



# NEWSLETTER

for

## OUNDLE & DISTRICT

Edition Number 152

June 2021

If you would like to find out more about Oundle & District u3a, take a look at <http://u3asites.org.uk/oundle/home> or contact Chairman: [oundleu3achairman@gmail.com](mailto:oundleu3achairman@gmail.com) Membership Secretary: [oundleu3amembership@gmail.com](mailto:oundleu3amembership@gmail.com) Webmaster: [oundleu3awebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:oundleu3awebmaster@gmail.com)

### BUMPER ISSUE FOR u3a DAY

- From 2008 until today – words, pictures, stories
- Monthly talks
- Group profile and group news
- Computers and Oundle u3a
- Committee news
- June quiz

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our special 'u3a Day' Newsletter! We are celebrating and raising the profile of the u3a movement this month, so I have called my message 'Boomers to Zoomers'. (I cannot take the credit for that snappy title, but have permission from another u3a to use it.)

I am sure you don't need me to tell you that Baby Boomers are those born between 1946 and 1964, during the post WW2 baby boom, so the vast majority of us! We grew up through the Cold War, major changes to the education system, the excitement of the new pop culture (which most of our parents hated), spearheaded by Elvis Presley and later on by The Beatles, and we have all benefitted from being part of the then newly established NHS. More importantly, we have not had to live through a war in this country. As Harold Macmillan told a Tory rally in Bedford in 1957, 'most of our people have never had it so good'.

We have been able to live our lives more or less following the path we have chosen – until last year, when probably for the first time in our lives, we were being told by the Government what we could and could not do.

So, being law-abiding citizens and also wanting to keep safe, we have followed the rules. Throughout the past year, our generation has shown its versatility and willingness to adapt to changes. Who would have thought that the vast majority of us would be conducting or attending our meetings online, possibly 'with a little help from our friends', to quote The Beatles (see Carol's article later in this Newsletter which may help those of you still worried by technology). It is surely this versatility and refusal to be defeated by the problems thrown at us that keeps us young and whoever created our u3a strapline '*Learn, Laugh, Live*' must surely have had a crystal ball because those three 'Ls' have been so important to us over the past fifteen months.

By the time you read this, you may already have dined inside a restaurant, been away to stay, met your Group indoors or outdoors, been to the cinema or even hugged a much-loved family member or friend – I do hope so.

Stay safe, but enjoy a little more freedom!

*Gill*

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Please send your articles as early in the month as possible using the above email or via the CONTACT page on the website. Articles may need to be held over to the next month if the Newsletter is already full. Any member may send in a piece for the Newsletter – not just Group Leaders.

## Oundle and District u3a – How it All Started

Jane Morris

13<sup>th</sup> October 2008 – a date forever etched in the memory of our u3a – the day of the Drill Hall Crush. Some of you will remember being there, some of you will remember being left outside in the car park and some of you newer members may never have set foot in the Drill Hall unless you have visited a resident in one of the new apartments converted from the Drill Hall. The building has certainly changed since then! And Oundle and District u3a has gone on to develop and flourish since its launch back in October 2008 but how did it come about? This is the fascinating story, told through the eyes of those involved at the time.

### Ann's story

Ann Holland, our President, took the first steps to bring u3a to Oundle. She had enjoyed being a member of Peterborough u3a before moving to Oundle and had taken a straw poll among a group of friends who all agreed it was a great idea. She rang National Office who offered excellent support and provided a mentor to guide her through the necessary procedures. A Steering Committee was formed. David Humpherson agreed to look after the finances. Sally Backhurst and Kay Wykes took on publicity alongside Jen Brice and Madeleine Sewter. Brenda Berry contributed her expertise as a member of the u3a in Kettering. Margaret Spotswood searched for a venue for our Launch meeting and Marilyn Potter devised the questionnaire for that event. Jane Morris became Secretary of that first committee. The publicity team did a sterling job, creating posters and walking round town handing out flyers, such a good job in fact that the Drill Hall, the largest hall available in Oundle at the time, was filled to the brim. I asked Sally and George Backhurst to be on the door to reinforce the message that u3a was for men and women, that it had something to offer everyone. The Peterborough Chair u3a gave a short talk and you showed with a unanimous vote by raising your hands that the town wanted a u3a branch. We were off to a rollicking start.



### Jane's story

When I retired, I trained as a volunteer for the Citizens Advice Bureau, working with Margaret Spotswood. During a mid-session lull in phone calls, she told me Ann Holland was looking to form a Steering Committee to bring u3a to Oundle and she needed a Secretary. Would I be interested? Well, I had looked into u3a and realised I would have to travel to Stamford or Peterborough to enjoy shared interests with u3a groups. It's no great distance but I did think it would be great to have one on our doorstep. So, I agreed to take the minutes of the meetings as that wouldn't be too much of a task. Little did I know where it would lead!

I remember the last committee meeting before the launch, when we were wondering if we would have enough interest to cover the cost of hiring the hall, but we were happy to cover the costs ourselves and forget the whole idea if no one turned up. But turn up you did, in your droves. The publicity team had done a tremendous job and the hall was packed to overflowing. Marilyn Potter had devised a questionnaire asking those who attended the Launch Meeting about their interests and skills, and she handed me a carrier bag bulging with the answers. So that's how I became the first Interest Groups Coordinator and by December 2008 I had 30 Interest Groups up and running. The questionnaire also asked if anyone was interested in forming a committee to take our u3a forward.

(continued overleaf)

So what has u3a done for me? It has filled my retirement with such a wide range of interests, some cerebral, some active. It has made me write again, delve into history, read Shakespeare and keep fit with Line Dance. It has introduced me to books and plays I had not yet discovered and has opened my eyes to artists. Not one of these activities would have been much fun on my own. It gave me over 10 enjoyable years in various committee roles and now keeps me on my toes leading or co-leading interest groups. And most importantly, u3a has introduced some good friends into my life. Thank you to Ann, for planting the seed that brought u3a to Oundle, and to Rosemary Weatherburn for taking the idea forward.

### **Rosemary's story**

I remember putting myself down on the questionnaire for teas and light clerical duties but ended up as the Chair of the Committee from January 2009, supported by Sue Thomas as Vice Chair. I was very happy with the role of Chair. I loved meeting people and have made many good friends through u3a. But I was not so happy, in fact I was dumbstruck, when I realised that I needed to improve my barely existent IT skills. I never did take to IT, it gave me no enjoyment at all, but I acquired an old PC and learnt how to turn it on and gradually mastered another new skill. Linda Sillett joined the committee as Treasurer, Maureen and Peter O'Brien shared the role of Membership Secretaries, Sandy Whittingdale arranged the first speakers and John Cooper joined the committee as Secretary. Jane Morris had moved on from Secretary to Groups Coordinator by this time. Judith Finn continued the excellent publicity of the previous team and Jacqui Gibbs designed our Newsletter which has changed very little over the years. I remember a discussion at an early committee meeting when we talked about the frequency of the Newsletter. We agreed it should be monthly at the outset as there was so much information we needed to get to our members but might be quarterly when everything was up and running. It remains a monthly newsletter after 13 years as there is always news to pass on to you. What do I remember from my four years as Chair? Well, I clearly remember the Monday the speaker cancelled at the very last minute and I asked two of our members to step in. David Macey led the Antiques group at the time and told us about conservation and Barry Heywood entertained us with a fascinating talk about his time with the British Antarctic Survey. I also remember organising a summer event at Barnwell Village Hall which you can read all about in Gill's article.

### **Madeleine's story**

I helped out with publicity in the early stages and wrote to the then Norwich & Peterborough Building Society in Oundle requesting a donation to help with setting up by being able to buy a speaker system for the organisation and this was kindly given by them for this purpose. So, what does u3a mean to me? I think it's thought-provoking, stimulating, life-enhancing, enjoyable, sociable, - all descriptions which can be applied to the phenomena which are u3a groups, and all made possible by their hard-working and courageous band of group leaders. At its beginning Oundle u3a was formed from a seed of an idea by a small group of friends, but seeds can only grow if planted and our (now) President did just that. Her action resulted in the gathering of seeds of "know-how" which when scattered proved to fall on extremely fertile ground with over two hundred prospective members clamouring to get growing. sharing and learning-including me. Over the years the flowering of a few groups has grown to become a packed, colourful meadow of diverse interest groups, each one providing its own characteristics and identity - a number of which I am proud to have become a member. They have enabled me to expand my interests in such a sociable way with other like-minded people, who have freely and enthusiastically exchanged knowledge and ideas and have provided the opportunity together with encouragement for me to practise my own creative skills, from which I've gained confidence and spirit-lifting respite from my daily caring roles. Long may u3as everywhere prosper and flourish.

As I currently store our three Archive books, I rashly volunteered to pick a few highlights from the past 13 years for this bumper Newsletter. I thought this would be a fairly easy task, but how wrong could I be! They say that every picture tells a story. Well, so does every caption, because I found myself reading every description and examining every photograph as if I were Sherlock Holmes. It was fascinating.

From the very early days (see Jane Morris's article above on how our u3a started), an enthusiastic band of key players has driven our u3a forward, and this is evident when you browse through the archives.

There have been theatre and outing trips open to all Members, residential and day trips for individual Groups such as Walking, Military History, History Boys, Art Appreciation, Gardening. There have been fantastic displays of work by our Members, some of whom have entered their work in our Annual Competitions over the years, pamphlets produced by Groups, entertainments at the Library or at our Christmas Celebrations provided by some of our Groups (Creative Writing, Shakespeare, Poetry, Line Dancing, Singing), and even re-enactments of famous paintings. We must not forget our different Sports, Music, Languages, Birding Groups. Then there have been the Open Days, the Christmas Celebrations, The Group Leaders' Tea parties and more recently the Annual Quizzes.

If your Group has not been mentioned here, I can only apologise but with 65 Groups, it is impossible to mention each one! You can see the full list of Groups later in this Newsletter.

In the end, I opted for one item from each even year, mostly showing events open to everyone, and 'something a little bit different':

2010 – Mr. Motivator (right) got everyone moving at the April Monthly meeting



2012 – We held a picnic (above) for all Members at Barnwell Village Hall in August, with entertainment provided by some of our Groups and by Five String Thing.

2014 – 52 Members (right) visited the Old Bailey, the Royal Courts of Justice and Middle Temple in their tour of 'Legal London', judged to be one our best trips.



2016 – Art Appreciation 4 had the very original idea of recreating Alfred Munnings' 'Taggs Island'. This photo (below) has since been published by the Munnings Art Museum on their social media channel.



2018 – August saw a move away from Open Day to a Quiz (below), which proved very popular.



2020 – When the 'rule of 6' came in for Groups meeting outside, some larger Groups managed 'hybrid' meetings, with some joining on zoom.

When I looked back at the Newsletters from earlier this year, there were understandably very few photos from Groups to include in the archives, since meetings were either online or not taking place at all. Now that restrictions are easing, please can I ask you to take photos of any interesting meetings or visits (action shots preferred!) so that they can feature in future Newsletters and also take their rightful place in the Archive album.

## Oundle and District u3a

Stephne Tewson

– from a personal point of view and as a newcomer to the area....

After taking voluntary redundancy, I decided to turn it into early retirement which meant that I had to sell my house in Buckinghamshire. Having put it on the market, I was then offered a nine-month contract and it was fortunate I could do the job from home as I had just acquired a Labrador puppy. The house sold while I was still on contract and a friend offered me his flat in London so that I could finish my assignment. It was an interesting experience trying to do my job, whilst the removal people were packing up my house around me so everything could be put into storage. I was lucky to sell when I did as six months later the 2008 recession hit.

Once I had finished my contract, I needed to find somewhere to live and I thought that since I didn't know where I wanted to go, I'd rent somewhere – but where? Reality hit when I realised that this was going to be easier said than done. Landlords do not like renting to people with pets.

Having searched most counties in the south, I started looking northwards and thought I had found somewhere in Bedford, but, fortunately, I couldn't get in to see it. The friend I was with, seeing a signpost to Kimbolton suggested we go there and with some trepidation (it's expensive in Kimbolton!) we went into an estate agent who told us their rentals were done from Thrapston. Amazingly, a house had just come onto the market that day in Thrapston and yes the landlord would allow a dog – I was signed up half an hour later.

East Northants Council published a weekly local paper, *The Nene Valley News*, which gave a diary of events happening throughout the week. I still hadn't made up my mind whether to stay or whether to continue searching elsewhere for a permanent address when, in an October 2008 edition of that paper, there was a diary note for the launch meeting of a u3a in Oundle at the Drill Hall. In those days there were only seven u3as in Northamptonshire and they were in the middle to south of the county.

I went along to the meeting and was quite early so was one of the lucky ones to both get a parking space and into the hall. It had a capacity of 200 and over 250 people turned up. Everyone agreed that they would like a u3a in Oundle and the Inaugural Meeting was arranged for a few weeks later. At that, we registered to join the u3a and then signed up for various interest groups and I joined Book Group 1 and the Garden Group. Thirty five people signed up for the Garden Group and we met in the Joan Strong Centre a couple of weeks later and I remember it was extremely cold.

Avril Andrews had put her name down as a willing Group Leader, but she said there were too many of us for one group and asked if anyone else was willing to be a group leader as she thought three groups could be formed. For some reason, along with Dorrie Baxter, I put my hand up – why? I don't know a lot about gardening – I come from the school of '*If I like it, buy it and plant it – it has two chances*'. However, I must be doing something right as evidenced by one of my peonies (*Tom Eckhardt rt*). Three ladies joined me; two of whom are still in the group and we now number 10. Fortunately, several of my group are far more knowledgeable than I, which is what u3a is all about – sharing knowledge and ideas.

Perhaps I would stay in the area after all. And I eventually bought a house, three doors down from the one I was renting.

One day at a monthly meeting, Rosemary Weatherburn, who was Chair at the time, asked if there was anyone interested in becoming Programme Secretary. I made the mistake of thinking out loud, wondering what the job entailed and Jane Morris, who was Groups Coordinator then, overheard me. Before I knew it, I was co-opted onto the committee. It is not the easiest of roles as I was to discover. My first speaker failed to put in an appearance. It was mortifying.



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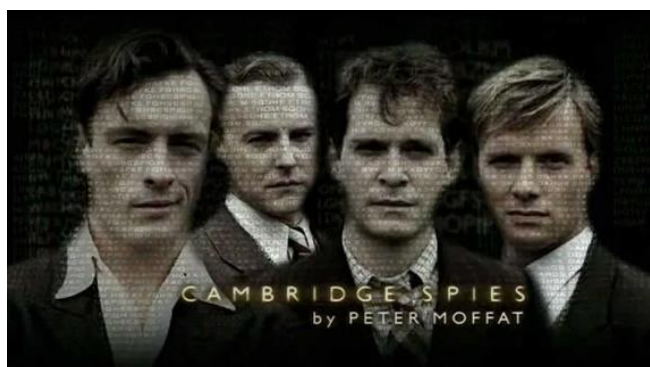
At a committee meeting, Rosemary asked for a volunteer to accompany her to a Network meeting where all the Chairs plus another member of their committees meet three times a year to discuss any issues they may have and, more importantly any solutions. After some time I was persuaded to become a Trust Volunteer. It is through this role, where part of the remit is to help set up new u3as, that I know how hard the Steering Committee had to work, with weeks of planning, to get Oundle and District u3a off the ground and become a viable u3a and how hard the Committee has to continue working, not only to keep it viable, but vibrant as well. Without them, and without members putting themselves forward to serve on the committee, there would be no u3a.

From seven u3as in 2008, there are now 14 in Northamptonshire.

It's a wonderful organisation for those new to an area, and not so new, and especially if you live on your own.

## Oundle and District u3a Online Monthly Talks

Gill Phillips



As promised, our AGM was followed by an inspirational speaker, Christine Green. Christine spoke to us on the subject of 'Working for Auntie', discussing her time as a graphic designer for the BBC. She shared her storyboards, sequences and artworks from a variety of programmes which she had worked on, leaving many of us astonished and envious of her talent. Most of us agreed that Christine deserved her BAFTA nomination for her work and would recommend her to other groups which we are

involved in.

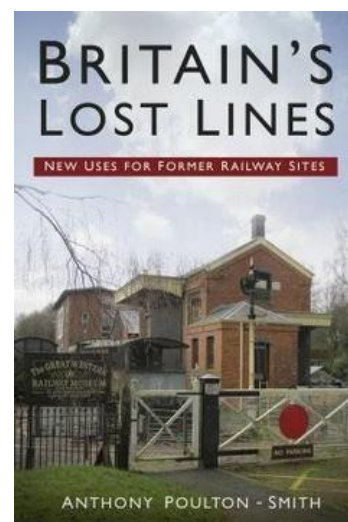
Our next monthly talk is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm, when Anthony Poulton-Smith will speak to us about 'Britain's Lost Lines'. After the 1963 Beeching Report which closed more than 2,500 railway stations and led to the lifting of 5,000 miles of track, a large amount of land was released. This land has since been put to an amazing array of uses: footpaths and cycleways, refreshment stops, recreation sites or housing developments. There are also the unusual and quirky: signal boxes used as greenhouses, hen coops and art studios; railway sheds housing mechanics, youth groups and dance studios; and, of course, much has simply become overgrown.

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July we shall hear about 'Cunard History and Its



Glamorous Stars' from our speaker, Steve Herra. Steve, a third generation Cunard employee, will talk to us about the history of Cunard from

1840 until the present day, including facts about some of its more famous liners. He will also talk about some of the celebrities and stars who sailed on board Cunard ships, answering questions such as 'Which actress brought her gleaming white Rolls Royce on board Queen Mary and her own chickens, as she demanded fresh eggs each day?'



Sounds intriguing...

Once again, these talks are exclusively for members of Oundle and District u3a on Zoom, so do watch out for your invitations to these meetings.

Finally, now that life is beginning to open up for us again, we will no longer be sharing the Mirthy talks with Peterborough u3a. These monthly talks have provided extra entertainment on cold and dreary lockdown days and have been both popular and interesting, covering a variety of topics such as the history of public houses and stories from 'the Clink'. It has been rewarding to share this venture with Peterborough u3a and we hope we may be able to join together for further events in the future.

## GROUP PROFILE

### GENEALOGY INTERMEDIATE

Ann Garraway

This group was formed by members of the Beginners group which ran on a yearly basis until 2019. We meet monthly and usually have a topic of the month. This might include topics such as our favourite ancestor or our most infamous or famous ancestor. We talk about the latest information available on-line and sources that they have discovered through their research. We have members who are researching ancestors who emigrated to the UK from the Baltic States; travelled to Australia in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and served in both World Wars. Some have got back to the 17<sup>th</sup> Century while others are still on their journey.

One of our members found that a member of their wider family had emigrated to Australia in 1857 (not a convict) with her husband and two toddlers. They went on to have eight more children. The eldest son had two wives and 23 children. What is unusual about this man is that his second wife was an Aboriginal woman, and it was very rare for a white man to marry an Aboriginal woman; they usually kept them as mistresses. Another member has just discovered that their great uncle was sent to prison for running a brothel. More research to do on this man. A third member got very excited when they discovered that their great great grandparents had married in Manchester Cathedral only to discover that mass marriages were carried out in the Cathedral in those days and it was not as special as they had thought.



We have continued to meet during the pandemic, firstly on Skype and then on Zoom. We will stay meeting on Zoom for a few more months as my home, in which we meet, only has a small lounge and we could not socially distance. This picture is of some of the group meeting on zoom.

In addition to running this group, I have run an 8-week Beginners' Course through the national website and another is due to start on 8<sup>th</sup> June, at 2.00pm and you can register on the Third Age Trust website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> . I also hope to start a Beginners Course for the Oundle u3a in September if there is sufficient interest. If you are interested in that course, please contact me through the Bluebird link on the Genealogy Intermediate page under the Groups tab.



## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### Rowing

Mark Felton

Rowing – a great way to get outdoors, enjoy our wonderful local river and have as much or as little exercise as you want. Would you like to give it a go – and if you like it join an adult learn to row course this summer?

Oundle Town Rowing Club is re-opening after the restrictions due to Covid over the last year and more. This will include Learn to Row courses in July and August. Each course is for six sessions, long enough to build a basic ability, to meet other learners and Club members and to know whether you enjoy rowing and want to do more. You will find out it is much more about pushing with your legs than pulling with your arms!



If you do want to do more there are various options, including joining the Tuesday U3A rowing session and/or joining the Club which offers a range of opportunities to row regularly. The Covid restrictions have led to very different patterns of rowing and this is leading to a review of exactly what is now offered – which will reflect what members prefer as far as possible.

If anyone is interested please get in touch with Mark Felton via the Bluebird link on the Rowing page under the Groups tab.

### Exploring Classical Music – a New Name for our 5-star group!!! Lidia Douglas

Sadly, the death of Barry Heywood meant that at the moment there is no Music Appreciation 1. We felt that being Music Appreciation 2 without a group 1 made no sense, so it gave us the opportunity to look at where we were and what we wanted to call ourselves. Since we started, the group has evolved and developed and changed its focus so we all agreed that we would call ourselves *Exploring Classical Music* because that is what we do. Dorothy Powell wrote a new description of the group for the website and as you can see from the information below, we very much enjoy our sessions together and have learnt so much over the past years.

The group meets on the third Tuesday morning of the month from 10.00am at the Group contact's Oundle home (when we are able to meet in person) or 10.30am for Zoom meetings.

We have recently changed our name to reflect that we are now a more dynamic and active group of classical musical lovers, eager to share our musical knowledge and tastes. A lot of active listening and discussion (and laughter) takes place at our meetings as we learn individually and from each other. Before each meeting, a playlist of YouTube clips is circulated so that members can listen and then come together ready for discussion. Currently we are working on a theme of 'Composers in Exile' which is proving a fertile source for research. At the moment, each member is contributing a piece for the playlist with some researched background shared within the meetings. This works well for Zoom meetings but face to face meetings may have one or several presenters – on a strictly voluntary basis – depending on the theme.



WIGS had a double celebration on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. Not only back in action after lockdown but it was also their tenth anniversary. And they celebrated in style with prosecco and fruitcake!

### And here's a full list of groups – further details on the website

- A Stitch in Time
- Antiques and Collectables
- Art
- Art Appreciation 1
- Art Appreciation 2
- Art Appreciation 3
- Art Appreciation 4
- Birding
- Book Group 1
- Book Group 2
- Book Group 3
- Bowling for Beginners
- Bridge Continuing to Learn
- Bridge Social Group
- Business Discussion
- Camera and Composition
- Cardmaking
- Chinwaggers
- Creative Writing Technique
- Creative Writing
- Cycling
- Enjoying Classical Music
- Flower Arranging
- French Conversation
- Gardening 1
- Gardening 2
- Gardening 3
- Gardening 4
- Genealogy Advanced
- Genealogy Intermediate
- German Discussion
- Golf for Fun
- History Matters
- Homes Through the Ages
- Italian Conversation
- Latin
- Line Dancing
- Local History
- Luncheon Group
- Mastering Adobe Lightroom
- Meditation and Mindfulness
- Military History 1
- Military History 2
- Military History 3
- Opera Lovers
- Pétanque
- Play Reading1
- Play Reading 2
- Poetry Appreciation
- Quilting
- Quizzes and Puzzles
- Rowing
- Scrabble
- Shakespeare 1
- Shakespeare 2
- Shakespeare 3
- Shakespeare 4
- Stretch and Relax
- Sunday Lunch Bunch
- Sunday Singles
- Theatres and Outings
- Walking Falcons
- Walking Kingfishers
- Walking Wigs
- Writing Poetry

## Computers and Oundle & District u3a Boomer.

Carol Sandall, a Zooming Baby

By the time you read this edition of the Newsletter, our AGM will have come and gone. It will have been a virtual event, held on Zoom, with voting on adopting reports, and electing a new Committee Member, all done in advance by email. I very much hope that it will have been a success, completed efficiently to give plenty of time for our very interesting speaker! For me, as the Business Secretary, it will have been a (hopefully) brief culmination of a considerable amount of planning and discussion.

Computers first became part of my life in the late eighties when I was working at the School of Social Work in Leicester University. My role involved organising practice placements for our MA students in a range of statutory and voluntary agencies, so I was interested in the potential of data bases and word processing functions. Time has flown since then and having returned to the Probation Service within a couple of years I was fully involved in the introduction of computer networks with machines on every desk and all the positives and negatives that this meant in terms of the day-to-day work with staff and offenders. I am sure many of you will have similar experiences in the different areas of your working lives as our generation have lived through the most extraordinary technological revolution.

So here I am – finding myself the Business Secretary for our u3a and using my laptop constantly. I use social media, and I use Skype to keep in contact with my son and daughter-in-law but had never used Zoom or Teams until we went into lockdown. Fourteen months on I am used to organising Committee Meetings on Zoom, facilitating a French Conversation Group with Zoom invites, running Shakespeare Group 2 and understanding how to screen share and mute participants and use the “Chat Function”, give myself an artificial backdrop and bunny ears! Who knew?

I am very much aware, however, that not everyone in our u3a has been able to make use of the advantages of virtual contact through this last difficult year. We still have a small group of Members who do not use computers at all and there are quite a few who, although they now have a computer or tablet, have not learnt to Zoom. We all hope to be meeting in person soon in our groups, but we also know that the pandemic is by no means over, and we don't know if we will have further periods when getting together in u3a Groups in our homes is impossible. We believe that the positives of Zooming can mean those with mobility or transport issues have a new way of continuing to interact with others – vital for wellbeing. So, can we help? Well, I think we can, because I have seen locally that mentoring someone to get going on Zoom can be done. I have been thinking that maybe there was someone in our u3a who would consider being a local mentor, who might either like to liaise with the Committee about this – or indeed join us on the Committee with a special interest in increasing access to our online activities for people who just need a bit of support and knowhow to get going. Could this be you? If so, contact me through our Website.

In the last edition of the TAM magazine, I noticed that there is an organisation called “ClickSilver”, described as a “new partnership between the u3a, The Prince's Trust and Capital One Bank” who will provide u3a Members with one-to-one mentoring over the phone for a period of four weeks, to help them with the basics of getting online – and if you still need help you can re-register and get another mentor assigned to you. Some Members might be interested, if so, ring the u3a office on 020 8466 6139.

**2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.30pm**

**InterNetwork**

**QUIZ!**

A reminder that the Northamptonshire Network of u3as has been invited to join the Leicestershire and Rutland Network in an evening quiz via Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 7.30pm. There are still places available, so if you would like to join us to register send an email with your name and the name of your u3a to:

[coordinator@landru3a.org.uk](mailto:coordinator@landru3a.org.uk)

### AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM and May Monthly Meeting. I am pleased to announce that Barbara Bett has been formally elected to the Committee. Hopefully you felt that the business was kept short at just fifteen minutes, allowing us to enjoy a fascinating illustrated talk by Christine Green, a former Graphic Designer for the BBC. Once again, our thanks go to the Arts Society for enabling us to use their Zoom platform.

### Publicity role

In my Chairman's message I mentioned raising the profile of the u3a movement. As we consider how to recruit more Members, Publicity will be a very important focus for our Committee and we would welcome someone to help with this. It could easily tie in with PR, so it may be that one person would feel comfortable doing both roles or it could be shared between two people – friends, husband and wife, two new Members?

Or we have space on the Committee for a Publicity person *and* a PR person. I would be very happy to discuss the role(s) in more detail.

### Looking forward

Following on from the above paragraph, recruitment will be a priority for us and for other u3as over the coming months. We know that in our u3a some Groups now have spaces, at least one large Group may split into two Groups and we have already had some suggestions for brand new Interest Groups, so changes are already afoot.

Eric Midwinter, one of the founders of the u3a movement, wrote in the Spring TAM magazine '*I'm always advising u3as to be careful that, on recruitment, inductees are told that the u3a is a self-mobilising outfit of learning circles – not a service charity delivering knowledge packages to a passive audience*'. A bit blunt perhaps – but it is true, and so we need to keep this in mind. Of course, in some Interest Groups it is vital to have an expert within the Group in order for others to progress and learn, but even the expert should still be learning!

Existing Members may now be looking for a new Group to join and we also need to be able to offer spaces in Groups to new Members – or there is little point in them joining. So these are the issues we will be addressing.

As for possible new Groups, how about Wine/Ale Appreciation, Chess, Fashion, Progressive Rock or simply Pop Music, Robotics, Engineering, Singing through the Ages, Walking Cricket, Natural History, Exploring World Faiths, Geology, Jazz Appreciation, Archaeology, Astronomy, Current Affairs, Bus Pass exploring, Philosophy..... or what about a Ukulele Group?

In almost every issue of the TAM magazine, a different u3a Ukulele group is featured. Why don't we have such a group, I hear you ask. In fact, one new Member has asked, having been a member of a Ukulele Group in another u3a. In fact, she is willing to do the admin as Group Leader, but would welcome someone to come forward to do the teaching. Apparently learning the ukulele is very easy and once you have mastered three chords, you are away! Anyone interested to teach or join such a Group? If so, please let Lidia know.

### Theatre and Outings

Now that life is assuming something approaching normality, we are hoping to organise some trips again! Our Group has had one meeting and we have agreed that it would be lovely to welcome someone new to our planning group. If you would like to help us plan trips to the theatre or other places of interest, please contact me for further details.

### **U3a Website**

Last month I mentioned the updates to our own website. This month I am urging you to check out the national u3a site. There are many interesting articles from other u3as, but I want to steer you to their free courses and talks.

Recently I registered for 'The purpose and history of the National Trust', given live by Paul Boniface, a former secretary of the NT. I had not realised that originally it was set up to ensure access to the countryside for all, and that the 'country house scheme' developed after WW1, when male heirs were scarce and death duties became prohibitive. I then registered for 'Behind the Scenes of Dame Mary Quant'. This was a 'fab' hour which took us all back to the 1960s and the fashions, hairstyles and personalities of the time.

The website is [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) Click on 'Events' and then 'Online Events', or you can access their website from the Homepage on our website.

### **Information from our Committee Meeting 28<sup>th</sup> April**

The AGM sub-committee outlined the AGM format.

We reviewed and amended the Legitimate Interest Assessment – Membership document. The new version is now on the website under the DOCUMENTS tab. It will be reviewed again in three years' time.

We also reviewed the New Members' Application form and how new Members should apply to join.

We discussed possible articles for the June Newsletter.

Individual reports since the last meeting:

Chairman (Gill) – liaising with Lidia and Barry about the 'Information for Groups' booklet, forwarding relevant information to Committee, u3a Office and our PR advisor, contacting OTC re. venues.

Treasurer (Barbara D) – paying the TAM invoice, replying to two questions about the AGM report.

Secretary (Carol) – preparing and sending relevant information for the AGM, completing the Annual Return for u3a Office.

Webmaster (Barry) – revamping the website and updating as relevant, sending emails to Members via Beacon.

Membership Secretary (Barbara B) – enrolling new and returning Members.

Programme Secretary (Gill Ph) – attending the Network Speaker Finders' meeting, booking Speakers for future meetings.

Newsletter Editor (Mo) – compiling the Newsletter, looking for 'new' articles.

Groups' Coordinator (Lidia) – contacting Group Leaders to review information on their Groups for the website, feedback from Groups now meeting outside, contacting new Members.

Publicity (Gill) – advertising monthly talks

Events Coordinator (Gill) – contacting Robinson's coaches about when hiring coaches might be possible.

### **From our Committee Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> May:**

We reviewed our AGM. We discussed ideas for our Recruitment drive in the autumn. We adopted the new Third Age Trust Safeguarding Policy to replace our previous version.

Individual reports since the last meeting:

Chairman (Gill) – writing our contribution to the Network Newsletter, forwarding relevant information, proofreading the latest Groups' Booklet.

Treasurer (Barbara D) – paying the subscription to Third Age Trust.

Secretary (Carol) – writing up AGM Minutes.

Membership Secretary (Barbara B) – enrolling new Members.

Webmaster (Barry) – updating the website, liaising with Barbara B re. new Membership Cards.

Groups Coordinator (Lidia) – updating the Groups' Booklet, contacting new Members.

Programme Secretary (Gill Ph) – seeking a Speaker for December.

Newsletter Editor (Mo) – preparing for the June mega Newsletter.

Publicity (Gill) – updating the Archive book.

Events Coordinator (Gill) – contacting Robinsons Coaches for an update.



# June's QUIZ

**As life opens up again, here's a quiz for you with an "OPEN"**

1. The Open University was founded under which Prime Minister?
2. Lynda Baron played which character in the TV comedy *"Open All Hours"*?
3. The British Open golf championship is played on what type of course"?
4. Which Radio 4 programme was presented by Mariella Frostrup until 2020?
5. Who said *"It is better to keep your mouth closed and let people think you are a fool than to open it and remove all doubt"*?
6. What is roasting on an open fire in the Christmas song written in July 1945?
7. *"Open Sesame"* is a magical phrase in which story?
8. Michael Miles was the first host of which TV programme where contestants were urged to *"Open the box"*?
9. The Danes call this food smørrebrød – what do we call it?
10. How would you describe a legal case where the facts are clear and it is easily solved?

**And "SHUT" theme**

1. Who was known for the well-known phrase *"Shut that door"*?
2. Who wrote a series of novellas called Book Shots, one of which was *"The Shut In"*?
3. Who wrote and sang *"Shaddup your face"*?
4. Who said *"I shut my eyes in order to see"*?
5. Who starred in the film *"Eyes Wide Shut"*?
6. Who wrote *"Shut Up, Stop Whining, and Get a Life: A Kick-Butt Approach to a Better Life"*?
7. Who wrote *"I Can Read with My Eyes Shut!"* as part of a series of stories for children?
8. *"Shut Down"* Vol 2 was an album by which American group?
9. *"Shut Up"* was a follow up to which group's chart-busting hit, *"Where Is the Love?"*
10. Who said *"Truth is like the sun. You can shut it out for a time, but it ain't goin' away."*?

**ANSWERS TO MAY'S QUIZ:**

**Part One – Royal Knowledge** 1. 61 over a period of 1200 years; 2. Edward the Confessor –none as Edward died childless; 3. The Plantagenets; 4. Edward I; 5.. May 19th 1649 Oliver Cromwell; 6. Mary I (Bloody Mary). Although Lady Jane Grey was proclaimed Queen as Mary was Catholic, she was never crowned; 7. George II at the Battle of Dettingen in 1743; 8. Edward the Confessor; 9. Catherine of Aragon, who died aged 50 in 1536; 10. Alexandria.

**Part Two:** 1. David Niven; 2. Daniel Craig; 3. Royal Albert Hall; 4. The Kir is made with white wine and the Kir Royale with Champagne; 5. Leith, Edinburgh; 6. Liz Smith; 7. Covent Garden; 8. Princess Anne; 9. Five; 10. Savannah and Isla Phillips. Mia, Lena and Lucas Tindall