

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT

u3a
learn, laugh, live

NEWSLETTER



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APRIL 2021

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Words from Madam Chair: Amanda Kingswell

Last year around this time the Government suggested a six-week lockdown period would contain the pandemic...well, we all fell for that April Fool!! Talking about April Fool, my hubby once got the entire workforce to move their cars, so that white lining could be put in place...it was a gravel car park!! Another was to get everyone to wear hair nets to prevent contamination in the paint shop. I don't know what he has in store for this year.

I hope that you are all still keeping safe and well. We have had our first jabs and hope that you have all had yours too. Wishing you a lovely Easter and remember that chocolate is a bean, beans are good for us.

Amanda



Words from the Editor: Bill Harrison

I sincerely hope this April Newsletter finds all our members in good health and staying safe. So, the clocks have moved forward and the lighter nights upon us, we escape from our hibernation period, in the hopes of a return to normality soon.

Apologies to my band of proof readers.

The March edition of the u3a newsletter, was sent out with a few errors in punctuation and grammar, this was overlooked on my part. A considerable amount of content requires checking, you all do a fantastic job.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome four new members to the Mansfield u3a.

Jennifer Willis
Mary Edwards
Irena Dubrowski
Edward Dubrowski

We hope you have many years of enjoyment with the Mansfield u3a.

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Transcript for Sam Mauger's message to u3a members

5 March 2021

Sam Mauger, CEO of the Third Age Trust, said

"Hello there.

I just wanted to have a catch up with you. It's really encouraging now that we have a hopeful way out of lockdown and returning to face to face meetings.

What a relief that is for all of us. It will be great to see each other again in real life and not just virtual life.

And great that it's coming when spring is upon us and summer is around the corner. It really feels like a new beginning.

We've learnt a lot over the last year about keeping in touch. We're not going to forget any of that.

However, as we come out of lockdown we're going to be following all the advice and guidance from all the governments from the four nations. The first bulletins giving advice will be coming out later this month.

It's great to be on the next phase of this u3a journey and I'm looking forward to it so much."

Contact u3a by:

- calling 020 8466 6139
- emailing info@u3a.org.uk
- Visiting our website u3a.org.uk

Sam Mauger, Chief Executive

It is a year since we have been living with Covid-19 and a year since the first set of lockdowns began. We have had a very challenging year, but we have learned much about each other and about our movement.

We have shared skills, time, thoughts and experiences. We have supported each other and remained a strong community. We will be keeping a watching brief on changes to advice as the nation's begin to emerge out of lockdown. We are looking forward to seeing each other again.

We are just commencing a World Health Organisation decade of Healthy Ageing and more communities in the United Kingdom are focusing on being age friendly communities. The Future Lives programme is focusing on one of those important themes, housing, so please look at the work that they are doing.

We all want to feel optimistic, look to a new future, and have the u3a movement back in the heart of every community.

Keep Safe and Keep Strong

With regards,

Sam Mauger



Sandra Kelsall January 2021

It is with great sadness we announce the sad passing of Sandra Kelsall.

Sandra was a member of the History Group.

She taught at High Oakham Middle School and Berryhill Primary, we send our condolences to all her family and friends. R.I.P Sandra.

Mansfield u3a Meeting Tuesday March 16

Sarah Slater; 'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip from the Royal Courts 1660 – 1830'.

Never did a talk so live up to its title as this one. Sarah Slater, a Guide and Room Steward at Hampton Court Palace laid bare (and that is no pun!) the scandals of the Tudor, Stewart and Georgian Royalty and aristocracy in amusing and complete detail.

For those who thought that the delicacy and elegance of Jane Austen's books typified the era, then Sarah Slater has made us think again. Certainly, we knew that Charles II overturned the Puritan England of Oliver Cromwell, and had mistresses, but few of us knew how many and how many illegitimate children he had.

But he was by no means the only one of the Stewarts, for James I was notorious for his male 'favourites', while at the same time fathering seven children and having mistresses; Mary II, wife of William of Orange and Anne, her sister, were Protestant Stewarts and believed to be lesbians, while William was thought to be gay although it must be said these views are strongly disputed.

So far, so scandalous, and the story continues under the Georges when taking mistresses was not so much a choice as a duty. It was during the time of the Hanoverians that pamphlets advertising contraceptives (each with an attached ribbon) made from linen (not successful) or sheep intestines were offered to the world, while dildos were made (of wood!) and depicted. Not very Jane Austen, one might think, perhaps rightly, for most of the salaciousness stemmed from the aristocracy.

As the song goes 'It's the rich what gets the pleasure, it's the poor what gets the blame', for the rich had Harris' List, a booklet of the 'best 100 prostitutes in London' and published between 1757-1796, dividing them into 7 levels from 'Ladies of Fashion' downwards to the very bottom. This was the last gasp of a truly scandalous period, for then followed William IV and Victoria. Her only sins were her diaries which her daughter later destroyed as they were very detailed about her passionate love-life with Prince Albert.

So, unlike our dear Royal Family (ahem!). To sum up – Sarah gave an excellent talk, fascinating and surprising, stimulating and amusing and filled with insights into areas of life that we do not read in History books. Our thanks to her and to Philip Tucker for discovering speakers accessible via Zoom whom we wouldn't have heard before.

Mike Allen

Sarah lives in Surrey with her family, just outside the M25, and has worked at Hampton Court Palace for the last twelve years as a Guide Lecturer, Tourist Guide and State Apartment Warder. Sarah enjoys theatre, she belongs to her local drama group and is a founding member of Ottershaw Night Owls WI.

'Sex, Secrets, Scandal and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court, 1660 to 1830' is a very popular talk. Sarah wears one of her beautiful costumes and talks about all the scandalous gossip and some of the naughty bits of history you would probably not have learnt about at school!



(photograph courtesy of Sarah Slater)

Gardening Group: Marilyn Dibble, Janet Whitlam

Tues 6 Apr Zoom Meeting. Talk by Steve and Paula Routledge of Flora Media.
Talk title – Spring is in the Air.

Tues 4 May The best of British Gardens, a Zoom talk by Darren Lerigo.

Tues 1 June Garden trip to Felley Priory, plus lunch or coffee (if required) outside in the open fronted marquee.

Following Govt. guidelines on size of groups. Own transport.

Tues July 6 Garden trip to Flora media, Caunton.

Talk, view garden and lunch.

Own transport.

Birdwatching Group Outing: Ken White

8 April Idle Washlands, near Retford Thursday (details page 13)

Dates for Zoom Quiz Nights

Wednesday 14 April at 7.00pm - Jean Hatton

Wednesday 28 April at 7.00pm Bill and Carole Harrison

Wednesday 12 May at 7.00pm David and Janet Clarke

Terry Whitehead won the Quiz on Wednesday 24 March with 37.5 marks

Ken second with 37 points

Jean Hatton third with 36 points

Jacqueline Harkin read out the Quiz questions

Dates for your diary: Thanks to Philp Tucker.

20 April Bob White “You’d Never Believe it.”

Email: bob@robinhood.ltd.uk

18 May Steve Robson Fool’s Gold. “Dark Light.” The superb music duo we heard and enjoyed before.

Email is foolsgold2009@hotmail.co.uk

MANSFIELD & DISTRICT



u3a Day

**Wednesday 2 June 2021
St Philips Church Hall Car Park
Chesterfield Road South
Mansfield NG19 7AB**

10.00am - 12.00

The Third Age Trust (TAT) wants all u3as to go ahead with organising this event, which has been rearranged from last year. Concerns have been raised that it is too early, but the TAT still wants to go ahead.

If any Group Leaders would like to bring any items to go on a table to promote their Group that would be wonderful. Please contact either Lynne Payne or myself on Businesssec.Mansfieldu3a@gmail.com

The event is being held to promote u3as and to attract new members. If you have any friends that wish to join then please tell them about this day, or better still please call in and see us and bring your friend(s).

If lockdown continues as expected, then we are allowed no more than 30 people in an outside space, so we will monitor it accordingly.

Thanks

Carole Harrison
Business Secretary



Out birdwatching with Dawn! by Neville Davies - Our man in Mallorca

With a busy schedule and work life balance, many people don't have the time to get out and about at first light to witness the dawn chorus, but for those that have, it is certainly a magical moment. The air smells sweet and apart from bird song there is very little sound about - until the world slowly awakens and as the hours progress, more noise filters into the air. But until that happens, there is a special time as the first light starts to appear, that really must be experienced to fully appreciate it.

I have had some really good moments being out before the first light and enjoyed many an hour sat in a bird hide at the Albufera Marsh, listening to a multitude of ducks calling such as Shelduck and Shoveler, with the Mallards certainly being the noisiest. In the background are the softer calls of Coot and Moorhen and the more raucous calls of Grey Herons and Cormorants. April and May at the hides with a bottle of water and some almond cakes bought from the little shop opposite the Habitat Apartments the evening before always go down well.

Chiffchaffs are always outdone by the distinctive and loud call of the Cettis Warbler. In front of the hide the Black-winged Stilts are calling and walking back and forth quickly, with the small waders such as Little Stint, Ringed Plovers and Little Ringed Plovers running out of their way. The early morning is a very busy time in the bird world. Feathers have to be preened, food has to be found, calls have to be made to re-establish territories and new bird visitors on migration have to be accommodated.

Whatever habitat you visit on Mallorca, there will always be a selection of birds calling and singing and it is a great opportunity to fine tune your call recognition skills. As the spring progresses, April will see the arrival of one of the islands best singers - the soprano of the bird world, the Nightingale. Soon their songs will fill the island, from the deep woodlands to the edges of the marshes. I often laugh when I hear a Great Reed Warbler going up against a Nightingale, both belting out loud and far carrying calls to attract a mate, and in between the call of the Cettis Warbler can be heard. I have fond memories of being out around 5am at different sites and sitting down listening to bird song. They have no words but then who needs words when you can listen to warbles and variations, tones and crescendos.

I have been at the tower at Alburcutx on the Formentor road and listened to Ravens 'cronking' overhead as they leave their roost site and Bee Eaters giving off their 'bubbling' calls as they migrate overhead, and sitting in a woodland listening to Blackcaps, Willow Warblers, Wood Warblers and if I am in the right spot, a Golden Oriole, always a magical experience.

I think in all the habitats I like to go to listen to bird song, nothing beats the marshes. Dawn at the Albufereta Marsh gives me Kentish Plovers and Common Redshanks calling away, Cattle and Little Egrets flying and calling, Cettis and Sardinian Warblers giving out their loud but short song bursts, Yellow-legged Gulls overhead always on the lookout for some breakfast and the soft 'hoopoopoop' call of my favourite bird the Hoopoe never far away.

One evening I was having trouble sleeping which resulted in the early hours seeing me still tossing and turning, so I decided to go for a drive, and on this occasion, I drove to Cap de Formentor and parked up at the lighthouse. It was 04.30 and I had the place to myself - apart from a few inquisitive Goats that wandered up to me bleating away. Even though the first hints of light had not quite arrived, there was bird calls to be heard.

Out at sea and around the base of the headlands I could hear the calls of Yellow-legged Gulls and somewhere from the cliff face was the call of a juvenile Peregrine Falcon. Soon, the bird world was slowly awakening, and a Blackbird started to sign from the Pine copse to the side of the lighthouse. This seemed to spur the local Blue Rock Thrush into action and soon both species could be heard in full song - reminding one another who lives where.

The light slowly lifted and so did my spirits and I was glad I had done the drive up here. The light revealed the shadows of the cliff faces and a vast sea was spread out beyond. Common Swifts huddled close to the cliff faces, 'screaming' as they flew past. Several of the Pallid Swift nesting colony were mixed in and a few Crag Martins also made an appearance. The Blue Rock Thrush had moved closer now, still singing away, and from the Pine woods across the way a Nightingale had woken. Cronking Ravens started to pass overhead and the contact calls of Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers came from the Pine copse below me on the slope.

The light was strong now and there was the distinctive stillness on the air and that almost sweet smell only made nicer by the occasional drifts of Pine. A few distant boats, possibly fishermen, were out on the water. A falcon caught my eye hugging the cliff face heading in my direction. I had my binoculars with me (in fact I always do) and I could see from the shape of the long almost 'sickle' like wings and colouring that this was an Eleanora's Falcon - they come to Mallorca to breed from their wintering grounds in Madagascar.

It slowly drifted along before starting to circle a few times. Suddenly it became agitated and the reason why revealed itself - the adult male Peregrine swooped in, calling loudly and harassing the Falcon to move on. It was no doubt protecting its young up on the nearby cliff, and although an Eleanora's poses no threat to the young there, the Peregrine was having none of it, and continued calling and flying perilously close before finally the Eleanora's moved on. House Sparrows were chirping away around the lighthouse and a Sardinian Warbler soon made its presence known, they are never far away.

A small van approaching was a delivery of drinks followed by a staff member. I was glad I had made the drive up here but now it was time to move on. I had spent a few magical hours alone with dawn surrounded by beauty, bird song and inspiration. I am also glad that on many occasions I have made the effort to get up extra early and go somewhere to sit down waiting for the dawn chorus. I have a few friends who think I am mad, but I have the upper hand, I have experienced something they never will, a world that is just waking up, and that lull and peace before the world starts another busy day. It is indeed a magical time and if you have never done this then please do, it will be an amazing experience that I know you will enjoy.

Pyramids, Men and loose Tongues.

by Neville Davies - Our man in Mallorca

Last month I featured the Naked Man, Mirror and Bumble Bee Orchids, and as the spring progresses there are some more to look out for from the middle of March onwards, and these include the Pyramidal, Man and Tongue Orchids.

Orchids do well on Mallorca in the rich variety of habitats on offer. Orchids are believed to date back much further than previously thought. An extinct species of stingless Bee was found trapped in amber from the Miocene period (15-20 million years ago). The Bee was carrying pollen of a previously unknown orchid taxon on its wings. This was the first evidence of fossilised orchids and shows that insects have long been pollinators of orchids.



(Typical plant scene within Son Real, Mallorca)

Orchids may have arisen earlier during the Late Cretaceous (76-84 million years ago) and this debate is ongoing with some speculating (based on biogeography and phylogenetic patterns) that they may go back even further to 100 million years.

The only known instances of orchids in ancient art can be seen on the Ara Pacis in Rome. On Mallorca however, we can see them at a number of sites across the island, from the

coast to the mountains and from the Aleppo Pine forests to the Holm and Turkey Oak woodlands.

Son Real is a great site for orchids and at times sections of the forest floor can be carpeted with orchids. For me, I always look out for the Pyramidal Orchids at the Albufereta Marsh (which can also be a good site for the Giant Orchid too). Under a copse of Pines the Pyramidal Orchids blend in surprisingly well with the greens of the surrounding grasses, despite being a nice deep pink colour.



(Pyramidal Orchid)

The scientific name *Anacamptis* derives from Greek 'anakamptein' meaning 'bend forward', while the Latin name *pyramidalis* refers to the pyramidal form of the inflorescence. Above in the Pines themselves sit lots of what look like round cobwebs. These contain the Processionary Caterpillar which can be particularly harmful to pets if they come into contact with the irritating hairs on their bodies.



(Bonelli's Warblers)

Some species of birds will take advantage of young caterpillar's such as migrating Chiffchaffs and Willow Warblers, Wood and Bonelli's Warblers. A Cuckoo however has a strong stomach lining that allows it to eat caterpillars of any age without getting an irritation from the fine hairs. The colour of the flower varies from pink to purple, or rarely white. The flowering period extends from the middle of March through to July.

One that can be easily overlooked due to the colour of the flowers is the Man Orchid, an herbaceous perennial growing to a height of 7.9 to 16 inches. Although the leaves are visible now, they flower between April and June forming a central flower spike bearing up to fifty, small, stemless flowers.



(Man Orchid)

These flowers vary from a greenish colour to yellow-green and even green streaked with purple in some variations. Either way they can blend in incredibly well amongst the grasses and plants. They are a pleasant little orchid though and I tend to find them in more open areas.

I recall one such site down in the south where I had stopped off in a large open grassy area to have a break from a morning's birdwatching. Nearby was the characteristic green foliage of Hottontot Fig and a Tawny Pipit was calling away as it scurried along the open grass. I was also watching a Hoopoe feeding close by and this is how I spotted a group of Man Orchids.

The Hoopoe disappeared into some thicker vegetation and I crept closer to get a better look when it soon took flight. I then noticed the orchids by my feet and recall how well hidden they were. Thank you, Mr Hoopoe.

The Tongue Orchid is unmistakable and once seen you can see exactly how it got its name. There are a number of good sites for this species with Son Real being a real stronghold, but at the La Gola wetland site in Puerto Pollenca there are actually two species. This is a great little site for these orchids and my friend and staff member Cristina Fiol-Paris once showed me the sub-species to be found here as well, at the time a lifer for me.



(Tongue Orchid)

There are several great spots within La Gola where they grow. Some say it is not a particularly appealing plant but I disagree. I was certainly overjoyed when I saw my first ones and have always enjoyed finding them since. Here I have enjoyed an hour or so looking for them and then photographing them, and all the while I have bird song around me from Greenfinches and Goldfinches to the ever present and vocal Sardinian Warbler, and the added bonus of some water birds close by afterwards too.



(Sardinian Warbler)

Tongue Orchids have a vertical bract with an elongated almost horizontal hood and the long distinctive pointed, hanging tongue complete with taste buds.

They will flower from late March to May growing up to 25cm tall with a flower spike containing only a few flowers arranged at right angles to the stem. The 'tongue' varies from a pale orange-yellow to purplish-red and is hairy towards the base where tiny insects are caught.

The plant was given the name of the Egyptian God 'Serapias'. The scientific name (Latin 'lingua') recalls the resemblance of the lip of these plants to a tongue.

There are certainly some great species of orchids to be found on Mallorca and some I have found by chance when looking for other plants.

I found my first ever Bug Orchid purely by chance alongside the main path once into the Albufera, and my first Giant Orchid was found at S'Illot near to Can Picafort. Of course, there are a number of orchids here that I have still yet to see, and the past two Aprils have seen this hampered by travelling restrictions.

My plan was to spend some time apart from birdwatching, specifically looking for orchids in a variety of habitats, especially searching out the Violet Limodore and Balearic Orchid.

But there will be times for these again, and for now, the island is seeing the slow changes of spring, and as the season progresses there will be plenty of migrating birds to keep us all occupied, the first butterflies will be out on the wing, the first dragonfly and damselflies will be dancing over the water areas and the plants will start to carpet the landscape.

There are good times ahead.

u3a Birdwatching Group Outing

Idle Washlands, near Retford

Thursday 8 April

Now that the Covid restrictions are being eased, we can resume with our outings and our first will be to the Idle Washlands reserve near Retford. Due to the regulations, we can only take SIX in the group so if you would like to join us please book your place as soon as possible.

***As a bonus, we have the renowned Nottinghamshire birdwatcher Tony Wardell leading the day. So, if you are a beginner or experienced birdwatcher and you want to learn more *about birds and wildlife in general here's your chance to talk to one of the greatest teachers on this subject.*

The Idle Washlands has three main parts to the reserve, these being: Newington Flash, Hagg Lane Flash and Slaynes Lane.

Newington Flash: This area is very good for Waders, with Whooper Swans and large numbers of Wigeon and Teal present.



(Teal)

Hagg Lane Flash: The Flash is just South East of Newington. The area is a low-lying field which floods regularly throughout the year as the water levels rise and fall on the River Idle. The Flash is particularly good for Waders during the spring and autumn passage, depending on the water levels, with Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Dunlin, Green Sandpiper and Ruff usually present and over the last few years, Little Stint, Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Great White Egret, Wood Sandpiper and Spotted Redshank have been recorded here almost annually.



(Great White Egret)

In winter, large numbers of Wigeon and Teal gather along the Washlands, along with the a few Pintail. There are also good numbers of Redshank at this time. In April Water Pipits may be present.

Slaynes Lane: Winter/Spring is a good time for raptors, with Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, Merlin and Short-eared Owl all seen recently hunting along the lane. Little Owls can sometimes be present in the Willows at the Misson end along with the occasional Barn Owl over the grassland. Stonechats can also be seen wintering in this area, especially on the restoration pit on the north side of the lane. Many Whooper Swans can also be found on this lake. Other scarce birds recorded in this area in recent years are White-fronted Goose, Garganey, Curlew Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Spotted Redshank, Wood Sandpiper, Ring Ouzel and, in 2002, a Grey Phalarope spent several days here.



(Marsh Harrier)

Please contact me ASAP if you would like to come along. Contact details are ken@atrain.org.uk or text/telephone 07973 31 50 50.

Hope to see you soon, Ken White.

Group: Writing for Pleasure: Poem by Susan Bell

I opened a letter.....

A letter came by post today
The address wasn't clear I have to say
So, I opened it quickly and what did I find
A mysterious letter written, unsigned,

It clearly wasn't meant for me
So, what do I do, well it's plain to see
I must find the person for whom it was meant
Or else the person from whence it was sent

But goodness me I'm confused and wary
The letters contents are quite scary
They refer to an incident long, long ago
When a body was buried in frozen snow.

The writer is sorry to have caused such pain
But guilt had nearly driven him insane
He begs and pleads to be forgiven
To lead a good life, he had always striven.

But one dark night when driving home
He didn't see Tom on his nightly roam
And before he braked poor Tom lay dead
A nightmare still going round in his head.

I remembered a neighbour of mine called
Pat who some years ago lost Tom, her cat
Could this be where the story ends
With the driver trying to make amends.

But too late now as Pat's passed away
So, with me the letter will stay.

Hip Hip Hooray: Poem by Bill Harrison

Hip Hip Hooray for the u3a

As we get back to normal
And we all feel stronger
As the clocks moved forward
And the days get longer.

Thanks to you our members
Thanks for the decisions you make
Thanks for your contributions
Thanks for the time you take.

Our members have seen hardship
With troubles and with strife
You have come through this together
And bring the u3a back to life.

We'll soon be back together
Our Groups you all will yearn
We look forward to meeting up again
As our members they return.

Our time is near, soon we'll meet
To sit and chat and gab
Feeling safe in a u3a world
With members who've had the jab.

We applaud your tenacity
Your strength and courage too
So, support your Groups and u3a
As we look forward to seeing you.

WHO DO YOU THINK WE ARE:

Just want to run this by our members.

I was thinking of the u3a and what it stands for:

Our schooling years.

Our working years.

Our retirement years.

With this in mind, my thoughts were drawn towards the members of these years:

As a child in your schooling years.

As an adult in your working years.

As a senior citizen in retirement.

A photograph of each of these three stages of u3a:

A photo of you as a child at school.

A photo of you in your working life.

A photo of you now in retirement/ semi-retirement.

If you feel like contributing please send me a photo of yourself as a school child, and let's get you guessing.

Then maybe we could do a profile of a member with all three pictures and a brief description of them.

So, to get the ball rolling. I have been sent these four photographs of our Schooling years.

WHO DO YOU THINK THEY ARE.

Email your answers to: bill 20newsletter@gmail.com



THE VILLA DIODATI: by Susan Longdon

Summer of 1816

Lord Byron rented the Villa Diodati on Lake Geneva, Switzerland for the summer of 1816. The scandal of his separation from his wife, rumours of an affair with his half-sister and ever-increasing debt, had forced him to leave England, never to return.

Byron arrived at Lake Geneva where he met and befriended the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley who was travelling with his future wife Mary Godwin (now better known as Mary Shelley). Byron settled at the Villa Diodati with his personal physician John William Polidori and Shelley rented a smaller house on the waterfront nearby. The group was also joined by Mary's stepsister Claire Clairmont with whom Byron had had an affair in London.

The weather was unseasonably cold and stormy. When the rain kept them indoors at the Villa Diodati over three days in June, the five turned to reading ghost stories, Byron challenged them to write their own stories.

Mary Shelley produced what would become Frankenstein and Byron wrote a fragment of a story which Polidori developed to become "The Vampyre" a tale which later influenced Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula"

The Vampyre was published in 1819 and was at first falsely attributed to Lord Byron. Even though both Byron and Polidori disputed this, the initial success no doubt was due to it being attributed to Byron.

Plot of the "Vampyre"

Lord Ruthven appeared as the title character in the 1819 short story "The Vampyre".

In the story, Aubrey meets the mysterious Lord Ruthven at a social event when he comes to London. After briefly getting to know Ruthven, Aubrey agrees to go travelling around Europe with him, but leaves him shortly after they reach Rome when he learns that Ruthven seduced the daughter of a mutual acquaintance.

Alone, he travels to Greece where he falls in love with an innkeeper's daughter, Ianthe. She tells him about the legends of the vampire, which are very popular in the area. However, the romance is short lived as she is unfortunately killed, found with her throat torn open. The whole town believes it to be the work of the evil vampire. Aubrey doesn't make the connection that this coincidentally happens shortly after Lord Ruthven comes to the area. Aubrey makes up with him and re-joins him in his travels, which becomes his undoing.

The pair are attacked by bandits on the road and Ruthven is mortally wounded. On his death bed, Ruthven makes Aubrey swear an oath that he will not speak of Ruthven or his death for a year and a day, and once Aubrey agrees, Lord Ruthven literally dies laughing.

Aubrey returns to London and is amazed when Ruthven appears shortly thereafter, alive and well and living under a new identity. Ruthven reminds Aubrey of his oath and then begins to seduce Aubrey's sister.

Helpless to protect his sister, Aubrey has a nervous breakdown. Upon recovering, Aubrey learns that Ruthven is engaged to his sister, and they are due to be married on the day his oath will end.

He writes a letter to his sister explaining everything in case something happens to him before he can warn her in person. Aubrey does in fact die, and his letter does not arrive in time. Ruthven marries Aubrey's sister, and kills her on their wedding night, found drained of blood with Ruthven long gone into the night.

The **Villa Diodati** is a mansion in the village of Cologny near Lake Geneva in Switzerland.



Beadwork Group: Marilyn Jones

My Rainbow Carabiner Clasps arrived, so I made the very pretty Carabiner Rainbow Wrap by Cathy Dempsey using 11/0 Miyuki Delica Beads. It feels very Summery. I tried to match the colours as best I could from my stash.

This might be a project for the Beadwork group when we re-start again in May.



Another string to my bow: Marilyn Jones

Doll and outfit collage complete. Done in plenty of time for Easter.



A study of Irish Medical Terms

Artery--- The study of paintings
Bacteria--- Back door to a Café
Berium--- What Doctors do when patients die
Benign--- What you be, after your eight
Caesarean section--- A neighbourhood in Rome
Catscan--- Searching for Kitty
Cauterize--- Made eye contact with her
Colic--- A Sheep dog
Coma--- A punctuation mark
Dilate--- To live long
Enema--- Not a friend
Fester--- Quicker than someone else
Fibula--- A small lie
Impotent--- Distinguished, well known
Labour Pain--- Getting hurt at work
Medical staff--- A Doctors cane
Morbid--- A higher offer
Nitrates--- Cheaper than day rates
Node--- I knew it
Outpatient--- A person who has fainted
Pelvis--- Second Cousin to Elvis
Post-Operative--- a letter carrier
Recovery Room--- A place to do upholstery
Rectum--- Nearly killed him
Secretion--- hiding something
Seizure--- Roman emperor
Tablet--- A small table
Terminal Illness--- Getting sick at the airport
Tumour--- One plus one more
Urine--- Opposite of you're out
2 x Condoms--- To be sure, to be sure

ANAGRAMS:

PRESBYTERIAN:

When you rearrange the letters:
BEST IN PRAYER

ASTRONOMER:

When you rearrange the letters:
MOON STARER

DESPERATION:

When you rearrange the letters:
A ROPE ENDS IT

THE EYES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE:

When you rearrange the letters:
HERE COME DOTS

DORMITORY:

When you rearrange the letters:
DIRTY ROOM

SLOT MACHINES:

When you rearrange the letters:
CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY:

When you rearrange the letters:
IS NO AMITY

ELECTION RESULTS:

When you rearrange the letters:
LIES - LET'S RECOUNT

SNOOZE ALARMS:

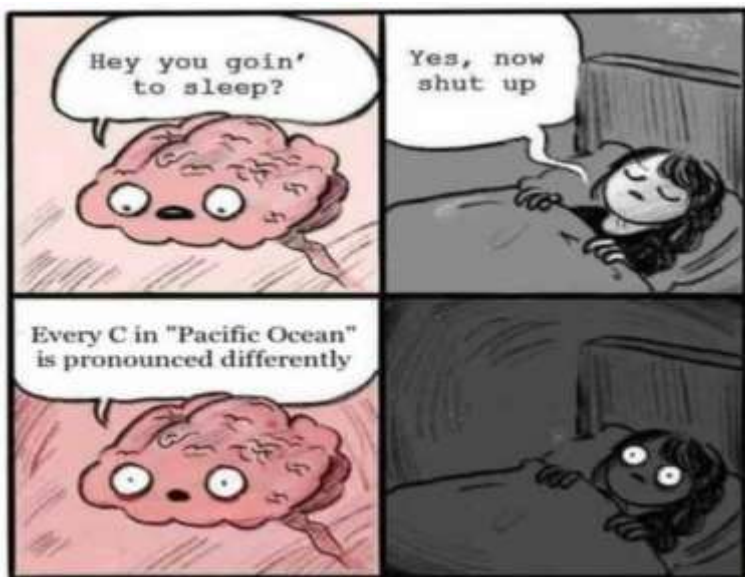
When you rearrange the letters:
ALAS! NO MORE Z 'S

A DECIMAL POINT:

When you rearrange the letters:
I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES:

When you rearrange the letters:
THAT QUEER SHAKE



Before my surgery, the anesthesiologist offered to knock me out with gas or a boat paddle...

It was an ether/oar situation.

QUIZ FOR VERY BRIGHT FRIENDS

Answers on page 30.

There are only nine questions.

This is a quiz for people who know everything!
I found out in a hurry that I didn't. These are not trick questions.
They are straight questions with straight answers...

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends.
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward?
3. Of all vegetables, only two can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons. All other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables?
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside?
5. In many liquor stores, you can buy pear brandy, with a real pear inside the bottle. The pear is whole and ripe, and the bottle is genuine; it hasn't been cut in any way. How did the pear get inside the bottle?
6. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them.
7. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them?
8. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh.
9. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.'

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION FROM YVONNE KENNISON

First of all, here's hoping that everyone is keeping safe and well. If anyone is struggling or needing any help in any way, please don't hesitate to let me or any of the Committee know. We will do our best to help in any way we can.

Email treasurer.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com or businesssec.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com

Subscriptions 2021. New members: £17. Associate members £8.50.

Cheques payable to *Mansfield and District u3a*

The Membership Renewal Form can be downloaded from the website or will be available from the Treasurer at the monthly meetings.

Please Note: All current members must complete all sections of the Membership Renewal Form to comply with Data Protection laws when paying their subscriptions. Thank you.

Online Banking is now available to members to pay their subscriptions online. As publishing details for this facility has compromised its security, members are asked to apply to the Treasurer.

treasurer.mansfieldu3a@gmail.com

Event and Visit Payments

Members are reminded that deposits and payments for events and visits organised by Mansfield u3a and its interest groups are non-refundable, but places may be offered to others.

Please note: if you go on a trip/visit organised by a company, cheques for the event must be made out to the company, not Mansfield u3a.

Changes of Address, etc. Please contact the Membership Secretary, Jean Hatton on (0793 5707582) if you've changed your address, phone number or email recently so that she can update our records.

Disclaimer

The views expressed here are those of the contributors only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Editor, the Committee of Mansfield u3a or the Third Age Trust. Nor can any responsibility be accepted for members' announcements or any errors that may occur.

Please send contributions for the next issue to bill2newsletter@gmail.com or by hand to Bill Harrison as soon as you can and by the 1st of the month at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: Bill Harrison: 01623 462188 / 0784 9966962

The Third Age Trust
Registered Charity No. 1164177

Answers to Quiz:

1. The one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends: Boxing.
2. North American landmark constantly moving backward: Niagara Falls ... The rim is worn down about two and a half feet each year because of the millions of gallons of water that rush over it every minute.
3. Only two vegetables that can live to produce on their own for several growing seasons: Asparagus and rhubarb.
4. The fruit with its seeds on the outside: Strawberry.
5. How did the pear get inside the brandy bottle? It grew inside the bottle. The bottles are placed over pear buds when they are small, and are wired in place on the tree. The bottle is left in place for the entire growing season. When the pears are ripe, they are snipped off at the stems.
6. Three English words beginning with dw: Dwarf, dwell and dwindle...
7. Fourteen punctuation marks in English grammar: Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses.
8. The only vegetable or fruit never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form but fresh: Lettuce.
9. Six or more things you can wear on your feet beginning with 'S': Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.

