

## Stray Bits - March 2021



Welcome to Springtime! Well I hope by the end of March the weather will be beginning to warm up and maybe life will soon begin to feel more



normal. But sadly, we do at the same time all need to still be careful and keep our distance, wear masks and wash our hands frequently! But I am hoping that group leaders are planning to open up their groups sometime soonish. It will be wonderful to be able to meet our friends and hopefully enjoy good company. **Val Cooke, Editor**

**THE NATURALISTS GROUP** will continue with Zoom meetings until we are able to hold outdoor meetings again. Coming up:

Tuesday 13th April at 2pm - 'Birding in Bulgaria' - Malcolm Jones

Tuesday 11th May at 2pm - 'Wild flowers of the Dolomites' - Chris Beard

We invite any U3A members who are interested to join us for these presentations. Please contact me for an invitation on:

[issybeard@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:issybeard@hotmail.co.uk) **Isobel Beard**



### **Theatre Group**

We are hoping to be able to put together a programme of theatre visits in the second half of this year, lockdown restrictions permitting. It will not be a very full programme as we are waiting to see how local theatres will respond and we realise that many people will need time to readjust to "normal" life. However, please be assured that, as soon as possible, we will send out some details and,

if any new member would like to receive e-mails regarding these visits, please contact either Janet Harding on: [gnidrahj@aol.com](mailto:gnidrahj@aol.com) or Cheryl Johnston on: [pcjludlow@yahoo.com](mailto:pcjludlow@yahoo.com)

**The Wine Appreciation Group** will be restarting on July 5<sup>th</sup> and thereafter on the first Monday evening of the month, provided that lockdown restrictions have ended. Meetings will be held in the Rose Room at St Mark's Church on Leeds Road. There are a few places now available so please contact me on [pcjludlow@yahoo.com](mailto:pcjludlow@yahoo.com) if interested. **Phil Johnston.**



### **German groups – a message from Siggie.**

Dear German students! How are you All? Trust coping ok during this difficult time and hoping you have been vaccinated. As you know, Starbeck Library has cancelled us as the room does not have proper ventilation.

I have heard today that Community House will be available from 7th of June onwards, for up to six people per session. I need to know from you who is coming back. Perhaps Community House can take the Intermediate class as well on another day. I will find out. All the best, **Siggie** Tel. 01423 524271

### **Modern Literature**

This group was inadvertently shown as full in the group list but we have space for a maximum of three new members; we are currently meeting on the third Thursday evening of the month via Zoom but hope to meet in person, probably in each other's homes, from July.

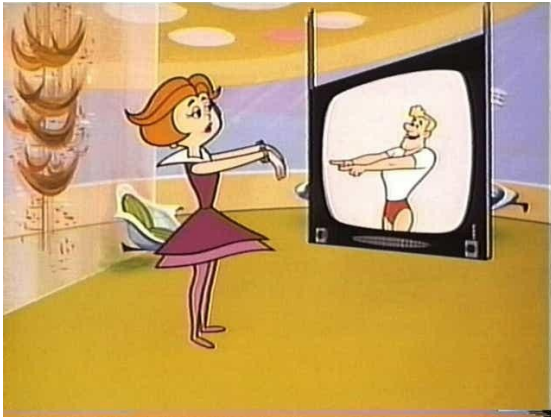
We read novels published since 2000 and take it in turns to introduce the book and stimulate discussion. Last month we read *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri and this month we are reading *The Betrayal* by Helen Dunmore. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact **Cheryl Johnston** on:

[pcjludlow@yahoo.com](mailto:pcjludlow@yahoo.com)

**Tai Chi and Exercise and Fitness - Val Cooke**



The 'Zoom' Tai Chi group continues with Breffni each Thursday afternoon and we have settled into the routine.



The plan going forward is to continue that group for the next couple of months until we are allowed back indoors, hopefully at the Jennyfield Centre towards the end of May. Much depends on the vaccination progress and whether there is a spike, now that schools have reopened. I am hoping that the system will be similar to that which we had in the September term - maybe a limited number - maybe not - but with masks and doors open etc.

The good news is that both Nick and Jo are still available to carry on once we are able to get back together again. If

anyone has any queries please email me on: [valerie@cooke989.plus.com](mailto:valerie@cooke989.plus.com) or phone: 506837

### **New Group: Exploring Yorkshire`s Heritage:**

Where did the inspiration for the US flag come from?

Where is the longest railway bench in the world?

There are 4000 of these in the Yorkshire Dales – what are they?

Which town was once “Britain`s equivalent of Hollywood”?

What does Alice falling “down, down, down” have to do with a religious building?

Why do we thank Yorkshire for our Easter holidays?

What is a stanza stone?

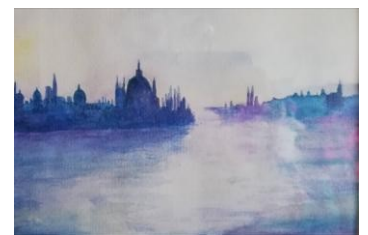
If you know the answer to all these questions, this group is not for you; otherwise, this new group will provide answers to these questions and more as we explore Yorkshire`s heritage. This will

be a small group of no more than 20 members, visiting various local sites of interest, mainly by car but also public transport, with occasional outside guides and members of the group will hopefully contribute with ideas etc. Inevitably, there will be some walking but, this will be limited to no more than 4-5 miles. This group will start as soon as Covid restrictions permit but please register your interest to the group leaders, **Phil and Cheryl Johnston** on: [pcjludlow@yahoo.com](mailto:pcjludlow@yahoo.com)



### **Painting Zoom on Tuesdays.** Group Leader, **Peter Kearney**

During the past 5 months, the group have held virtual meetings where members have submitted their artwork for comment and advice. Although no substitute for real social contact, there is opportunity to see and chat to colleagues and it does seem to be appreciated. Generally, each month about 10 paintings are submitted so we now have a gallery of 150 completed works. While not all may be considered as masterpieces, hopefully you can see them at an ‘unlockdown’ exhibition later in the year. **Brian Graham**



Grand Harbour Malta by  
Clare

### **COMMUNICATION NETWORK**

**Website address** - <https://u3asites.org.uk/harrogate/home>

**Group Leaders** - please give updates to Webmaster, Chris Rush at:  
[webmaster@harrogateu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@harrogateu3a.org.uk)

**Stray Bits** for your immediate notices and information. Copy by 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 please to:

Val Cooke, Editor, Stray Bits – Tel. 506837 or: [valerie@cooke989.plus.com](mailto:valerie@cooke989.plus.com)

**Harrogate U3A email address:** [harrogateu3a.mail@gmail.com](mailto:harrogateu3a.mail@gmail.com)

**Membership Enquiries** - 07389 733164 and leave a contact number.