



Odiham District U3A Newsletter December 2020

Dear Members,



May there be plenty of sherry in your trifle to help
you through the holiday season!
This is an ideal time to say 'Thank you' for staying with us and we
wish you a

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The Executive Committee



January 6th 2021 - AGM

What could be a more perfect way to start the year but with our AGM! It will take place, via Zoom, following straight on from our January Monthly Meeting. The paperwork will be coming out to you on the 9th December via email and it will also be on our website. This will include;

- Chair's Report
- Notice of AGM
- Treasurer's Report & Accounts for 2019/2020
- Minutes to our last AGM
- a link for electronic voting

Monthly Meeting & Winter Wonderland Programme - all via Zoom

Wednesday 2nd December 10am (MM)

Geoff Saunders - All I ask is a Tall ship



Geoff Saunders, always a dreamer, only dreamed of a life under canvas until one day he realised it was actually possible to live that dream. So, he signed on as crew of a sailing ship in Panama and headed out into the Pacific, learning the ropes and navigation as he went.

Thursday 17th December at 2 p.m. (WW)

Roy Stratford: 'Beethoven and The Politics of the Enlightenment'

Roy's talk will be an exploration of how Beethoven responded to the politics of the Enlightenment, particularly in the "Eroica" and Fifth Symphonies. It will also include Roy either playing at the piano or a relevant recording.



Trips & Events

Both Teams wish you a 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' and look forward to be back in action at some point in 2021.

[Live cam Venice](#) A wonderful live view of Venice from a rolling sequence of ten cameras set on the outside of hotels - unfortunately there is an advert in each sequence of 10. The views at night are also amazing but I couldn't discover if any Christmas lights were going up this year.

You may see a 'live chat' window to the right of the screen - just click 'hide chat' at the bottom of the box to remove it.

[Hever Castle at Christmas](#) a look inside the castle and an insight into how the Boleyn family would have celebrated Christmas.

Groups News

Arts & Craft

Unfortunately, Arts and Craft have not been able to meet over the last few months. However, **English Heritage** have a series of 'how to make...' on You Tube which look good fun, including;

[How To Make A Tudor Christmas Decoration](#)

[Make Your Own Victorian Inspired Christmas Crafts | Crackers, Gilded Walnuts and Pin-Prick Cards](#)

[How to Make A Christmas Cake - The Victorian Way](#)

Climate Change group

At a time when we all face so many uncertainties it is really great to be able to report that our newest group "Climate Change" is up and running. It meets via zoom on the 4th Friday of the month and it is proving to be very popular attracting a wide range of members. There are those who are very aware of the climate change issue but are rather confused by all the different claims currently circulating and those with a various scientific and commercial backgrounds who are able to provide valuable insights.

What unites them all is common concern about the world we are leaving our grandchildren and what we can do about it. Indeed, one of the first things members are doing is to start to look at their own carbon footprint. And shortly the group will be launching its own website which will provide an important reference resource.



If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact the Group Leader: Clive Teague at cliveteague21@live.com

MOTO

As we approach December and ...shhh... Christmas; our friendly and welcoming group continues to meet weekly on Zoom (Friday 6pm) for a chat and banter on all sorts of subjects! On the First Friday of the month we have a special event, this month Pam Forey is kindly doing a seasonal quiz complete with music; the clever zooming required is made possible by Roger Booth. Many thanks to you both. For those not on Zoom, we usually send out the quiz and answers (afterwards!) so no cheating!

If you are living on your own and would like to feel part of a bigger group, over 70 members now, then do get in touch. There is no commitment to have to 'attend' or participate in anything; you could just receive a weekly email and know the opportunity to 'meet up' is there if you wish. Why feel 'just on your own' especially in these strange times and wintery weather?

Also, on behalf of MOTO Members, we would like to thank all those on the U3A Odiham Committee and group leaders, who have done and are doing so much to keep us going through these difficult times, it is much appreciated by us all.

Group Leader; Susan Gilchrist moto@odihamu3a.org.uk

Wings and Wheels



The Wings and Wheels group will begin activities **on Monday 11th January 2021 at 10:00 via Zoom.** Our area of interest is the history of motor transport and aviation.

We intend to move to face-to-face meetings by September, earlier if possible.

Our intention remains to alternate between talks from group members, talks from invited speakers and visits to museums and collections.

However, until we can meet face to face, we will be offering via Zoom a mix of talks by members and commercially or society based video presentations.

For the moment, could you please (re)confirm your intention to join and let us have your email address and your consent for us to use it for information and to invite you to the Zoom sessions.

It would be great if you could also indicate if there is a topic on which you'd be prepared to do a short (30 - 40 minutes) talk?

Looking forward to hearing from you and to meeting in the New Year.

Group Leaders: Jim Osgerby & Philip Riley omm@btinternet.com

Odiham U3A Membership Survey

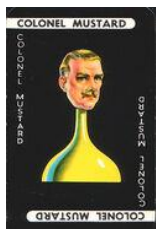
We had an amazing response to our recent survey - a huge thank you to the members who took part! We are working through all the information and ideas you have offered and we will be producing a follow-up report next month to share our findings with the membership.

However, we have fallen victim to our own security measures!

The survey software we used protects your data so effectively, that if you haven't given us your name, we don't know who you are. Somewhere out there are four members who offered help, but didn't supply their contact details... **who are you?**



The computer has provided the following descriptions;



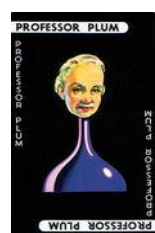
Suspect 1: Male, a member for 2 years belongs to 2 groups. Has an interest in photography and experience in Marketing and PR.



Suspect 2: Female, a member since the U3A began and belongs to 4 groups



Suspect 3: Female, a member for over 5 years and belongs to 3 groups



Suspect 4: Of unknown gender, joined 2-5 years ago, and belongs to 2 groups. Has interest in computer training.

Please, please get in touch with members@odihamu3a.org.uk so we can have a chat.

U3A National website & Newsletter

Don't forget to keep an eye of the National U3A website! This month includes the results of the Creative Writing competition launched at the height of the first lockdown; the task was to write an original story, no more than 1500 words, around the theme of **TIME**. The 13 winning finalist's stories, are available to read on the website, accompanied with a brief note from each writer detailing the inspiration for their story and their writing background. [Click here](#)

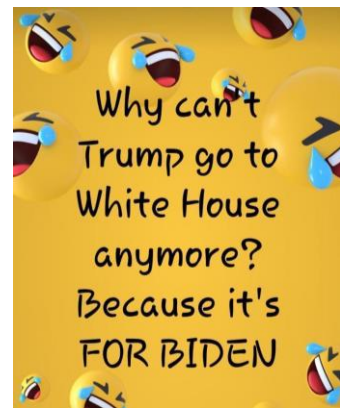
Light Relief

Let's hope we are now at the end of jokes about ...

.... Trump...



Building the Wall ...



.... and lockdown & restrictions...

You better watch out
You better not cough
You better not pout
Or Christmas is off
Santa isn't coming to town

He's booking a test,
He's been denied twice,
Can't find out if he's contagious or nice
Santa isn't coming to town

♪ He sees you if you mingle,
♪ He sees you in your cliques.
♪ He knows if you've been bad or good
♪ So keep to the Rule of Six.



*I'm the Ghost of Lockdown
Restrictions Yet to Come'*

No Nativity this year because the 3 Wise Men face a travel ban. The shepherds have been furloughed. The Inn keeper has shut under tier 3 regulations and had a slump in bookings. Santa won't be working as he would break the rule of 6 with Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Donner and Blitzen. As for Rudolph, with that red nose, he should be isolating and taking a test. 🎄🎄🎄

DAD'S ARMY 🇬🇧 Covid Alert System

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
		
'Put that mask on!'	'Don't panic!'	'We're doomed!'



... and get back to normal stuff!

It has just been announced that the Navy's share of the new £16bn defence budget will be spent on planet-saving wind-powered warships. Here's an artist's impression of the Royal Navy in 2030.

Light Relief continues ...

[Age-Activated Attention Deficit Disorder](#)

[Polar Bear surprise](#)

[Snow sneezon](#)

[The Ballad of Dunny Roll](#)

[Salvation Army Carols & Mr Bean](#)

Coffee Time

[Music from marbles](#)

[Le Petit Chef](#) spotted by Chris Clark

[Hugging after lockdown](#) from Susan Gilchrist to keep us going!

[Lucy Worsley's 12 Days of Tudor Christmas](#)

Quizzes

[Christmas Quiz - easy](#) [Answers](#)

[Christmas Quiz - medium](#) [Answers](#)

[Christmas Quiz - tricky](#) [Answers](#)

Don't forget the National U3A website has a whole page of quizzes and maths challenges in their 'Learn' section; click here for quick access to [Quizzes](#) and [Maths Challenges](#).

Story

This month our seasonal story comes from Creative 2's Chris Gotla - who is also our Treasurer!
Thank you, Chris!

“The Dilemma”

The excitement was literally unbearable. A stalactite of saliva cascaded from his jaw towards the floor of the utility room. His tail had gone into overdrive – rather like those machines in the sky that constantly hovered over his morning walks. It was not the only part of his anatomy that was whirring. His brain – pretty small according to his Master but fully engaged at this precise moment – was devouring the sight in front of him. Two tiny, terrified, piercing

eyes stared at him from under the boot cupboard. How he managed to suppress the rising howl of pure ecstasy which was hammering in his chest he never knew. His Master's voice broke the silence: "Has anyone seen Jackson lately?" he could hear from the kitchen, "It would be nice to have him around when we open the presents."

Jackson recognised Christmas. He had to wear a sparkling bow tie attached to his collar and was banned for a fortnight from the living room having in the past destroyed all the glitzy balls which were hanging from a tree and ripped open three parcels containing chocolate. Two years ago, Mr Jones had left a 16lb cooked ham outside the back door and Jackson happened to be the first to discover it.

Temptations abounded but this year, this wonderful glorious year, all his Christmases seemed to have arrived in one. Even with his limited brain cells Jackson was not that naive to believe that the baby rabbit, currently motionless with fear, was intended as a gift for him. It was almost certainly a festive surprise for little Maisy, but it was her 8-year old brother who had been his accomplice. He had been allowed what Master (against the 'strong' advice of Mrs Roberts by the way) had called a 'sneak preview' and one sneak preview quickly became three or four, each time more adventurous and finally opening the cage door.

Jackson had discreetly followed this progress – he was immensely proud of himself for the restraint he had shown and it was now reaping dividends. Lowering his haunches, he thrust his head under the boot cupboard, revelling in the aroma percolating from the corner of the room. He had tried to convey in the past to Mrs Roberts that Rabbit was actually his favourite flavour for both tea and Bonios, but nothing came close to the real thing. Even in the wild, and he had spent hours fruitlessly pursuing rabbits and squirrels through his surrounding woods, there was no comparison to the freshness, acuteness and purity of this current smell.

He thrust out a paw. The panicking rabbit made a dash for the open door but Jackson was too quick, thwarting the attempted escape by scooping the animal by the neck into his mouth. To his surprise it went limp – too terrified to move. The sound of approaching footsteps added to his confusion. This was not going to look good.

He sat, rabbit in mouth, taste buds on red alert, bow tie suddenly flashing, and closed his eyes. His stomach not only rumbled but ached with desire – one gulp and pure heaven. Or else, when Daisy and Master opened the door, he could give them that mournful-eyed stare and drop the rabbit at their feet. What a dilemma.

Chris Gotla

Final Word

[White Christmas](#) Bing Crosby and Frank Sinatra

