

Hastings & Rother Newsletter

www.u3asites.org.uk/hastings-rother

Charity No: 1097214



Winter 2020

Message from the Chair

Greetings everyone, I hope this newsletter finds you all safe and well. These are very strange times to be taking over as Chair but you can be assured that the committee is doing its utmost to maintain a sense of normality wherever possible. I have to say that Zoom has become all-important in allowing the committee to function as well as allowing some interest groups to operate. A return to normality cannot come soon enough for me, perhaps I might even get to go on another cruise!



As I touched upon in my previous message, the local U3A is totally dependent on the input from its members. The newsletter for example only exists due to the many and varied contributions provided and the enthusiasm of the editorial team. For many of you the newsletter is the main organ of communication in the situation in which we now find ourselves. However as the newsletter can only be published quarterly it is sometimes out of date, particularly when you take into account such things as print deadlines. It is also a very expensive business and consumes a large proportion of our budget, money that perhaps could be spent on group activities. We also have the website and Facebook page where communications can be more topical and up to date. Over what remains of this financial year I hope that we can improve these offerings and make them more relevant.

Another sad consequence of Covid-19 is of course that we cannot have a Christmas get-together this year. It is hoped that come Spring we may be able to have an outdoor function to compensate, however that is very much in the lap of the gods, so fingers crossed everybody. In the meantime, we have organised an additional Zoom speaker meeting for the 7th December where Ann Pocklington of Belper U3A will be talking to us about her solo road trips in the USA, visiting places that no tour operator would dream of taking you to. She is clearly a lot more adventurous than me; my last road trip in October was to the wilds of the New Forest where the most dangerous things I encountered were some donkeys playing football with bin bags!

So, until the next time, stay safe and best wishes for the festive season.

George Webster

Future Zoom Speaker Meetings

CHRISTMAS SPEAKER MEETING

Monday 7 December 2020

Ann Pocklington: LIFE ON THE EDGE (A ROOM WITH A VIEW))

NB 2pm for 2.30pm start

Ann is a U3A member (not ours!) and is an intrepid solo traveller particularly around the United States. She is going to give us a talk on the plants, animals and geysers of Yellowstone National Park poised over a Super Volcano. The subtitle is 'A Room with a View' – and she was the View, as it includes one of the stranger things that happen when you take road trips.

Gail Oswald

Time for the following meetings is as usual 10.30am for an 11am start

Monday 25 January 2021 Gale Illsley: LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEY

Settling one's affairs gives peace of mind to our later years. It saves worry and anxiety and avoids expensive legal costs for family and relative. Gale's talk on the Lasting Power of Attorney is surely of interest to all.

Monday 22 February 2021 David Allen: BLOOD, GUTS & GORE

A Humorous Look at Victorian Murders

Meticulously researched, these true stories of Victorian England come from court transcripts and newspapers of the day. They are all told in David's gentle humorous fashion. (You may recall a similar talk was given previously, titled 'The Weird and Wonderful World of the Law')

Monday 22 March 2021 Ian Bevan: THE CRYSTAL PALACE

The Crystal Palace was originally built to house the Great Exhibition in Hyde Park, London, in 1851. It was subsequently moved to Sydenham in South London to become the centrepiece of the first theme park, which offered entertainments, educational interests and music, until its demise in the great fire of 1936.

Barbara Spackman



Let's be festive with Christmas jumpers or decorations etc and enjoy mince pies and a tippie!

Garden Group 3 – Our Lockdown Memories

When meetings ceased we looked forward to email newsletters from Marilyn with our group's news, photos and quizzes.

On our lockdown walks we enjoyed colourful spring front gardens, rainbows in windows, appreciated boxes of books left by gates and came across touching messages from pupils fixed to the railings of a school in Gunters Lane.

We found gifts of plants, runner beans and trays of seedlings left by our front doors from friends and neighbours.

One of Tricia's covid gardening memories is queuing at B&Q for some hanging basket plants. The only ones left in the store were six lavender pelargoniums, which did not appeal, but she bought them anyway. They were magnificent – not only giving a beautiful show once but when cut back did the same again until the end of summer;

Angie grew plants from seeds for the first time this year, so her summerhouse doubled as a greenhouse and her garage became a potting shed to grow on cuttings and plant swaps. Some successes were an eight-foot tall echium and a large bed of pink and purple petunias.

Jo found that having been able to spend time in her garden was a lifesaver and godsend. Gardening was a welcome and much needed diversion and relief from the worries over the pandemic. Visiting other gardens has been very calming, inspiring and beneficial as well. Seeing and experiencing the changing seasons seems to provide a feeling of reassurance and continuity and a sense that life will go on and it will be alright.

In June we were able to resume meetings in our gardens, having two sessions to comply with numbers. During winter we will meet up when weather allows and chat on Zoom



(Photo: Mike Morgan)

Some Garden Group 3 members
(from left to right):
Celia, Tricia, Angie, Jo, Colin

Taken at October meeting in Celia's garden

Celia Morgan, Convenor

A Life on the Ocean Wave

I had never been in a boat smaller than a cross-channel ferry; but once, in the early 1950's I had the opportunity to go for a sail in a yacht from Portsmouth harbour and I was very nervous about the trip. Our party arrived at the dockside and saw that our craft was moored very close to the royal yacht *Britannia*. It was quite exciting to see this enormous royal-blue vessel from such close quarters. It was evening so all was quiet on her decks. We finally began to move, but something seemed wrong, and with our mast still down we appeared to be heading for the royal ship.

Yes! There was an almighty crunch and a scraping sound as our mast seared the side of *Britannia*, leaving a very long, ugly and very visible scar along her side. After seeing no signs of life there were suddenly faces at every porthole along the side as the crew responded to the crash. Our skipper got things under control and we sailed out into the harbour, but the mast was seriously damaged and we were unable to leave the harbour. I recall I was not too disappointed.

Our yacht and small crew belonged to the Royal Navy, so I always imagined that heads would roll the next morning!

Jean Hotchkiss

Seasonal Cartoon by Steve Hall



Snowvid Man!

Play Reading Group 1 — Covid Style



Summer 2020 in my garden reading *Much Ado About Nothing*. Well, we are much ado about very little too really!

The summer thespians are (*from left to right*): Susannah, Ruth, Michael, Steve and Heide. These represent half of the group.

Maggie Law, Convenor

(Photos: Maggie Law)

Report of AGM

It was a unique experience attending an AGM conducted via video conferencing. The normal social interactions were missing (along with the tea and scones), however numerous individuals compensated for this by saying hello to everyone they recognised. It was a bit chaotic at first but once the meeting commenced everything was fine, although on occasion individuals' side chat was heard by all! It needs to be remembered that, unlike in a meeting room where only those close to you can hear what you are saying, everyone in a Zoom meeting has an activated microphone, so everyone can hear everyone else.

The meeting itself ran smoothly so thank you to the facilitators. All motions were carried with a combination of proxy and physical votes as well as the new committee members and officers elected by similar means. For Robert & Ken this was their farewell performance and they were warmly applauded and given gift vouchers as a token of appreciation for their dedicated service to H & R U3A.

After the formal business of the AGM was concluded a wonderful talk was given by Ken Brooks on 'Teilhard de Chardin'. I would recommend that some research on this gentleman would not go unrewarded, he is a fascinating individual with an important historical connection to Hastings as well as being significant in his chosen field of study.

Full minutes of the AGM will of course be made available on the website.

George Webster

Meet Your New Committee Members

Mike Wilson – Vice-Chair



Resident in Hastings for the last seven years. Triple graduate of the University of Manchester. Elected local government councillor for four years. Experience in social services as a child care officer, vice-chair of a social services committee and member of a Social Security Appeals Tribunal. Contributor to a number of books and journals on welfare policy issues. Lecturer in politics, urban studies and social policy for nearly forty years. Occasional tutor for the WEA in the 1980s. Still 'keeping my hand in' as occasional tutor (pre-Covid!) at City University, London.

Convenor of a H&R U3A History Group and active member of a U3A Book Club (meeting in Bexhill). Frequent walker (with my partner, Christine) in Hastings Country Park.

Occasionally play golf (badly!) and bowls (somewhat better and more regularly). Have to accept, in my 77th year, that my football, tennis and cricket days are over! But still, after 50 years an avid supporter of Manchester City – it has helped to develop my sense of humour and perspective.

Finally, strong supporter of the ethos of U3A, which has shown such resilience through these difficult times. I hope to help it continue flourishing in all its aspects both during and after these present Covid troubles.

Mike Wilson

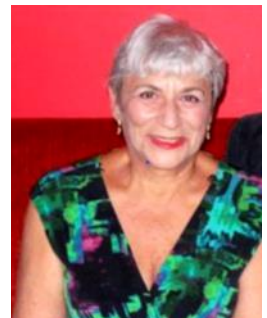
Raquel Berdichevsky – Business Secretary

I was born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but lived in the UK for many years before moving abroad. My husband Norman and I returned to live in England 18 months ago, after more than 20 years. In my previous life I was a court interpreter, translator, administrator and for the last almost 20 years worked as a real estate agent, both in the USA and Spain.

I have two sons and five grandchildren (including a nine-month-old grandson) who all live in the U.K. which was the main reason for me to return.

We chose Bexhill-on-Sea due to its relative proximity to London and to our family, and of course, its milder climate, especially after living in warm climates for many years.

I look forward to working with you all, making a worthwhile contribution to this committee and helping to run a smooth operation.



Raquel Berdichevsky

Ginny Edwards – Committee Member



I spent my early years in New York and Los Angeles but I've lived in the UK for over 30 years and I'm extremely proud to call it home. Although I've not lost my accent!

My background was in Advertising, Marketing and Event Management and I retired in 2011. I love to travel and I've managed to spend the last seven winters in Spain's sunshine but, thanks to Covid, next year I might have to miss out.

Gardening is another of my interests and during lockdown redesigning the communal courtyard garden at my flats in the Old Town was a great project to get stuck into and really brought our little community together.

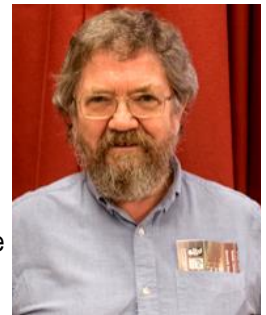
When I came to Bexhill I didn't know a single soul and U3A was a lifeline. I joined the Garden Appreciation group which I now co-convene, a luncheon group and I learn more about my new county walking with the Strollers. Volunteering for the committee I hope to make a small contribution to supporting our U3A.

Ginny Edwards

Bruce Henderson – Membership Secretary

Like many of us in U3A, I am a newcomer to Hastings. My wife and I moved here in 2012.

I originally qualified as an engineer and worked in many countries, eventually returning to settle in Bedford. I was elected County Councillor, which experience stood me in good stead when the UK engineering industry was dismantled in the 1980s. I switched to charity management and moved to Oxford, where I met my wife. We retired to the south of France, which is beautiful, but there's not much to do so, after seven years, we returned to UK. We chose to live in Hastings, a decision we have never regretted.



I have worked as a volunteer for a number of local organisations, but now I just study history and process membership for U3A. I thoroughly enjoy both. My sincere thanks go to Robert and to the Committee for their continuing support

These are strange times indeed. We all look forward to proper meetings again – one day. Meanwhile, we know that we will only be able to enjoy those if we protect ourselves and each other now.

Bruce Henderson

Goodbye 2020 – Hello 2021



I love this time of year
Presents, trees and family near
Cold crisp mornings, floating snow
Kids excited, cheeks aglow

I love this time of year
Looking back it's not all clear
The year that's passed has made its mark
Events and memories, light and dark



This world has changed and we have too
In what we can and cannot do
No hugging, crowds or joining hands
All we do, it must be planned

The virus came, no fear or favour
Infecting family, friend and neighbour
It did not rest or stop or slumber
Just multiplying to increase its number



This virus made me look anew
At who I am and what I do
This Christmas time I will make sure
To enjoy my family even more

The last few months have made it clear
Who knows how long we'll each be here
So enjoy the now and forget tomorrow
Be it pleasure, joy or even sorrow



Happy Christmas to all the U3A
And have a brilliant Christmas Day
We'll beat that virus have no fear
Here's to life and fun and another year

Joe Yusuf



A Christmas Quiz

1. Which Victorian workers were nicknamed 'Robins' and probably helped the birds to be associated with Christmas?

- A Gamekeepers B Caged Bird Sellers
C Soldiers D Posties



2. Who first introduced Christmas trees to Britain?

- A Queen Charlotte B Prince Albert
C Woolworths D Queen Victoria



3. Yorkshireman William Strickland is believed to have brought the first what to Britain from North America in 1526?

- A Cranberry B Turkey
C American Robin D Sprouts

4. The Christmas period of 1813-14 saw the last what in London?

- A Roasted British beaver meat B Wild salmon caught in the Thames
C Pink snow D Frost Fair

5. What plant was once so revered by early Britons that it had to be cut with a golden sickle?

- A Holly B Mistletoe
C Yew D Sprout



6. This rare visitor to Britain has a Christmas connection to who?

- A Tchaikovsky B Prince Albert
C Simon Cowell D Father Christmas



7. In which country does the poinsettia plant grow wild?

- A Lapland B South Africa
C Nepal D Mexico



8. What was hunted through the hedgerows on St Stephen's Day?

- A Hares B Wrens
C Wood Mice D The first primrose of the year

9. Apart from humans, how many living things are listed in the song 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'?

- A 23 B 17
C 24 D 29

***Thanks to Jim Gray for devising this quiz
Answers on p15***

The Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Zoom presentation by Ian Bevan



Modern theatre owes its origins to Charles II. Having spent years in exile on the continent where he enjoyed the theatre, he authorised Thomas Killigrew to set up the King's Company and build Drury Lane. Staff in the theatres were allowed to wear royal livery which is still the case today.

Drury Lane dates back to 1663 and is the oldest site with a theatre still standing in London. At first its size was modest. In Restoration theatre, females were allowed on stage and Nell Gwynn, a former orange seller, was among these. Interesting to learn that orange peel could be thrown to show disapproval, also the fruit masked unpleasant smells, but other 'services' could be purchased with it. After this theatre burnt down in 1672, Christopher Wren designed the new one which was twice the size.

When David Garrick took over the theatre for 14 years in the mid-18th century he substantially improved it. He stopped the audience sitting on the stage, did not allow them to come in at half time and started the practice of having rehearsals. He put on several Shakespearean plays and his *Richard III* was famous. Families began to go to theatres.

When Garrick died in 1779 his eulogy was given by Dr Johnson. Garrick was followed by Richard Brinsley Sheridan, who also proved a good actor, as did John Philip Kemble and his sister, Sarah Siddons, who was famous for her Ophelia. The theatre was trashed during the Gordon Riots in 1780 and it was Sheridan who employed Henry Holland to design a new theatre. This was impressive with gas lighting and a safety curtain, but burnt down in 1809.

The present theatre was built in 1812 by Benjamin Wyatt. Ian said it was well worth going in early to look at the architecture. A portico was added in 1820 to shelter theatregoers in carriages and a colonnade to protect those queuing on foot. The theatre holds over two thousand, has an impressive grand staircase and the Rotunda which also contains statues of David Garrick, Shakespeare and Edmund Kean, a sensation in the 1800s. In the early 1890s Marie Lloyd appeared in Music Hall and later Henry Irving performed there.

In 1924 Sir Alfred Butt took control and he began to stage musicals. Noel Coward put on *Cavalcade* and Ivor Novello *The Dancing Years*. Since the war it has included *Oklahoma*, *South Pacific* with Sean Connery and Larry Hagman, *My Fair Lady* with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews and, more recently, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *42nd Street*. Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber is trying to ensure the theatre reopens to stage *Frozen*.

The history of this theatre offers us hope that in the face of adversity theatre will rise like a phoenix from the ashes.

Carole Woodland

Slade in 'Flame' (1975)

Who remembers Slade, the hugely popular 'glam-rock' group of the early 1970s? Well, I remember them well, even after 45 years since I was last associated with them. How was this? Well – I was directly involved with the promotion of the group's only film, **Slade** (1975). It was a very well-made film directed by Richard Loncraine, his first. But it did not perform that well at the box office despite it being one of the first films that was marketed on a region-by-region television area.

The 'boys' were hoping to repeat the success which the Beatles hugely enjoyed a decade before with **A Hard Day's Night** (1964). But whereas the latter was a very successful piece of absolute froth, so ably put together by Richard Lester, with several slapstick episodes included, Slade's **Flame** was not. The group, along with their manager, Chas. Chandler, wanted to avoid the band's 'happy-go-lucky' image, and, instead, sought to make a behind-the-scenes, nitty-gritty look at the rock 'n' roll business', warts and all. And this is what the Slade film turned out to be, with quite a bit of fairly gratuitous violence, particularly that involving Johnny Shannon and his group of thugs. Although the album the group produced for the film did well before the film was actually released, many of their fans did not expect the band to make a film with such a bleak and sour atmosphere — indeed, the gritty reality of the film did Slade more harm than good. And the critics were not too kind to the film either.

Returning to my involvement with **Flame** in 1975; David Kemp and I booked and promoted the film on behalf of David Puttnam's VPS Goodtimes company. It was one of the very first films that was marketed on a region-by-region television area. This new trend of saturation cinema bookings on a TV-area basis started a year or so earlier with the release of the Bruce Lee mega-hit, **Enter the Dragon** (1973). It was a very costly strategy but one which had the potential of giving a spectacular pay-off by producing some great box-office grosses. I remember that we spent around a quarter of a million pounds on advertising **Flame**, i.e. on local radio stations, newspapers and regional television stations, with the latter representing, by far and away, the largest percentage of the cost.

The premiere of **Flame** was held at The Metropole Theatre, Victoria, on 13 February 1975. The skies were lit up by searchlights and the band arrived on the back of a vintage fire engine. There were dozens of guests from the pop world of the mid-1970s, including Lynsey de Paul, Chas. Chandler, Alan Lake and his wife, Diana Dors (looking more blousy than ever), Lulu, Gary Glitter, Alan Price, Kiki Dee, The Troggs, Mud, Bill Oddie, Suzi Quatro, and so many, many more.

Following the premier itself, David and I took in turns to go round the TV regions to promote the film. I did the South West TV area (in Plymouth) with the group, and then to Eire in May, 1975. Based in Dublin; we had no less than seven cinemas booked to show the film in that city! What an experience!

John V Watson

Christmas Shenanigans – Cape Town Way

The festive season being just a few months off, we were spurred on to think of organising a children's Christmas party at the animal park. And what better party to give than one for the local African township children? Invitations were painted, written and posted off. Replies poured back and we closed acceptances when we reached 60. We were fairly sure we could do 60, couldn't we?

Anyway the park was spruced and swept; the animals bathed and brushed. Frankfurters, rolls, cupcakes, fizzy drinks, bananas, oranges, lollipops, gobstoppers, balloons and lucky packets were ordered and delivered.

On the appointed day the bus with 60 loudly singing, bouncing, excited children arrived. But behind it trundled two more filled – to our horror, disbelief and dismay – with much larger excited bodies. It turns out that it is apparently assumed when a member of an African family is invited to a party, the invitation automatically extends to all available other female relatives. Remember the loaves and fishes? Well, think chopped frankfurters, roll crusts, orange segments, sliced bananas, melted lolly drinks, deftly cut peanut butter sandwiches, crushed gobstoppers, much diminished party bag innards and chaos. Unending cups of tea were handed out, brewed in the same urn in which we had hastily heated extra frankfurters together with the refurbished and reconstituted party fare. Revellers, large and small, spread eagerly to every corner of the park.

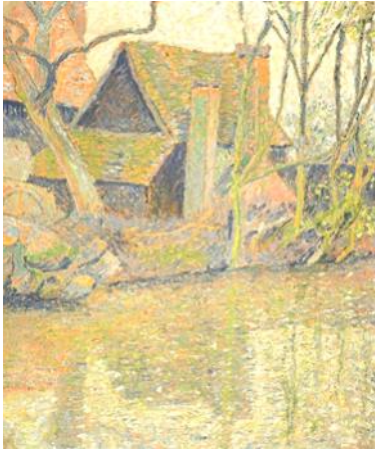
At this moment of maximum dispersal a small importantly-determined boy figure marched to our kiosk and announced in a loud clear voice, '*The crocodile is out and walking up the path!*' Freeze, shock, horror! Headlines in papers: 'Crocodile eats children and party cakes' 'Sad end to Christmas party'. This was a serious, obviously unexpected and horrifying situation.

Sixty spooked children and myriad hefty matrons are not easily shifted but shift them we did. We spread out across the park nervously searching for this man-eating reptile on the loose and silently hoping not to be the one that found him. Well, none of us was absolutely certain what we were going to do if we did. Rush it and clamp its mouth shut? Lasso the tail and hope it didn't turn on you? It was desperately worrying. With nervous murmuring, heavy breathing, and hearts pumping, fearing danger in the shape of a large crocodile was lurking around every corner, we were abruptly stopped dead in our tracks by the sight of a swaggering, tongue-flicking Manfred (don't ask), one of three *likkewaans* and lizard sized! They are the largest of the monitor lizards with a venomous but non-fatal bite to humans and a bonsai-sized reptile compared with a crocodile. Pleased with himself and his newfound freedom he was delighted at seeing so many welcoming faces. We were ready to hug him if it hadn't been for his propensity to nip! He was rather reluctant to succumb to our swift capture and be summarily returned to the confines and safety of his rocky house.

And as I turned to look back at him with relief at a good job done and a serious danger averted, I was quite certain he was grinning at me...

Maggie Law

Lucien Pissarro (1863-1944)



The Mill House

Lucien was the son of the great Camille Pissarro, the father of Impressionism, and was French to the core. His father had trained him rigorously, ever since he could hold a pencil and they were devoted to each other. But Lucien had to get away from his overwhelming influence if he was to become an artist in his own right. He settled in England at The Brook, a Georgian farmhouse in Chiswick, in 1902 .

Lucien differed from his father in his commitment to watercolour, a demanding medium which he made his own. He used a mixture of pencil, black ink, crayon and washes of colour. This combination gives substance and texture to his work. He was principally a landscape painter. He and his redoubtable wife, Esther, who was at

the wheel, drove happily all over England, stopping whenever Lucien saw a scene that produced the 'sensation' which inspired him to paint.

He was able to convey the character of a place and his work is strongly designed while keeping the freshness of a sketch. He knew instinctively the kind of subject which suited his gentle and delicate approach. *'I only like little corners which compose harmoniously,'* he wrote, and he found these in out-of-the-way places. He was fascinated by the juxtaposition of landscape and architecture. When he came to Hastings he found the usual problems of artists who try to paint out-of-doors and wrote to Esther about the weather, the curious onlookers and the flies. *'The weather is very fine just now – and I am working very hard... but the summer is frightfully hot... and when the cool of the evening arrived one is devoured by the midget! As for flies – they are terrible!!'*

His shyness comes out in his letters. From Hastings he wrote on 29 January, 1918: *'I have finished my morning picture from my window. I have sketched a small one in the afternoon on the West Hill, I found a place where I am not too conspicuous – I thought I would only start a small one, as I feel rather shy in such a big town with people walking about everywhere – but so far they have not detected me between my trunk of trees.'*

Lucien felt quite at home in England as time went on and became a British citizen in 1916. Three years later, he formed his own circle, the Monarro Group – so named as a homage to Monet and Camille Pissarro. He died in Somerset in 1944. He was mourned in both France and England. The foremost critic of the day, Frank Rutter, wrote: *'French though he may be in origin, nobody has mirrored so beautifully and truthfully our English countryside.'*

Maureen Connett, Convenor

census 2021

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Rother and Hastings will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census, run by the Office for National Statistics, is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

It will be first run predominantly online, with households receiving a letter with a unique access code, allowing them to complete the questionnaire on their computers, phones or tablets. Paper questionnaires will also be available for those who need them.

‘A successful census will ensure everyone from local government to charities can put services and funding in the places where they are most needed,’ ONS deputy national statistician Iain Bell said. ‘This could mean things like doctors’ surgeries, schools and new transport routes. That’s why it is so important everyone takes part and we have made it easier for people to do so online on any device. If people need help filling in their questionnaire online, it will be available in various ways including telephone help and support centres across the country to help people get online. And, for those who want to fill in a traditional paper questionnaire, they can, of course, request one.’

Census day will be on March 21, but households across the country will receive letters with online codes allowing them to take part from the end of February. The census will include questions about your sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity. And, for the first time, there will be a question asking people whether they have served in the armed forces, as well as voluntary questions for those aged 16 and over on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Operating in line with the Government’s latest Covid-19 guidance, field officers will be deployed across the country to contact those who have not responded from the end of March. They will offer help and advice to those who need it. Results will be available within 12 months, although personal records will be locked away for 100 years, kept safe for future generations.

ONS has recruited a local census engagement manager to help local groups take part in Census 2021.

To contact your local census engagement manager:

Harry Farmer

**Census Engagement Manager – Rother & Hastings
Office for National Statistics**

E. john.farmer36@field.census.gov.uk M. +44 (0)7452 942 713

For more information about the census and help available, visit census.gov.uk

Tributes

**Ruth Rose
Chair
2002-2005**



**Velma Krever
Chair
2005-2008**



Sadly two of our former Chairs, Ruth Rose and Velma Krever, have died.

Ruth, a petite elegant lady, came to this country on the Kinder Transport and used to tell us about her life and the famous people she met in the music business. Ruth was a great reader and she would talk to the Readers Circle about the latest book she had found.

Velma was a member from the early days of Hastings and Rother, she also belonged to a number of groups over the years. She and her husband Milton were always very hospitable – I have memories of my husband and I enjoying New Year's Eve with them several times.

Ruth and Velma during their time as Chairs worked very hard for the U3A. We were lucky to have known them.

Ann Lowndes

Answers to A Christmas Quiz

1. **D** Posties – because of their red uniforms
2. **A** Queen Charlotte – who set up the first known English tree at Windsor in 1800
3. **B** Turkey – it is said that he traded for them with Native Americans
4. **D** Frost Fair – on the frozen Thames
5. **B** Mistletoe – according to Pliny the Elder, writing in the 1st century
6. **A** Tchaikovsky – the bird is a Nutcracker
7. **D** Mexico – in tropical forests of southern Mexico and Central America
8. **B** Wrens – possibly of Celtic origin, it occurred in a number of European countries
9. **C** 24 – not including any animals being milked (but remember the pear tree!)

Editorial ‘ZOOM not GLOOM please!’

‘Just open a ZOOM account, it’s free for 40mins,’ (advised the IT geek recently encountered), ‘go explore, get creative and use your initiative with it—it’s easy!’ So Val tried a Zoom ‘Coffee Morning with Hot Topic’, a Zoom ‘Mindfulness Intuitive Art Class’, and realised that YES! this IS a new ‘normal’ and an easy way to provide that much needed contact with our fellow humans—as we sped inevitably to our second national lockdown. We also agreed that everyone could enjoy a virtual (or whatever way is wanted) family Christmas in any way they choose. This is in order to stave off the dreadful dumbing down of our established way of living that seems a very distant past before ‘2020’s Covid-19 era’ as it is now being called. *Find your own way so that Christmas need not be cancelled this Winter.* Stay safe of course!

For those who are not PC nor ZOOM-savvy, and prefer a real piece of paper to hold and read, we provide this newsletter for your information and enjoyment. The Team thanks all those who contributed to this edition and say:

‘Best wishes from the Newsletter Team’

Rosemary, Val, Anne and Chris.



For inclusion in the **Spring 2021 issue** please send by

Monday 16 February 2021 but earlier submissions appreciated.

E-mail: newsletter.hru3a@gmail.com Or post to: 39 Emmanuel Road, Hastings, TN34 3LB

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