



NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2024



GROUP NEWS

Religions of the World



On Monday 15th January, the Religions of the World U3A group embarked on an enriching visit to Hatfield's Twelve Apostles Church—a beacon of inclusivity and compassion in the community. This Greek Orthodox Church, led by the warm-hearted Father Demetrianos, serves Hatfield and its surroundings. Typically hosting 300 attendees on weekends, this number swells to an impressive 3000 during Easter. Our visit was delightful. Father Demetrianos shared insights into the Greek Orthodox religion, its origins, and thought-provoking comparisons with other faiths. He also offered a captivating tour of the beautifully adorned church,

enhancing our understanding.



Following engaging conversations and refreshments with Father Demetrianos, Father Joseph, Stella, and Louis, the chairman, we were treated to a mesmerizing unveiling of the rear temple. The intricate decorations were awe-inspiring, creating a serene atmosphere. As we took in the surroundings, the soulful choir recording played, adding a spiritual touch to our experience. **Jacquie.**

Mah-Jong

A new year, time for a new challenge? Learn to play an exciting & fun game, MAH-JONG. This IS NOT the game you may play on your electronic device. Depending on the level of interest we may start a second group for beginners.

Mah-Jong originated in China & is a game of winds & dragons using tiles instead of cards. There are different forms of the game, but we play to British Mah-Jong Association rules.

Briefly, at the start of the game each player is assigned a wind, East, who controls the game, South, West & North. The basic aim is to assemble 4 sets of tiles each consisting of 3 or 4 tiles plus a pair of identical tiles. The sets are 'Chow', 'Pung' & 'Kong', to form a dirty or clean hand. Alternatively, a player may assemble their tiles into a designated unique pattern called a 'special hand'. There is strategy involved & a player aims to score points or prevent others from doing so. Please contact **Nona Clarke 01923 859663**



The longer walk group tried to avoid the mud and rain on their walk this week from Shenley. Graham Taylor took this photo of the sun which we experienced at our coffee stop near Ridge. - most unusual. **Fiona**

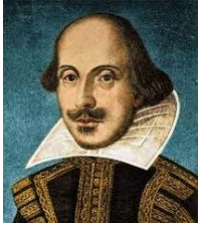
4-5 mile walks

Mon 8th Apr 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: TBA. Circular Walk from Battlers Green Farm via Letchmore Heath

Mon 13th May 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: Edward Cross. Meet at 10:10 at Radlett Station, platform 2 for a circular walk from St Albans City Station. Oliver 1. Add the following two lines to the beginning of walking 4-5 miles

Mon 12th Feb 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: Brian Weller. Circular walk from Shenley Park Car Park round area

Mon 11th Mar 2024 at 10:00, Walk Leader: Peter Weber. Walk round Rickmansworth Aquadrome from Car Park at Frogmoor Lane (off Harefield Road) Rickmansworth WD3 1NB. **Oliver**



The Discovering Shakespeare Play Reading Group has rarely been open to new members after Maggie Stockbridge started it right at the birth of Radlett u3a.

However, since taking over the role of Group Moderator back in 2017, like Maggie – who is still a member - I have had to put anyone wanting to join us on a waiting list as many of the original cast are still in the Group. Indeed, the last two 'new' members joined us almost five years ago!

The 'problem' is that the best [and maximum] number of people for a play reading is eight. Of course, occasionally someone can't make our monthly meeting which takes place in the afternoon of the second Wednesday of the month, but this doesn't cause any real difficulty.

Before we begin reading a play, I send out some non-academic notes about the text, the characters etc. Then I send out a Cast List which changes for each scene so that no-one has to spend the afternoon as A Messenger or A Servant and we hold a brief discussion about it.

At present we remain a 'closed' Group but I can now invite an *ad hoc* membership to members interested in joining us. Please contact me via our message system/directly at b.levy3@ntlworld.com

Reading books is a novel idea

It was lovely to see all our members who could make our first Book Group for 2024.

We welcomed Vana our latest new member.

We chatted about books that we had all been reading individually since our festive outing at Per Tutti.

It was interesting to hear the different views some of had on the same book, and it is what makes it so refreshing when we all get together.

For this month we have two different books to choose from.

One is How to kill your family by Bella Mackie.

Two of our members have recommended it, one has finished and one still reading it.

It is the story of Grace Bernard, a girl who is a product of her mother's affair with a wealthy man, she decides to kill off her father's entire family, after finding a note her dying mother wrote to her absent father pleading for help, which was ignored.

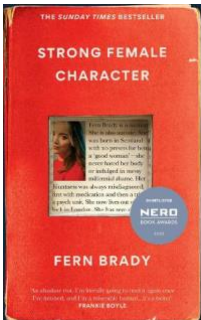


The second option is one of the Chiltern Bookshop recommendations. Strong Female Character by Fern Brady.

Fern uses her voice as an autistic, working class woman from Scotland to bring her experiences with sex work, abusive relationships and her time spent in a teenage mental unit to the page. It is a game changing memoir on sexism and autism.

Other book recommendations.

- Barbra by Barbara Streisand
- Saving Sophie by Ronald H Balson
- Karolina's Twins also by Ronald H Balson.
- The Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah.

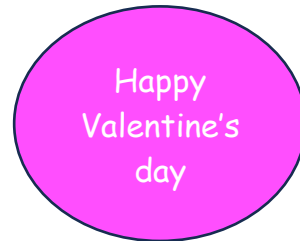


The Winner by David Baldacci.

Clan of the cave bear by Jean M Auel.

Raquela; A Woman of Israel.

Our next book club will be Thursday 1st February



Best wishes **Sharon Strong.**

Dear Cluster Group member (that is us)

I am the Study Groups Co-ordinator for South West Herts u3a.

Until recently one of my members ran a Polish group, studying the language and culture of Poland, jointly with other u3as. He no longer wishes to lead this but would be happy to work with others in a joint group.

Could I ask you to publicise this within your own u3a and give my contact details for anyone interested.

Thank you. David Silver. Study Groups Co-ordinator, South West Herts u3a sgc@swhertsu3a.org.uk

If you wish please contact me and I will pass on the message. **Adrienne**

Cooking for one

Another successful meeting Monday 22nd January

We prepared and enjoyed chicken, chorizo and tomato stew with dumplings accompanied by fine green beans; followed by chocolate puddle pudding served with pouring cream. This was accompanied by an E Guigal Côtes de Rhône 2020.

Future meetings now in the diaries – all start at 5:00pm at 3 Broadlands as usual:

- Tuesday 20th February** – Linguine Bolognese; followed by assorted pancakes (in late recognition of Shrove Tuesday!).
- Tuesday 26th March** – menu to be determined. Best Wishes **Chris**

The Lunch Bunch

Another lunch enjoying the food and company with most of the other part of the group!

Carole Gold



Music appreciation group

The next meeting of the group will be on Monday 19 February 2.30 pm at St. John's Church, Gills Hill Lane.

Jonathan Bergwerk makes a welcome return to present the musical genius **André Previn**, the German-American pianist, composer, and conductor of jazz, and classical music. He won four Oscars, married five times, but didn't always get others to play the notes in the right order. The session will be exploring his life and playing a wide collection of his work. Jonathan says he is sure there will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Please bring your u3a lanyard and £4 for hall-hire and refreshments.

Edward Cross. 07961 102197 Edx2017@outlook.com

Tai Chi



Genealogy

The Radlett u3a genealogy group will meet on Wednesday 14th February at 3.00 p.m. at my house, 64 Aldenham Avenue, Radlett WD7 8HY for our usual meeting where we each do our own research and help each other when help is needed. **Nancy**

The Radlett u3a Very Short Walks Group will meet on Wednesday 21st February at 10.00 in the car park at Phillimore Recreation Ground in Radlett. The walk is Walk 1 in the Walks Around Radlett leaflet. It is 2.5 miles long and follows firm footpaths all the way. Best wishes, **Nancy**

Duplicate Bridge

The Duplicate Bridge group will play online 3 times this month on the Feb 8th, 22nd and 29th. I had hoped to make the 29th a face-to-face game but that is not now possible. Instead, I will try to have a face-to-face session in the afternoon of Thursday 21st March.

If you would like to play in any of those sessions, particularly the 21st March, and have not already told me please let me know. **Gary**

Film Group



The film group has found a new person to host our meetings so we will be continuing as usual on the 1st Thursday in the month, which is probably today, 1st February, by the time you read this email! We are usually full with our members who would have had a separate notification about this, but if you would like to join our mailing list, please let me know. As I was full for the original date, I have found a second person to host showing this film next month.

It will be at 10:00 on Wednesday 7th February and at a location near the centre of Radlett. If you would like to come then please let me know and I will send you the details.

If you can't make that date but could still make the 1st let me know and I will see if I can get someone who has a place on the 1st to move to the 7th.

The film I have chosen is the French language (with subtitles) comedy Potiche. It stars Catherine

Deneuve, Gérard Depardieu and Fabrice Luchini.

Our March meeting will be on Thursday 7th. Regards. **Gary Harding**

Potiche

Money Group



After a new year break the Money Group will be meeting on Thursday 15 February - 10:00am at Vision Hall. All Radlett u3a members are welcome to attend.

We have a speaker, Haidee Landa, who will talk to us about Power of Attorney documents and Wills, keeping us up to date with any changes to the regulations. She will also advise on the pros and cons of gifting and legacies

inside or outside a Will. Whether it is more tax efficient to gift assets during your lifetime which could involve a capital gains charge and/or IHT or leaving in a Will, then being subject to be counted for Inheritance Tax. Probate and Trusts will also be discussed. Our speaker will be very happy to answer questions of a general nature.

Another topic to discuss is the importance of having insurance, both at home and abroad to cover your home, your belongings, legal cover and cover for personal liability.

Our meetings are usually informative and lively and I welcome members to contribute and share their personal knowledge and experiences. A charge of £4 to cover room rental and delicious refreshments is collected at the door. If you have not been to a Money Group meeting before, please send me an email on melinda320@me.com to let me know you will be coming.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on Thursday 15th February. **Linda Bloomfield**



Opera Group

The opera group will meet online on Friday 16th February. I have not decided the opera yet but as there are no limits to the number online, please let me know if you would like to attend and I will let you have the details closer to the time. **Gary Harding**

Fringe theatre group meeting report (extract)

We had a lively, lengthy and funny discussion about Rehab:The Musical - still on at Neon194 in Piccadilly, until 17 February 2024. This new theatre with seats round three sides is in the basement but there is a lift.

The seats are a bit hard in this new theatre so be sure to ask for comfy cushions as they do have them. We suggest not booking the second row on the long side facing the stage as it is not raked. Definitely a venue to return to if they have anything of interest in the future.

This production was about a young successful pop star, Kid Pop, who having fallen foul of the law was offered 6 weeks in rehab for his drug addiction instead of jail time. He accepted thinking it would be a doddle but of course it wasn't. Five of our members saw it on 20 January and all thoroughly enjoyed it.

After discussion there were suggested choices for February, March & April 2024: **Sandy and David**

Remarkable Women

At our Meeting in January, we heard about the life and achievements of Joan Bakewell, television presenter and Labour Party peer, president of Birkbeck University of London and also an author and playwright. Angela Benson, who knew Joan as a friend, gave us an interesting personal view. Many thanks, Angela. There will be no meeting in February as our date falls in half term and I have Grandma duties! Our next meeting will be on March 11th, when we will be welcoming back David Bagon who will talk about Katherine Johnson who was born in 1918 and an American Mathematician whose calculations of orbital trajectory, as a NASA employee, were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed space flights. She was one of the first African-American women to work as NASA scientist. This will be at my home at 3.15 pm as usual. More details nearer the time. **Carmel Byers**



Snooker

The snooker group would welcome more members. Please contact **Bernard**. bernardgrodan@outlook.com

History group

A new departure for our history group as we are going to be holding our meetings in Radlett Reform synagogue. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday February 6th. @ 11am.

Carmel Byers will be presenting a talk on "Richard III - tyrant or victim of Tudor propaganda "

Previously membership to the group was restricted due to difficulty in accommodating larger numbers in private homes.

We can now open up membership to more u3a members. There will be a charge of £3 entrance, to include coffee and biscuits. If members would like to attend please contact me through the website.

Harvey Miller

Philosophy group Next meeting –Thursday 15th February 2024

at 2.00pm Vision Hall, Christchurch, Watling Street, Radlett

Fourteen people braved the cold for our January meeting when we discussed the 10 different ways “How to think like a philosopher”, as described by Julian Baggini in his book of the same title. The objective was to get the group to decide which of these ideas was the most interesting, useful, and worth looking at in more detail at future meetings.

Out of the 10 ways, the group chose: -

Keep it simple, but not simplistic.

“It is futile to do with more things that which can be done with fewer.” William of Ockham I think the modern translation of the principle of Occam’s Razor is “Keep it simple!” Humans make things more complicated than is necessary.

Think for yourself, not by yourself.

“No culture has a monopoly on wisdom, no culture embodies all the great values, and therefore each culture has a great deal to learn from others, through dialogue. Bhikkhu Parekh. Our minds work better when we work with others and other cultures.

Seek clarity not certainty.

“Philosophy aims at the logical clarification of thoughts. Philosophy is not a body of doctrine but an activity.” Ludwig Wittgenstein

We tend towards one of two different objectives: clarity and certainty. One of the few certainties we have is that certainty of any interesting kind is rarely possible. If you seek greater clarity, then new vistas open up. These ideas will form the basis of our programme for next 4 months, but we will start in February with the question of “Free Will” as requested by Kay Bagon, who provided the following article.

Is determinism incompatible with free will?

It *seems* like we have free will. Most of the time, we are the ones who choose what we eat, how we tie our shoelaces and what articles we read on The Conversation.

However, the latest book by Stanford neurobiologist Robert Sapolsky, “Determined: A Science of Life Without Free Will”, has been receiving a lot of media attention for arguing science shows this is an illusion.

Sapolsky summarizes the latest scientific research relevant to determinism: the idea that we're causally "determined" to act as we do because of our histories – and couldn't possibly act any other way.

According to determinism, just as a rock that is dropped is determined to fall due to gravity, your neurons are determined to fire a certain way as a direct result of your environment, upbringing, hormones, genes, culture and myriad other factors outside your control. And this is true regardless of how "free" your choices seem to you.

Sapolsky also says that because our behaviour is determined in this way, nobody is morally responsible for what they do. He believes while we can lock up murderers to keep others safe, they technically don't *deserve* to be punished.

In the end, what do you think? Do we have free will or is life determined for us?
Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Christopher Langdon

Radlett U3A Philosophy discussion group.

EVENTS AND OUTINGS

PLEASE NOTE:

It is important when booking an outing to please first check availability with the events organizer. You will not have a confirmed place on our lists until your payment has been received.

We do not automatically offer refunds for any cancellations by our members. It is up to you to resell your tickets to another u3a member or, if we have a waiting list and are able to sell your ticket to someone on the that list, we will then refund you after receiving the new payment. Please note that if we do have a waiting list this is not a guarantee that we can resell the ticket as member's plans do change nearer the date.

When paying for outings and events please only pay by credit card (via the website) or by cheque. No cash please.

We cannot accept payments direct to the Radlett & District u3a bank account.

If you need assistance paying by credit card, to avoid long queues at the monthly meeting, please call Anthea on 01923 85 2274.

If you are paying for two members by credit card please show both names on the payments form.

JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING OUTING TO

BLETCHLEY PARK



On TUESDAY 26th MARCH 2024

DEPART RADLETT 10am

£37



Explore, experience and enjoy the once top-secret world of iconic Codebreaking Huts and Blocks set within an atmospheric Victorian estate.

Bletchley Park is a place of exceptional historical importance. It remains highly relevant to our lives today and for the future. It is the home of British codebreaking and a birthplace of modern information technology. It played a major role in World War Two, producing secret intelligence which had a direct and profound influence on the outcome of the conflict.

Contact: Stephen Summers

u3asummers@gmail.com

01923 856728



ELLEN KENT AND THE UKRAINIAN OPERA & BALLET
THEATRE PRODUCTION OF
PUCCINI'S
MADAME BUTTERFLY

AT
AYLESBURY WATERSIDE THEATRE

ON SUNDAY 28th APRIL 2024
DEPART RADLETT 5.30pm
£54

One of the world's most popular operas, Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* tells the heart-breaking story of the beautiful young Japanese girl who falls in love with an American naval lieutenant – with dramatic results.

Highlights include the melodic Humming Chorus, the moving aria *One Fine Day* and the unforgettable Love Duet.

Sung in Italian with English subtitles

Contact: Sandra Clark
sandrau3a@hotmail.com
07770 467381



LIVING CRAFTS FAIR – HATFIELD HOUSE
CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF CREATIVITY

Come and enjoy the 50th anniversary year of this creative event offering you an inspirational shopping and crafting experience, workshops and entertainment, a great day out.

Living Crafts showcases the talents of acclaimed designer-makers from across the UK and celebrates contemporary British craft of an exceptional

standard.

The Food and drink pavilion is packed with flavoursome foods from chocolates and cheese to delicious drinks. Tantalize your taste buds!

Admission includes entry to the famous West Gardens

FRIDAY 10th MAY 2024
Leave Radlett 10am
£22

Contact: Vivien Summers
events@radlett3a.org.uk
01923 856728

NEW NEW NEW



**JOIN US FOR A SUPPER QUIZ EVENING
AT**

BLUE CHECK RESTAURANT

144 HIGH STREET

BUSHEY WD23 3DH

ON

TUESDAY 16th APRIL

AT 6.45 pm for 7pm START

£21.50

WHY NOT MAKE UP TABLES OF 8 FOR A DELICIOUS 2 COURSE MEAL AND A FUN QUIZ

Contact: Helen Bocarro

helenbocarro@yahoo.co.uk

01923 858155

**THE LIBRARY & MUNIMENTS COLLECTION AT WESTMISTER
ABBEY**



MAKE YOUR OWN WAY

TO THE ABBEY ON

MONDAY 13TH MAY 11am PROMPT

£10

**YOU ARE SURROUNDED BY HISTORY AT THE ABBEY, NOT LIKE A
MUSEUM WHERE IT'S JUST DISPLAYED, BUT HERE YOU ARE
STANDING WHERE HISTORY HAS HAPPENED.**

The library in use today was established after the abbey was founded as a collegiate church in 1560. It has been housed in part of the former monastic dormitory since 1591. The archive, or muniment collection, is one of the oldest and richest in England. The documents held there include the records of Westminster Abbey from the tenth century to the present day. At the centre of the collection, are records of the land the Abbey held until the late 19th century. Other documents in the muniments include royal charters, minutes of chapter meetings, leases of Abbey property (lease books from 1486), some records of coronations and funerals, letters (including a large collection of Dean Pearce's correspondence), tradesmen's bills, Hebrew documents, and coroners' inquests for the city of Westminster 1760–1880.

**PLEASE BE AWARE THAT THIS VISIT WILL INVOLVE A LOT OF STANDING AND
NEGOTIATING SPIRAL STAIRCASES**

Contact: Joan Altman. joanaltmanu3a@outlook.com 01923 404920

IMELDA STAUNTON



DON'T MISS THE MUSICAL OF THE SUMMER!

HELLO DOLLY

AT

THE LONDON PALLADIUM

STARRING IMELDA STAUNTON

ON

TUESDAY 23rd JULY

LEAVE RADLETT AT 5pm.

£61.50

We have managed to get stall and circle seats and these will be allocated by ballot.

Contact: Sandra Clark

sandrau3a@hotmail.com

07770 467381

A VISIT TO WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL



ON THURSDAY 23rd MAY

DEPART RADLETT 9.30am

£32

OUR TOUR OF THE MAGNIFICENT 900 YEAR OLD CATHEDRAL WILL INCLUDE THE EXHIBITION "KINGS & SCRIBES – BIRTH OF A NATION" WHICH TRACES THE STORY OF WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL FROM ITS

ANGLO-SAXON ORIGIN TO THE PRESENT DAY.

WE WILL ALSO SEE THE FINAL RESTING PLACES OF FAMOUS KINGS & QUEENS.

AFTER OUR VISIT WE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE A SHORT STROLL INTO THE CITY CENTRE TO THE HISTORIC MARKET WHICH DATES BACK HUNDREDS OF YEARS. YOU WILL HAVE TIME TO WANDER THE MEDIEVAL STREETS AND STOP FOR A SNACK AT ONE OF THE MANY CAFES.

Contact: Stephen Gold

sgoldprop@aol.com

07831 559930

WATCH OUT FOR EXCITING NEW AUTUMN SHOWS:

WE HAVE MANAGED TO OBTAIN TICKETS FOR THESE NEW FANTASTIC SHOWS -

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA

&

STARLIGHT EXPRESS

SEE THE NEWSLETTERS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS FOR YOUR CHANCE TO BOOK.

Beware AAADD: Age-Activated Attention Deficit Disorder.

This is how it manifests:

I decide to water my garden. As I turn on the hose in the driveway, I look over at my car and decide it needs washing. As I start toward the garage, I notice letters on the porch table that I brought up from the post box earlier. I decide to go through the letters before I wash the car.

I lay my car keys on the table, put the junk mail in the rubbish bin under the table, then I notice that the bin is full. So, I decide to put the bills from the post back on the table and take out the rubbish first...

But then I think, since I'm going to be near the post box when I take out the rubbish anyway, I may as well pay the bills first.

I take my cheque book off the table, and see that there is only one cheque left. My extra cheques are in my desk in the study, so I go inside the house to my desk where I find the can of Coke I'd been drinking, I'm going to look for my cheques, but first I need to push the Coke aside so that I don't accidentally knock it over.

The Coke is getting warm, so I decide to put it in the fridge to keep it cold.

As I head toward the kitchen with the Coke, a vase of flowers on the bench catches my eye--they need water.

I put the Coke on the bench and discover my reading glasses that I've been searching for all morning. I decide I better put them back on my desk, but first I'm going to water the flowers. I set the glasses back down on the bench, fill a container with water and suddenly spot the TV remote.

Someone left it on the kitchen table. I realise that tonight when we go to watch TV, I'll be looking for the remote, but I won't remember that it's on the kitchen table, So I decide to put it back in the sitting room where it belongs, but first I'll water the flowers.

I pour some water in the flowers, but quite a bit of it spills on the floor. So, I set the remote back on the table, get some kitchen towel and wipe up the spill.

Then, I head down the hall trying to remember what I was planning to do.

At the end of the day.....

The car isn't washed,

The bills aren't paid,

There is a warm can of

Coke is still sitting on the counter,

The flowers don't have enough water,

There is still only 1 cheque in my cheque book,

I can't find the remote,

I can't find my glasses,

And I don't remember what I did with the car keys.

Then, when I try to figure out why nothing got done today, I'm really baffled because I know I was busy all day and I'm really tired!

I realise this is a serious problem, and I'll try to get some help for it, but first I'll check my e-mail....

Jerry P. Some of you are not old enough to fully appreciate these, but your day is coming!



Problem solved

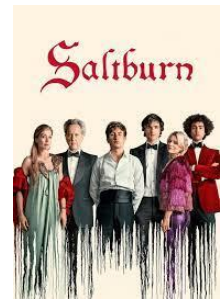




Hi all,

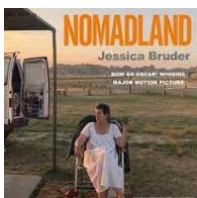
We saw the very good but disturbing docu-drama called Mr Bates v The Post Office, based on the true story of the sub post masters (& sub post mistresses) whose accounts showed many errors and they were held liable for discrepancies wrongly thrown up by the Post Office's computer system, Horizon. This led to some poor people, through no fault of their own, losing their businesses, livelihoods and homes, with many sent to prison for fraud and some committing suicide because of the shame. In fact, there were over 700 cases and they were all informed that they were the ONLY ONES so believed it was somehow their fault! Alan Bates, played by the marvellous Toby Jones, realised there must be SOME other people this had happened to. When he reached out, he of course found hundreds of victims and formed an alliance with them. It was terrible how the Post Office didn't admit to any mistakes on their part for many, many years and the sub postmasters had a huge struggle to prove their innocence. The battle for many of them for their convictions to be overturned, as well as compensation for them all, is still going on. But now hopefully the end of their long journey is nearly over. That was on ITVX and since it aired it's been rightfully all over the papers and news media.

There was a lot of hype about the black comedy film Saltburn so we watched it. Starring Rosamund Pike, Carey Mulligan and Richard E Grant with many other good actors in it too it's basically about a young man from an ordinary family who is befriended by a very rich aristocratic boy at his public school, who takes him under his wing. He invites him to stay at his family's huge mansion and estate for the summer holidays, and the story is about the goings on that transpire after that. It was quite interesting and pretty good, with a clever twist in the end.



The series Fool Me Once on Netflix is an eight-part adaptation of a Harlan Coben novel and is very gripping. It stars the gorgeous Michelle Keegan, Joanna Lumley and also Richard Armitage. It's about an ex-army captain, played by Michelle, whose husband is gunned down in front of her, and the subsequent aftermath, and it is a great thriller. Extremely well- acted and a good plot. We really enjoyed it and would recommend it.

Then there is an enjoyable 8-part comedy thriller series on BBC called Based on a True Story starring Kaley Cuoco and Chris Messina. It's about a couple obsessed with murder crimes who meet a real-life serial murderer, the charming, young and handsome Tom Bateman, and decide to record a podcast series with him. Obviously things go wrong and out of hand..... Bonkers but very amusing! (a second series has been commissioned)



Nomadland is an award winning film starring Frances McDormand about a lady in her sixties who loses everything in the Great Recession and embarks on a journey In the American West. She becomes a modernday nomad living in a van. We found it a little slow, but is very interesting as she encounters many reallife nomads on her journey, and takes on various jobs for each season. It's pretty good and very well acted..(channel 4)

From Vivien Summer's recommendation we have started watching the Danish series with subtitles called Seaside Hotel streaming on Channel 4. It's amusing, charming and old fashioned, and certainly different, and there are many series ahead. It's set in the late 20's and those of you who enjoyed the film Monsieur Hulot's Holiday will certainly appreciate this!



Lastly, we were recommended by Lorraine to watch a film on Netflix entitled "The Burial". The title is misleading as it actually is a story about an unconventional high flying lawyer brilliantly played by Jamie Foxx trying to save Tommy Lee Jones' family Funeral Home company from being swallowed by a large corporation. We found it amusing and highly enjoyable.

Terri & Brian terri@capricegold.com

*Hi Terri and Brian
Can I recommend "you are what you eat" new on Netflix. It is educational and healthy - and somewhat shocking!
Best wishes Sandra*

Dear Terri and Brian,

I totally agree with your comments concerning the six-part series, The Couple Next Door. The first five episodes were almost "binge worthy" but the denouement was unsatisfying and ambiguous. The other point was that this series took place in Leeds. Where exactly in Leeds can one find houses as shown in the programme, together with white picket fences and palm trees! This looked more like Hollywood. One to watch is The Snow Girl, a Spanish series. A five year old disappears during a Christmas parade in Malaga and the case catches the attention of an intern at the local newspaper. Marion C

Message from Sue who kindly stood in for last month's speaker

Thank you to all members of RADLETT u3a and Irving's walking group who donated towards my charity blood cancer UK. WE DONATED A MAGNIFICENT £380

So,



Soldier Freddy was always read and steady but Soldier Neddy was neither ready or steady. when Soldier Freddy was standing outside Buckingham Palace in the pouring rain, Soldier Neddy was home in beddy.

The NHS. By Marion K

It goes without saying that the NHS are stretched especially with the volume of people and the Strike. However, I have experienced the most wonderful attention.

I had to call 111 at 11.30pm as my son was in absolute agony due to a severe pain in the stomach area. My call was answered in five rings and a very helpful man said he would get somebody to phone back in up to 2 hours. The call came after about 15 minutes and we answered his questions and was informed that a Doctor would call us in up to 2 hours. A Doctor rang in approximately 15 minutes. She was very caring and we were informed that it was necessary for my son to go to Hospital and she would arrange for an ambulance to come as soon as possible but could not say when.

The Ambulance came very quickly and two Paramedics came laden with huge back packs of equipment. Because my son was in such pain they installed a drip with pain killers, they took an ECG because his blood pressure rocketed, and in total took three more, and we're here for more than hour until he was more relaxed and the drip with the painkillers masked the pain.

The end result was that they advised my son that it was for the best if they took him to Hospital for more tests which they could not carry out themselves.

My son was reluctant to go into Hospital but was persuaded to do so.

He was taken to Northwick Park Hospital (near me) and after many blood tests during the night, which were tested immediately and showed nothing adverse the Doctor

wanted him to have a Scan. This showed that he had a stone, which with the right medication would disperse.

I am writing this Report because the attention all round was absolutely fantastic and I like to praise where praise is due and think we are so lucky to live in this country.

I, for one will highly recommend phoning 111 if needs be.

Good friends when you need them

Returning from a short holiday, two member of Radlett U3A were shocked to find their house had been broken into. A burglar had used a screwdriver to break the glass in a patio door. He quickly went upstairs and searched through drawers and cupboards until he found the wall safe. He managed to prise that from the wall and escaped over the back fence into a field. He was in the house for about 15 minutes, while the alarm was sounding the whole time.

No forensic traces were left, the police concluded it was a professional job, the thief was wearing gloves and covered his shoes to leave no footprints.

On the plus side, the police response has been good. Their advice is that burglars will look for a safe, even searching the loft and under the carpet. If you do have a safe, they recommend just putting a couple bricks inside and putting jewellery and valuables in decoy items like false wall sockets, food tins or hollow books.

Despite this unfortunate incident the support, comfort and genuine friendship from the U3A group has been a great help. This experience confirms the real benefits of joining groups and being involved in the mutually supportive activities of U3A.



Tis due to pigeons that alight
 On Nelson's hat
 That makes it white!
 (Spike Milligan - gravestone epitaph being "I told you I was ill!")

TODAY SHENLEY, TOMORROW HOLLYWOOD - OR NOT??

Pam and I were on our usual daily walk with Honey (our Sheltie) around Shenley Park some months ago, and saw that there was some filming activity. Honey ran over to James Sharpe who was the Producer/Director and we asked if he could use her, no agent fee required! He told us that in their film, titled "THE BENCH", they were looking to include some very short shots of a couple out walking, and with Honey that would be a bonus.

So the next day we turned up at the agreed time and spent an hour or so with the film crew. We thought that our very few shots, which required a number of "takes" (see I know the lingo!) would probably end up on the cutting room floor,

but to our delight James recently confirmed that they were not. So, the film called "THE BENCH" is now on general release on you-tube and we highly recommend watching it as well as James's other films such as "THE TREE" and "THE LETTER", all very poignant and the familiar shots of the Shenley area are interesting to see on film. All about 25 minutes long. Don't blink or you may miss us in two shots of about 10 seconds each!

To find it all on you-tube, either search for "The Bench" or go to the "Ten Pence Productions" channel.

As a bonus, the three of us are mentioned in the closing credits - screenshot below:



Have to finish now, my agent is on the phone to Steven Spielberg - if you believe that you'll believe anything. Jerry P

DINGBATS

ATFRANKFRANKRA 01	BIG BIG IGNORE IGNORE 02	OdOoOmo 03	MUST GET HERE MUST GET HERE MUST GET HERE 04
BUSINESS :) 05	little LARGE little LARGE little little little LARGE 06	RUNNING HOME 07	TTTTTTTTTT9.9 08
cHIMp 09	WELIEIGHT 10	R.P.I 11	RI POORCH 12

Our monthly meeting is on Tuesday 13th February at 10.00 at the Metropolitan in Bushey

Speaker: Ruth Leon - TV Producer (Widow of theatre critic Sheridan Morley - Daughter-in-law of actor Robert Morley)

Come to the Cabaret old chum



27th January 2004
 Dear Mr Collins

A friend who works in the computer industry has suggested that I write to you as someone knowledgeable of government computer schemes and their associated problems. We have lost our investment and livelihood by daring to raise questions over a computer system we had thrust upon us and we are trying to track down two specific lines of enquiry which I hope you may be able to offer some assistance or steer us in the right direction.

If you visit www.postofficekyms.org.uk and find the letter that was published in the local newspaper last October it will give you an introduction into our position. Excuse the website, it's still a bit of a rant and a bit basic at the moment, it will be developed as time goes on. I fully expect it to take a number of years to bring Post Office Ltd to account for what they have done to us, but we are determined to do it.

As an update to the details on the site I can say that with the aid of my MP, there is currently a review being undertaken by Post Office Ltd into my case, but as it is an internal review, I don't hold out much hope. I do know my comments about the state of the Horizon system did get to the Minister and he in a reply to my MP stated that the Post Office had looked into them and could find nothing wrong.

But there again he only knows what he is told and my impression is that the comment is made in response to only one or two instances.

There are two areas where any assistance or advice would be welcome.

First is the matter of liability. The core of our problem stems from our refusal to blindly accept liability for figures derived from the system without having full access to the system to check the data we have entered. As a Subpostmaster I was an agent and not an employee of the Post Office and the system was brought in a couple of years after the contract was signed with them. Do you know of any legal cases which may have set a precedent in instances of liability and computer data? Do you know of any specialist law firms which work in this area?

Second is the matter of the Horizon system itself. Has your magazine reported on problems with the system in the past? Is there anyone you might be able to suggest I should contact who would have more technical knowledge of the problems with the system?

Needless to say any information or assistance you can offer would be greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further details or clarification.

Yours sincerely

Alan Bates Ex Subpostmaster Craig-y-don Post Office

Keeping up with the news,

Jerry has sent these.

Watch out for next month's speaker.....

If you like anagrams and puzzles – how about this one?



Don't forget to get in touch with Cathy about our holiday in Norfolk in September.

Email: pole2pole@gmail.com



Dingbat answers

1. Frank Sinatra
2. Too Big to Ignore
3. Dominoes
4. The Musketeers
5. Business Before Pleasure
6. A Little on The Large Side
7. Running Away from Home
8. 99.9
9. Making A Monkey Out of Him
10. Lightweight
11. A Grave Error
12. Take From the Rich & Give To The Poor



Assistant Branch Manager Branch Manager

Condolences to Carole Levy, whose husband Robert passed away this month



