



## Odiham District U3A Newsletter January 2021

**Dear Members,**

So that was 2020 .... moving swiftly on, what do we have to look forward to this coming year? Well, hopefully a speedy roll-out of vaccinations will allow the return of national favourites such as Wimbledon, Chelsea Flower Show and The Proms and also, closer to home, Cowes Week and Jane Austen Regency Week. However, surely, it's the simple pleasures we look forward to the most, e.g. hugs with family and friends, a coffee in someone else's kitchen and stopping for a natter in the street without standing 2m apart!

Regardless of restrictions, life in our U3A continues at a pace. The Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2021 and look forward to meeting you all in person in the not too distant future.

We start with our AGM on Wednesday 6th January following straight on from our Monthly Meeting. It will be quite a short meeting; any questions were requested beforehand and voting took place online. In case you haven't voted yet, please [click here](#) to go to the voting paper.

### **Monthly Meetings & Winter Wonderland - all via Zoom**

**Wednesday 6th January at 10am (MM)**

**Ann Bradford and her dog: 'Guide Dogs for the Blind Assoc.'**



**Thursday 21st January at 2 p.m. (WW)**

**Jim Holmes: 'Humanitarian Development'**

Jim is a professional documentary photographer who specialises in worldwide humanitarian and commercial assignments. He has worked for charities such as Oxfam, Save the Children and the United Nations which has taken him to over 50 countries.



His talk is a visual introduction to the fantastic work done around the world by group agencies and charities that specialise in humanitarian development and assistance projects. Uplifting and insightful, strong images introduce the audience to projects in Afghanistan, Mongolia, Laos, India and Myanmar.

A new addition to programme to our Winter Wonderland Programme:

**Thursday 18th February at 2 p.m.**  
**Peter Moore: 'The trial of Lizzie Borden'**

The trial of Lizzie Borden for the murder of her father and stepmother in Fall River, Massachusetts, in 1892 is possibly the most famous American murder case. Lizzie, the obvious suspect, was acquitted, leaving the mystery of who was guilty. Several solutions have been proposed, but only in recent years have facts come to light which suggest the truth.



Peter practised as a young barrister in the criminal courts in the 1950s, and was involved in several murder trials at the Old Bailey. This has left him with an interest in crime, especially when there is some mystery. He is also a member of our U3A and appeared in a programme on BBC4 in November!

**Trips & Events**

Our Trips and Events teams are keen to get back to work and are just waiting for the all clear. In the meantime, you might be interested in;

**English Heritage:** [Stonehenge](#)

[Egypt: A journey down the Nile](#)

**Group News**

'Happy New Year from the Groups Coordinators!

Well, 2020 was not exactly the year we all had planned. However, it has been absolutely brilliant that the vast majority of our interest groups have thrived thanks to the hard work of the group leaders and the loyalty of the members.

Sadly, as we go into the new year, our groups are not able to meet face to face but will continue to be active via Zoom, WhatsApp and email where they can. A lot of work has continued behind the scenes to keep as much U3A activity going as possible.

Our U3A website continues to grow so please do look out for developments.

The recent questionnaire has given us such a lot of food for thought and we have been

working on many of the ideas put forward. Indeed, we have three new groups starting up, which is wonderful. Thank you to all of you who offered to help. Hugh and I wish you a happy and healthy New Year.'

Nicki and Hugh

The **Wings and Wheels** group will begin activities on Monday 11th January 2021 at 10:00 via Zoom. If you are interested and have not done so already, please contact Group Leaders: Jim Osgerby & Philip Riley [omm@btinternet.com](mailto:omm@btinternet.com)

The **Drawing Group** and **French for Beginners** have both enjoyed an amazing response and those who have shown an interest have been contacted.

Two other groups, **Climate Change** and **Crafts and Chat**, have enhanced their offering to their members by using microsites. If you would like to visit these, simply go to the Groups section on our website and click on either of the two groups names. This will take you to their webpage where there is a link to their microsite. Or use the links below:

[Climate Change](#)

[Crafts and Chat](#)

**Towns and Villages** have offered their members an armchair guided tour of Caversham Road, recommended to them by a guide they have used previously to explore Reading. If you are interested, please click [Caversham Road: History & Architecture](#)

If you fancy some fresh air (keeping to guidance), HCC have started their own guided walks; [Beautiful autumn walk - Harewood Forest, Andover | Ranger Walks #1](#)

### Survey

Following on from our recent survey - thank you to the 45% who took part - many hours of detailed analysis has taken place. Members who kindly offered help have now been contacted and as mentioned above we have new groups starting up. We will include a full review in February's Newsletter.

### Light Relief



## 10 aspects that need to be considered as 2020 draws to a close ...

1. The most stupid thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.
2. 2019: Stay away from negative people. 2020: Stay away from positive people.
3. The world has turned upside down. Old people are sneaking out of the house and their children are yelling at them to stay indoors!
4. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came to my house & told my dog.... We had a good laugh.
5. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pyjamas will have you believe all is well in the world.
6. Does anyone know if we can take showers yet or should we just keep washing our hands?
7. I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
8. I need to practise social-distancing from the fridge.
9. I hope the weather is good tomorrow for my trip to the garden. I'm getting tired of the Living Room.
10. Never in a million years would I have imagined that I would go up to a bank counter with a mask on and ask for money.

And a last song from Christmas 2020! [Andrea Bocelli - Jingle Bells](#)

## Coffee Time

### [The Original 'Bolero on one Cello'](#)

[Bird Songs for beginners](#) for those who have been spending more time in the garden and wondered which bird was doing all the singing! However, if you are already an accomplished twitcher you may like to try the Guess the Bird quiz which has 30 British bird calls for you to identify!

## A Brief Pageant of English Verse

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,  
I'll sanitize the doorknob and make a cup of tea.  
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all,  
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.  
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Katmandu  
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and nor, I think, will you.  
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay  
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.  
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye  
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.  
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go  
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow,  
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,  
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.  
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends  
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.



The Lake Isle of Innisfree



Road to Mandalay

## Quizzes

[Wild Flowers](#)

[Wild Flowers Answers](#)

[Nature](#)

[Nature Answers](#)

[30 British Bird Calls](#)

**Story** This month's story comes from Creative 2's Judith Buchanan. Thank you, Judith!

## Co-Operation

Nina looked around the kitchen. What a mess! A pile of ironing in the corner, breakfast washing up still on the table and paw prints on the floor. She was more concerned about the neighbours than the boring tasks at home.

She lived in a small close of five houses. Next door was Daphne who had poor mobility. Nina could easily go shopping for her. The shopping took an hour and half. Next door to Daphne was Bert whose wife died six months ago he was managing well but found it a little bit difficult to organise himself. Nina popped in each morning, had a coffee and suggested what Bert would do for the day. In the house next to Bert was Elsie and Jim.

Elsie had started to find life difficult and forgot a lot. Jim managed very well. Nina sat with Elsie so that Jim could go to his painting club and bowling. They talked about when the houses were built, the children's parties and Elsie's work at the dress shop. Sadly, Elsie didn't know Nina's name, what day it was or where Jim had gone. Nina and Elsie started a memory book to help remember all the important things.

In the final house in the close lived Vera. She had recently retired thus younger than the others. She worked part time in the local charity shop and worked in her garden the rest of the time.

A week later Dan, Nina's husband, decided to take a day off. He suggested they had a day out. The weather was lovely so they went to the country park. On return Dan swung into Daphne's drive. Nina laughed thinking Dan had made a mistake but he got out and opened Nina's door. He led her up the path to the front door which magically opened. There was Daphne waiting for her. She ushered Nina into the sitting room. Nina couldn't believe her eyes. All the neighbours were there. Even Elsie. Bert cleared his throat, fumbled in his pocket and took out a piece of paper.

"Nina you do so much for us we wanted to repay you. We decided we would invite you to tea. With cooperation we have pulled it together. Dan helped by making sure you came. Daphne provided the venue and Vera helped her move furniture. Vera also provided the beautiful floral displays and a marvellous bouquet". Vera stepped forward and gave Nina an enormous bouquet of garden flowers.

Bert continued "I did the shopping; Daphne and Jim put the list together. Jim has also made a book showing all the neighbours and events in the close. See what we can do when we cooperate. Now I propose a toast to our wonderful friend, Nina"

"Nina" they all chorused.

by Judith Buchanan