peters (10) Im Bru (11) Norvell (12) Three (13) John Noakes for 12 years 1965 to 1978 (14) George III (15) Bem (16) Cheese & Onion (17) Ice / cold (18) Edinburgh (19) Don Quixote (20) Berlin

ATTENTION ALL GROUP LEADERS:

Our list of Group Activities has not been circulated since the March 2020. I have “tweaked” the one printed below to include small changes I know have occurred since then, but will you please check the entry for your group and confirm that it is correct—or let me have any alterations please?

CLOSING DATE FOR NEXT ISSUE: FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2021