



## FROM THE CHAIR - Tim Young



The Chairman in 1961

Dear Members,

Another decade; another census year! That makes eight that I have been through so far and I couldn't help reviewing what I was doing on each of the '01' years. School for the first two, marriage, children, promotion from work through the next three, and so on. So which one was the most memorable and why? Probably 1961 when I was 17. (My passport photo of that year.) 'A' Levels were supposed to be the major activity but were by no means the most significant or important to me. Leaving aside the matter of girls, probably the biggest part of my life was music and playing the drums.

My parents were enthusiastic classical musicians and my brother was emerging as a concert level pianist. However, apart from the eternal violin lessons, I don't remember any pressure on me to be a classical musician. My piano lessons had ended abruptly when the teacher complained she wouldn't teach me if I didn't practice. Indeed, when faced with a petition from neighbours about the noise I made on the drums, my parents were very supportive and placed no restrictions on me. We had a large house and a piano, so our jazz band, 'The Autolykans', (from Autolycus in 'A Winter's tale' [Autolycus \(playshakespeare.com\)](http://Autolycus.playshakespeare.com)) practised there every Saturday morning.

One thought leads to another, back down the decades. I could go on with my 'Tales from 1961' but enough is enough. **I wonder which '01' you most remember and why was it so important?** If you have memories you would like to share, please email them to Tim, using: [tim\\_young@live.co.uk](mailto:tim_young@live.co.uk)

Now, life is quite unlike anything any of us have ever experienced. It will be some months before any normality, I am sure. Meanwhile, as you can see in this E-News we are doing our very best to produce activities for you now and to look forward to more in those 'sunny uplands' ahead.

*Tim Young* Chairman

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## Latest News: Group Activities

### Antiques – Niddy Walpole

We'd just like to remind everyone that David Palmer, our regular speaker, will be giving us a presentation on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2021 at 2.30pm, via Zoom. (Please see the [Antiques Group](#) page on the website.) To join the presentation, open to all members, please use the Zoom link accompanying this February E-News. (This is the same link as distributed in January.)

## Drama – Tim Young



© princetocakes 2018

After our successful Christmas production the Drama Group is now looking forward to spring and summer, and assessing various possibilities. The Third Age Trust is considering a U3A DAY on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021. This, I think, looks rather unlikely at present, so the Drama Group is making plans for another Zoom production around Easter – date to be announced.

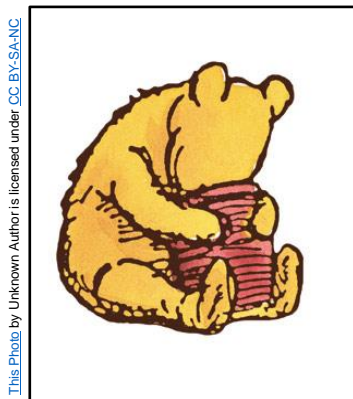
Our idea this time will bring famous animal characters to life, such as ‘Toad of Toad Hall’, ‘Winnie the Pooh’ and T S Elliot’s ‘Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats’.

For various reasons the number of members in the group fluctuates, so we are always looking for some new members. No experience is required and no one is expected to learn lines! All you need is two hours on a Tuesday morning and lots of enthusiasm.

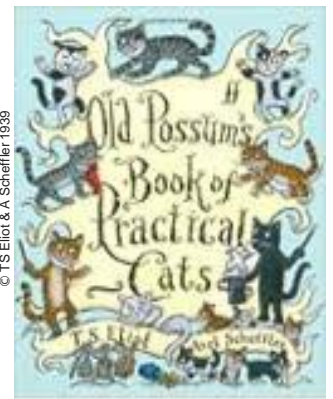
Our next meeting is Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.00am. To join us, or to discuss our programme please get in touch by email or telephone.



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## Carpet Bowls – Alan and Kath Gifkins

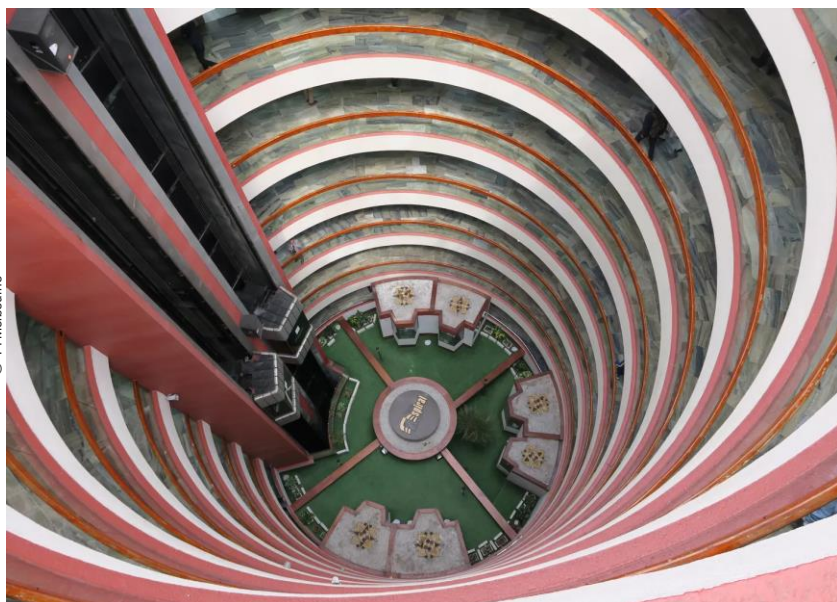
We should be hearing shortly from Potters Leisure about the midweek bowling break we have had there over the past few years.

Most of those who were disappointed not to go last year have already decided to try again for the first week in November 2021. Should any more of you want something to look forward to, how about joining us?

Hopefully we should have been able to do some bowling before then, if not, everyone will be in the same boat!

Please contact us for more details if you are interested, details are on the [Carpet Bowls](#) page on the website.

## Camera Group – Barry Coles



© P. Melbourne

The subject for January 2021 was 'Viewed from Above'.

Many congratulations go to Pam Melbourne for achieving both the winning photo 'Spiral Shopping Centre', and the second place, 'Down the Stairs in the Blink of an Eye'.

I think that the members this month made some excellent choices for their photos, well done.

### Winner: 'Spiral Shopping Centre'

As mentioned last month we will be continuing these online competitions for some time yet. The co-ordinators will be meeting on Zoom early in February to finalise the choice of subjects from April.

It is a pity that the snow did not materialise over Christmas. There is however still time for it to appear, giving you the opportunity to take photos for the Annual Christmas Card Competition to be held later in 2021, and open to all u3a members.

Next month's subject will be 'Vintage Vehicles'.



© P. Melbourne

### Runner Up: 'Down the Stairs in the Blink of an Eye'

## Cook off Friday – Niddy Walpole



© S. Garner

January's event featured cheese scones, with a recipe chosen by Rosemary Foreman.

The winner was Joanne Garner, who chose to supply a recipe for fruit loaf (e.g. banana and date) for the March event.



© S. Garner

Such is the relaxed nature of the Group and its members that conversation soon turned to comparison of cheese graters, looking at design, size and function. Joanne was happy to demonstrate her Mouli grater.

Meanwhile the blueberry muffin recipe chosen by Julia Brunning for the February 19<sup>th</sup> Cook off Friday can be found at the end of this E-News, and on the website [page](#).

## History– Niddy Walpole

We are moving back to our normal slot, with our next presentation on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February, which will be “The development of capturing images for our amazement and entertainment”.

Friday slots will continue in March, and Good Friday in April. More details are on the [History](#) webpage.

## Music Appreciation – Mike Jocelyn

This month's offering is somewhat lighter than usual, and may be appreciated by all U3A members, not just those of the Music Appreciation Group.

The first item is a lockdown version of 'You'll Never Walk Alone' from the 1945 Rogers and Hammerstein show 'Carousel'. The Virtual Choir & Orchestra brought together 300 performers, spread over 15 Countries.

The second, short piece, is a virtual street orchestra's rendition from Bizet's 'Carmen'. Click the link, and hopefully enjoy.

<https://youtu.be/ZtgtTNFL5KQ> You'll never walk alone & Carmen

## Realm of Books – Margaret Jocelyn

After our break in December we started the New Year with Claire Tomalin's 'Charles Dickens: A life'. We learnt so much about Charles Dickens and this book was well worth reading, despite its length, and it was a book to get our teeth into during lockdown.

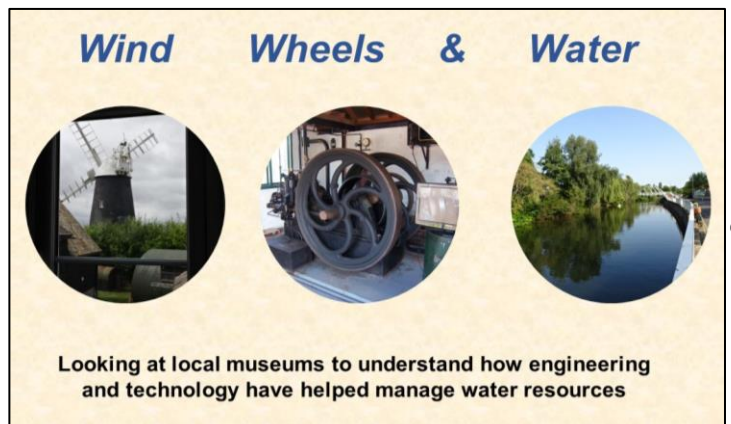
For February we have chosen Barbara Kingsolver's 'Unsheltered'.

If you would like to learn more, the full reviews and latest timetable appear on the [website](#) under Covid-19 Book Group for each month, via the links column on the right-hand side of the page.

We look forward to better months, especially with Spring ahead of us.

## Wings, Wheels & Water – Tim Young and Stephen Garner

With the title of Wind, Wheels and Water, the February presentation will see a change of focus for Steve, the presenter, moving away from military matters. He will describe how, when time and circumstances permit, you will be able to visit local museums to see how constantly evolving technology has been used to manage water resources, ranging from sewage to fen drainage and domestic supplies.



## Garden – Kath Gifkins and Rosemary Foreman

The meeting planned for February 17<sup>th</sup> when Barry Gayton was due to talk to us has once again had to be postponed. As one of our regular speakers you will be glad to hear that Barry is keeping well and his regular radio slot is still going ahead, we know many of you listen to him.

Instead, on this date we will meet via Zoom to look at slides of and chat about the various garden visits we have made over the past few years and look forward to times when this will once again be possible. The link will be emailed to Garden Group regulars, but if any others would like to join please contact Kath. (Details can be found on the Group Co-Ordinator list, available via the [Who Is Who](#) webpage.) The Zoom meeting will start at 2.30pm.

If any of you have photographs you have taken of your own gardens please email them to Kath with a short description and we will see about having another slide presentation featuring members gardens later in the year.

We also have a Zoom meeting planned for March 17<sup>th</sup>. More details will follow closer to the date. In the meantime stay safe and like us look forward to the milder spring days to come.

## Speaker Meetings – Trish Newell

Following January's humorous and entertaining presentation by Brad Ashton, the next meeting, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, presented via Zoom, will feature Philip Caine, talking on the subject of "Barrow to Baghdad and Back Again". The talk should be full of interest, anecdotes, humour and inspiration.

(See the [Events](#) page of the website for further details.)

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## Lockdown Activities

Please take a look at the [Lockdown Activities](#) page on our website, where you will find links to on-line options, including the new jigsaw activity, featuring a well known Newmarket landmark.

There are also links to various on-line topics raging from games to garden tours, and activities available through the University of Oxford's Curious Minds feature.



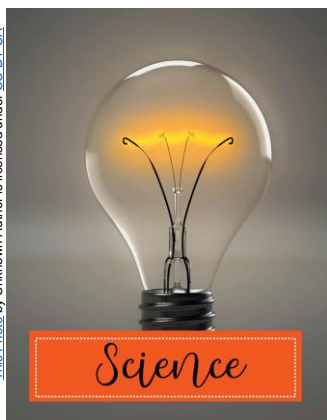
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## New Activities

Recent "from the chair" articles have highlighted our continuing aim of developing new areas of interest for the members. It is therefore great to announce a new group activity.

Alison Giles, who works at the Burwell Museum and the Whipple Museum in Cambridge, but who you may also know from her U3A activities, will be running a science based group, starting on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Further details will be announced as they become available.



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## Recipe for Cook off Friday (19<sup>th</sup> February, at 11.00am)

### Blueberry Muffins

As one of the winners of December's Cook off Friday event, during the Digital Christmas show, Julia Brunning has chosen the recipe for February. It is Mary Berry's, from page 128 of her Baking Bible©.

The recipe below can be altered to your choice of main ingredient.

250g (9oz) self raising flour  
1 level teaspoon baking powder  
50g (2oz) softened butter  
75g (3oz) caster sugar  
175g (6oz) blueberries  
Grated lemon rind  
2 large eggs  
250mL (9 fluid oz) milk



1. Preheat your oven to 200°C /Fan 180°C, or Gas 6. Place 12 muffin cases into a 12 holed muffin tin.
2. Add flour and baking powder in a bowl. Rub in butter until fine bread crumbs. Stir in sugar, blueberries and the grated rind.
3. Mix eggs and milk and pour into the bowl of dried ingredients. Blend together and the mixture will be lumpy. Spoon this into your cases almost to the top.
4. Bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 mins until well risen, golden and firm to touch.
5. Leave to cool in the tray for a few minutes then remove from your tin to a wire rack.

Best served warm.