

## February Newsletter 2021

Hello everyone!

Here we are with the February Newsletter hoping you are keeping well. I must say, that as I walk the dog each day, spotting the first signs of Spring is a real spirit raiser! Slowly we're moving from monotone to colour as the days get longer.



### In this newsletter:

1. News
2. Zoom events (including the invitation for Fools' Gold)
3. News from the groups
4. Contributions from members
5. Murder Mystery Evening
6. Virtual Quiz report
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### 1. NEWS



Who would have thought we would have our very own who-dunnit here at Littleborough u3a? See page 5 for more revelations

- **SCAM** – several members got in touch to mention that there are various emails flying about at the moment, some claiming to be from NHS, inviting us to have a Covid19 vaccine and then to pay for it on-line. **COVID19 vaccines are FREE**, so ignore any suspect emails and/or forward them to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS): [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)
- **Do you fancy joining the Committee?**

Several committee members will have served their time in June, so we are looking for new members to join us. If you would like to see what is involved, with no obligation, why not come along to a Committee meeting (via Zoom)? Our next meeting is on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 10am, so if you would like to join us, email Sandra ([sandrakokocki12@gmail.com](mailto:sandrakokocki12@gmail.com)) or via the Littleborough u3a website) and she will send you a Zoom invitation.

- **Our website - <https://u3asites.org.uk/littleborough/home>**

Have you looked at our website recently?



There is up-to-date information about what's on, who's who, Zoom advice, Things to do, Scam alerts and much, much more. Worth a peep!

- **Membership 2021/22**

It has been agreed by the Committee that all current annual memberships for Littleborough u3a will be extended for a year, **free of charge**, and your current membership will now expire on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Please retain your current membership card, as a replacement will not be issued. This card will still be valid until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

However, Peter Wild (Membership secretary) will need to confirm that your personal details and those of your emergency contact are still correct. He will therefore be sending an individual email or letter (if you do not have email) to everyone in due course.

- **Third Age Matters magazine (TAM)**

All members, unless they have declined, will receive a **free copy** of the TAM magazine. This will be issue 5 of the 2020/21 publications which will be posted out to members in mid-February. This free copy does not commit you to purchasing any further copies. However, if you wish to subscribe to future copies, or have any enquiries, please contact [lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com) or phone **01706372401**. For those members who already subscribe to the magazine through Littleborough u3a, you will receive issue 1 of the 2021/22 publications free of charge. You will be contacted by Lynn in March - once the subscription fee is published - to confirm if you wish to continue receiving the 2021/22 issues.

- **The AGM**

Once again, it seems, we will be holding the AGM via Zoom. It will take place on **June 14<sup>th</sup> 2021**. Voting is open to all 2021/22 members

- **Family History**



Have you been spending your spare time researching your family tree? Then the Manchester & Lancashire Family History Society website may be of interest and help to you <https://mlfhs.uk/>

## 2. EVENTS ON ZOOM

DATE	TIME	Information & Invitation
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	1.45pm for 2pm	<p>Our entertainment will be provided by <b>Fool's Gold</b> who many of you may remember for their lively musical presentation back in 2018 ...  <a href="#">Littleborough U3A invites you to a zoom concert:</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fool's Gold : 'The Zoom Show'</b>  <b>8 February 2021 2.00pm</b>            Please log on from 1.45 for a 2.00pm start</p> <p>To join the Zoom Meeting, please click:  <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815243988?pwd=Mk5vbUo1cDZHUzRuKzhubVdIRTV2QT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87815243988?pwd=Mk5vbUo1cDZHUzRuKzhubVdIRTV2QT09</a></p> <p>The following may be required:            Meeting ID: 878 1524 3988            Passcode: LU3AFG            If you require any assistance with zoom, you might like to try:  <a href="http://www.foolsgolacoustic.co.uk/zoom">www.foolsgolacoustic.co.uk/zoom</a></p>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	1.45pm for 2pm	<p><b>BYO Coffee and chat</b>  <i>Invitation will be emailed to all members</i></p>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	1.45pm for 2pm	<p>We have been lucky to secure the services of <b>Sarah Slater</b> who is a Hampton Court Tour Guide. Her talk is entitled 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip. This talk comes with a warning, '<b>Not for the prude, but fun and rude!</b>  <i>Invitation will be emailed to all members</i></p>
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> March	1.45pm for 2pm	<p><b>BYO Coffee and chat</b>  <i>Invitation will be emailed to all members</i></p>

## 3. NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

**Creative Writing Group** our last task was 'Flash fiction' which is basically writing a story in a nutshell! Ellen Cruise created the briefest piece, very cleverly using only 10 words:

"I will" "I will". They both did. Together for life.

**Creative Writing Group 2** has members and is waiting to get going, but is in need of a Convenor.

**Could that be you?** If so, contact Bob Coley or Gillian Pearson via the website:

[www.u3asites.org.uk/littleborough/contact](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/littleborough/contact)

**Philosophy Group** All 9 of our members attended our zoom meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2021, the subject under discussion was '**What is the truth?**' The item obviously raised our interest as 6 of the group sent through pre discussion papers, links to philosophy websites or their initial thoughts to stimulate discussion. We started the discussion focusing on the effect of Donald Trump's blatant lies about the result of the recent Presidential elections, which resulted in the storming of the Senate Building.

This then opened up into a broader discussion about how we can judge what is a lie and what is the truth. We talked about how lies are used by governments and their agencies in order to calm their populations in times of War or other disasters. Are these lies something we can accept as previous generations did? Will the younger generation be willing to accept official cover ups? In a time of fake news how can we judge what is true and what is not true?

Religions and their role as the arbiters of truth were considered. We felt that through many of the actions of their followers they no longer had the right to claim this role. Maths and Science were seen by some members as the truth as we know it. Others argued that both will change, what was yesterday's scientific truth will be challenged by new ideas and explanations. History shows us that as knowledge of our world grows, certainty becomes impossible.

A new member to the group drew our attention to the fact that we are becoming a discussion group rather than a Philosophy group. We agreed to return to our original purpose at our next meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> where we will discuss the Philosopher David Hume 1711-1776 and his work and ideas.

*We have made some changes to the administration of our group. For the past 12 months **Tony Hughes** has been our group convenor, thank you Tony for your hard work, reliability and attention to detail. Tony's a hard act to follow, we have split the task up **Valerie Bracken** is the named convenor and will take over the role of organising and communicating for the group. Whilst I, **Marilyn Aldred**, will be writing the items for the Newsletter.*

**Ukulele Group** We continue to meet for lessons on Friday mornings. We have just started learning improver-level barre chords in the easier keys.

Although we would prefer to get together to play ensemble, Dave (McKeon) leads play-along sessions during the week and most of us attend sessions organised by other groups (The Pheasant Pluckers and Heywood Ukulele band)

Every other Sunday we take part in the Baum poetry and music session.

All this is via the modern miracle that is Zoom. (**Steve Lister**)

#### 4. CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS

**Jean Mills** sent these contrasting pictures of Maxie, her spaniel. ...as well as this joke to go with them

*When I were a kid my ball were a pig's bladder.....*



*BUT.....Yay...that pig tasted darned good...!*

5.



Who would have thought we would have our very own who-dunnit here at Littleborough u3a? But on Friday evening, 29<sup>th</sup> February, tragedy struck. A party of 37 ageing hippies turned up at Elizabeth Killingsworth's farm for a wine-tasting, only to find themselves in the middle of a crime scene! The six suspects looked mightily familiar, and were all behaving highly suspiciously. Nevertheless, after only 3 hours and 40 minutes, the intrepid guests got to the bottom of it. After a gruelling grilling, and despite the suspects flinging out many a red herring, the murderer was finally found.

Yes, this was our very first **Littleborough u3a Murder Mystery evening**, which, thanks to the organisers Lynne and Peter Wild, was a huge success. The suspects played their parts – not an easy ask, and to quote one player '*...the first round was somewhat dodgy, but the gin and tonic helped and confidence grew*' – and they kept us guessing until the very end.

37 of us attended this zoom event, some of whom can be seen here



...and the somewhat familiar-looking suspects



**Kathryn Lawless** (aka Ruth Hardcastle) the dodgy Librarian with 15 cats tried to convince us of her innocence.



**Enrique Graves** (aka John Waddington) the vague odd-job man tried to convince us he knew nothing!



**Dr Chelsea Barren** (aka Jo-AnneDobbs) hung her head as her affair with the deceased's husband was uncovered.



**Michael Nightshade** (aka David Kershaw) tried to keep quiet that he was Kathryn's Nephew.



**Vicki D'Adly** (aka Sandra Kokocki) spun us her web of lies about her sister, the deceased.



**Norman D'Adly** (aka Mark Pearson) husband of Vicki, trembled as his crime was finally uncovered!

Commented [st1]:

And the two who organised the whole splendid event:



**Rosie Matieus & Oz Lark** (aka Lynne and Peter Wild).

Many thanks to Rosie and Oz and to all who took part.

## 6. Virtual Quiz

All you need to have to take part is an email address. Its open to all members their households and bubbles. Questions are emailed out at **1:00pm** with the answers following at **3:30pm**. Scores are emailed back by **4:30pm** and results sent out around **4:45pm**. Only the scores of the top three are recorded.



If you are interested and have not taken part before why not give it a go. All members are sent the email, unless they have opted out. For further information you can contact me on: [lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:lynnwild.u3a@gmail.com) or 01706372401.

**The next quizzes will be on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> February and Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

## 7. National & Regional News

**The National u3a website:** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

**The North West u3a website:** <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/home>

Here is an extract from the NW Region newsletter: [u3a on Social Media](#)

Did you know that we have an extensive presence on social media? Apart from the many individual u3as that have Facebook and Twitter accounts, nationally we have the following:

### Facebook Pages

Crafts u3a  
U3A Bridge Group  
U3A Day  
U3A Gardening Group  
U3A In My Own Write  
u3a: Keeping in Touch  
U3A sequence dancing  
U3A Shared Learning  
U3A UK

### Twitter

] Third Age Matters @MagU3a  
Trust U3A @TrustU3a  
u3a @u3a\_UK

### Instagram

u3auk

### YouTube

u3a

Using these is a great way to meet and discuss mutual interests with fellow u3a members, especially while we cannot meet in person.

## 8. LAST MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS

**Anagrams - or scrambled letters** The NATO Phonetic Alphabet

1) Charlie 2) Uniform 3) Tango 4) Yankee 5) Sierra 6) Juliet 7) November 8) Delta

### **Ditloids**

1) 27=Cubic Feet in a Cubic Yard  
2) 41= Symphonies of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart  
3) 50= Bullseye in Darts  
4) 63= Years in Queen Victoria's Reign  
5) 64= Squares on a Chess Board  
6) 72= Holes in the Open Golf Championship  
7) 80= Days Around the World  
8) 147= Maximum Break in Snooker  
9) 180= Degrees in a Triangle  
10) 1440= Minutes in a Day

**Cryptic Clues:** The answer to the following is either an animal or bird. (Contributed by Ellen Cruise)

1.Goat 2.Hyena 3.Monkey 4.Tapir 5.Zebra/ Panda or Pelican 6.Bison 7.Mouse 8.Lion 9.Chameleon 10.Panda

### **General Knowledge Quiz**

1.Mick McManus 2.No Particular Place to Go 3.30Km 4.Berkshire 5. Orbit 6.a) Douglas Adams  
7.Mole 8.Billiards. 9.Shakin' all over 10.Shanklin

### **Missing Letters Roman and Greek God**

1)Neptune/Poseidon 2)Venus/Aphrodite 3)Saturn/Cronus 4)Mars/Ares 5)Jupiter/Zeus

**9. PUZZLE** (sent in by Barrie Whitehead)

<b>Ditloids</b>		
A ditloid is a type of word puzzle, in which a phrase, quotation, date, or fact must be deduced from the numbers and abbreviated letters in the clue. Common words such as 'the', 'in', 'a', 'an', 'of', 'to', etc. are not normally abbreviated. The name 'ditloid' was given by the Daily Express newspaper, originating from the clue: 1 = DitLoID ≡ 1 Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.		
1	24	H in a D
2	26	L of the A
3	7	D of the W
4	12	S of the Z
5	7	W of the W
6	52	C in a P (WJs)
7	13	S in the USF
8	18	H on a G C
9	39	B of the O T
10	5	T on a F
11	90	D in a R A
12	3	B M (S H T R)
13	32	is the T in D F at which W F
14	15	P in a R T
15	3	W on a T
16	11	P in a F (S) T
17	12	M in a Y
18	13	UFS
19	8	T on a O
20	29	D in F in a L Y
21	27	B in the N T
22	365	D in a Y
23	13	L in a B D
24	66	B of the B
25	9	L of a C
26	52	W in a Y
27	64	S on a C B
28	6	B to an O in C
29	1000	Y in a M
30	15	M on a D M C
31	23	P of C in the H B
32	1001	AN
33	30	DHS
34	32	P on a CB

35	13	S on the AF	
36	7	S on a FPP	
37	57	HV	
38	21	K of the D	
39	10	DS	
40	92	T in the FL	
41	1	M and HD	
42	7	C of the R	
43	2468	WDWA	
44	1815	B of W	
45	8	F in a M	
46	147	MB in S	
47	76	T Lthe BP	
48	22	TLD	
49	192	DE	
50	1760	Y in a M	

Answers next time

So, before I sign off, may I thank, once again, the contributors to this newsletter. The next one will be mid-February, so why not send me some Valentine  anecdotes?

And here is a handy hint I came across recently which may be useful...



...or maybe not!

Bye for now.

Sue  
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