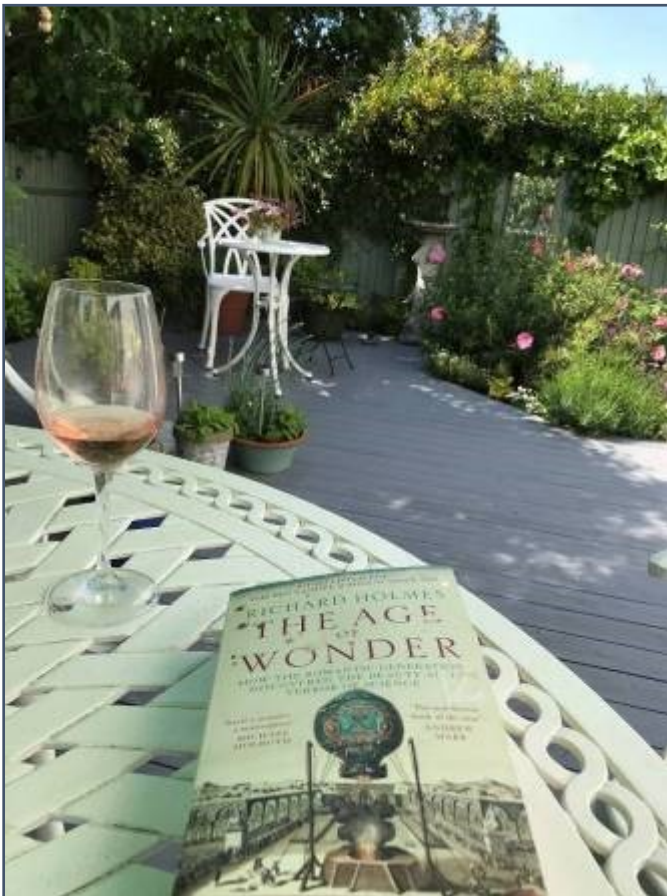


# RICHMOND-upon-THAMES



**University of the Third Age**

[www.u3asites.org.uk/richmond-on-thames](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/richmond-on-thames)



**June Newsletter 2020, Volume 54**

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*The delightful photograph on the cover was taken by Dorothy Gonsalves and her letter to the editor is on page 12.*

### **DEADLINE FOR AUGUST ISSUE**

Our August newsletter will herald the start of our new membership year. All offerings are welcome and would need to be with me by July 15th at the latest. Please make a note on your calendar.

**Sue Wood** [susan.orleans@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:susan.orleans@tiscali.co.uk),

# **RICHMOND UPON THAMES U3A**

## **COMMITTEE & OFFICERS**

### **OFFICERS:**

**President:** Stephen Jakobi  
**Chairman:** Chris Hack  
**Vice Chair:** Libby Barton  
**Secretary / Editor:** Sue Wood  
**Treasurer:** John Cardwell

### **MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE:**

**Membership Secretary:** David Wood  
**Groups' Co-ordinator:** Norma Cook  
**Committee members:**  
Peggy Roe  
Herbert Wirth  
Chris Barclay  
Bob Litherland

### **SECTION LEADERS:**

**Art, Science & Music:** Graham Shortell  
**Languages:** Norma Cook  
**Literature, Drama, Philosophy & History:**  
Carole Fletcher  
**Recreation:** Tricia Abrahamsen

## **WHY ANOTHER NEWSLETTER? IT'S NOT AUGUST YET.**

The Committee in their wisdom and, thinking I need to be kept busy having just sent the last newsletter to the printers, have decided that our members deserve a shortened newsletter every two months during the lockdown. They don't realise that it has taken me the last six weeks to perfect the art of idleness. And, I must say, I'm pretty good at it now.

So, what do I do with my days? Well I get up a bit later than usual, then talk to my daughter in Auckland on Skype for about an hour, then, of course, it's coffee time. So if I'm feeling energetic I attempt a crossword or Su Doku. Then it's a stroll round my estate – all 20' by 20' of it, carefully noting any new leaves that have grown. Well, perhaps not the leaves, but certainly any buds that are breaking into flower. Then it's activity time – a slug hunt. And a chance to dream up some little jobs for my partner to do – unlike me he likes to be kept busy but they say opposites attract.

Then it's time to think about lunch. Having eaten I need to relax, so I take a little time for contemplation, in the garden if the sun is shining. Then duty calls so I answer some emails and laugh at the jokes I've been sent – after all we all need to maintain our sense of humour – especially when my computer has copied my slothfulness and is on a go slow. Maybe make a few phone calls, sitting down of course.

After that it is time to sit and plan the evening meal. And contemplate the housework I should do tomorrow. Which reminds me of the old joke, bread today and jam tomorrow, but this way round I get the jam today.

Alright, if I want to eat I will have to cook, so rouse myself to look in the fridge and freezer, and put some white wine in the cooler. Having decided I can't find a recipe for a meal consisting of tinned

sardines, strawberry jelly and chorizo, I settle for something a little more conventional, open some wine, and start cooking. I enjoy cooking, glass of wine in hand, so it doesn't really feel like work. Which is a good job as otherwise I'd probably starve to death although, having just enjoyed a birthday, I could exist on chocolate for several months.

After such a busy day I need to relax, enjoy some more wine and listen to some music, watch the news if I'm feeling strong enough, and realise I haven't had time to read my book.

So back to this newsletter thing. If you want to read something more interesting than how I fill my day please send me some ideas, or even articles, cartoons, limericks. I'm open to suggestions and will find time to read them, honestly.

**The Editor.**

## **PROSPECTUS**

Another casualty of the current uncertainty is the timing of our Prospectus, normally due in August. The Committee have decided to wait until we are sure we can give you accurate information and will let members know when we deem this to be the case.

In the meantime for up-to-date information please go to our website – [www.u3asites.org.uk/richmond-on-thames](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/richmond-on-thames)

## COMMITTEE PHOTOS



Chris Hack



Libby Barton



Sue Wood



John Cardwell



David Wood



Peggy Roe



Norma Cook



Herbert Wirth



Chris Barclay



Bob Litherland

The Committee have raided their photo albums in order to amuse and confuse you. The following are five members of the Committee (all shown on the previous page) but in their younger years. Can you manage to identify who they are? No prizes but the answers will be in the August newsletter. If you can't wait until then you can email me your answers at: [susan.ortans@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:susan.ortans@tiscali.co.uk)



(A)



(B)



(C)



(D)



(E)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is only a couple of months since my last report, but your committee has decided to treat you to a bonus newsletter; well there is not much else going on. For those of you with internet access you will have received regular updates U3A-wise on what is available via the internet both locally, regionally [London] and nationally.

I was pleased to see a number of group leaders using Zoom to hold meetings; I have been using it with my politics group; unfortunately, not with my wine tasting! However, I am still hoping that we may return to some form of normality in the not too distant future. We will always follow Government advice and only when we are told it is safe to do so will we start meeting again physically; we may need to think how we can do that especially if some form of social distancing is still required. We must also always be mindful that many of our members are deemed to be in the 'vulnerable' category. Ultimately every member will have to make their own decisions with regard to social contact.

We are also aware that members are not getting full value from their membership; hopefully this bonus newsletter goes some way to redress that issue – we are thinking of other ways too so watch this space. There is not much more for me to say other than I hope that you are all continuing to keep well, staying safe and finding enough to do.

**Chris Hack, [chack@onetel.com](mailto:chack@onetel.com), Chairman.**



## GROUP NEWS

I usually read my previous offering to the newsletter before beginning to type the current one, to remind myself of what I said. I wrote the last one six weeks ago – a shorter time ago than usual as we are sending out more frequent newsletters – and am amazed at the innocence of it! I quote “but I hope that by the time this is published we shall all be more or less back to normal”. We are still more or less in lockdown, staying alert, but for many of U3A members we are still being fully shielded until at least the end of June, but probably for much longer, in some way or other. I suspect that it is going to be a long time before many of us feel happy about going on public transport or sitting in a small space with other people less than two metres away from us.

It is with these thoughts in mind, I am delighted to be able to say that there are more than 20 groups using Zoom (Oh, how familiar we have become with that word!), a few using Skype and email, to my knowledge, and I am sure there are others who are keeping in touch in different ways. I should be very grateful to hear from Group Leaders about how your group is rising to the challenge of maintaining contact. The new Beacon system which is now available via the website contains this new information and I encourage Group Leaders to update the details of when and how their groups are meeting and encourage everyone else to have a look at it. One advantage of meeting virtually is that it does not matter where you are geographically - two of my group members are not living locally at the moment – and another benefit is that sometimes more people can be accommodated than normal.

Even if a group cannot carry on its activity virtually, I have heard how GLs are employing various ways to keep in touch with their

members, as looking after our mental wellbeing is nearly as important as not catching the dreaded Covid-19.

As always, I thank our Group Leaders for their sterling work in these difficult times. They have not even had the reward of a free lunch this year as that has had to be postponed for the foreseeable future.

**Norma Cook**, Group Coordinator, [norma.beagle@gmail.com](mailto:norma.beagle@gmail.com)

## **GROUPS: CURRENTLY ACTIVE**

### **Meeting by ZOOM, SKYPE and other methods**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Book Group - Biographies	Email
Book Group - Members' Choice	Email
Bridge Club 1	Email
Classical Greek	Skype
Cryptic Crosswords -Beginners	Zoom
Cryptic Crosswords-Improvers	Zoom
Art-19th C French Painting	Virtual tours: National Gallery + quizzes
French Intermed Conversation	Zoom
Cookery-Healthy Food Adventure	Videos
Italian Beginners 1	Zoom
Italian - Talking Italian	Houseparty
Knitting, Crochet and Chat	Zoom
Knit and Nat	Zoom
Latin - Intermediate	Zoom

## Groups: Currently Active (continued)

<b>Group</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Latin - Literature	Zoom
Laughter	Zoom
Law - Criminal	Skype
Life Enhancing Group	Zoom
Mathematical Topics 1	Zoom
Mathematical Topics 2	Zoom
Nordic Walking	Social distancing
Photography	Email and Flickr
Poetry - since 1900	Zoom
Politics and Current Affairs 1	Zoom
Politics and Current Affairs 2	Zoom
Psychology and Sociology	Conference Call
Renaissance Italy	Zoom
Rambling – River Walks	Social distancing
Scrabble 4	Online game: Lexulous
Shakespeare	Email
Shakespeare - Study to Stage	Zoom
Simply Social St Margarets 2	Zoom
Social Networking	Zoom
Spanish Conversation 3rd Year	Zoom
Spanish Conversation Intermed2	Zoom
Spanish Conversation Intermed3	Zoom
Stamp and Postal History	Email etc
Theatre Now	Zoom
Tomorrow's World	Zoom
Trollope	Zoom
War and Peace	Email
Writing Your Life Story	Zoom

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sue

When I saw the familiar package on the mat I expected a thinner than usual magazine because of the Lockdown. Far from it, Sue, a real bumper issue. I am so glad you are getting such varied contributions, and it was interesting to read how various groups are coping.

I wonder how many of us, apart from your contributor, had the “willy” experience walking home from school? I did, and suspect it was not uncommon!

Thank you for keeping going and producing such a good issue. I am missing my usual U3A activities and grateful to stay in touch.

**Pat Havron.**

Dear Sue

I really love reading outdoors. Can't think of anything nicer. And Pat's lovely group provide an interesting book each month. It makes you read with a purpose and I have had to raise my game as the group are no slouches intellectually! But they are so welcoming that you could never think of them as elitist.

As a newcomer to Twickenham, Pat's monthly meetings, always admirably chaired with a light touch, she is such a wonderful hostess, were the highlight of my month. I even did a review from my hospital bed when I couldn't attend. An absolute delight!

**Dorothy Gonsalves.**

*You will be glad to hear that Pat's book group – Biographies - is managing to keep going via emails. And the cover shows what a delightful garden Dorothy has to read in.*

Dear Sue

I set up a website at the beginning of Lockdown to tell stories inspired by a different silk scarf each day. I have a huge collection of these and indeed some of my daily blogs have been based on memories of U3A outings, including the infamous one when our coach went in the ditch!

You are welcome to have a look at my stories with photos and I don't mind it being mentioned in the U3A newsletters. It seems to go around the world and I get interesting feedback, including one yesterday from an expert on the Antiques Road Show about a Chinese scarf.

This project has kept me very busy and finally there will be a book of this piece of social and family history, at the same time relating to an extraordinary period throughout the world. A time capsule of scarves!

The website is: [www.busybeehazell.com](http://www.busybeehazell.com)

Kind regards, **Hazell Jacobs.**

*Do have a look. I meant to only take a peek at a few items but ended up so fascinated that I devoured the lot. So be warned Hazell's reminiscences are compulsive reading and the scarves exquisite.*

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*I hope you're enjoying this additional newsletter and perhaps it has even made you smile, helped to alleviate feelings of isolation, and served to remind you that Richmond U3A are here and waiting to welcome you back to all our usual activities*

## A SELECTION OF LIMERICKS

*Our Treasurer's challenge in our last newsletter to write a few limericks in our spare time has sparked a wealth of enjoyment for our Writing For Pleasure group. I understand that during the lockdown they are meeting on Zoom and are currently doubling the frequency of their meetings. I also attempted to compose a few but certainly didn't achieve the group's standard so here is a very small sample of theirs, some of which have certainly encapsulated the traditional sauciness of limericks.*

While sitting alone in her room  
Amanda felt sadness and gloom.  
She liked to meet people.  
It made her feel gleeful  
It just wasn't the same using Zoom.

There was an old lady called Iris  
Who thought she'd contracted the virus.  
She clutched at her head  
And then went to bed  
With the man who was mending the wireless.

Driving along in his truck  
Martin felt down on his luck.  
He wanted some pleasure,  
Something to treasure  
But the sweets in his tin were quite stuck!

**Pam Coveney**

There was an old chap who got frisky  
Whenever he had too much whisky  
But no cause for alarm  
Ladies come to no harm  
He's too old to do anything risky.

A handsome young fellow from Cranleigh -  
His physique was exceedingly manly.  
Girls short and tall  
Fell under his thrall  
But he favoured a sailor named Stanley.

There was a young girl from Belize  
Who started each day with a sneeze  
'I do nothing but blow  
That cat has to go!'  
Said that sneezy young girl from Belize.

## **Julie Valentine.**

*There has definitely been a flavour of poetry in the offerings this time so here are a couple more poems which I hope you will enjoy as much as I did. Peggy Roe sent me the first one written by her friend, Elisabeth Beardsley, who was given a list of 14 words to use as line endings in the order given. I am in awe of such talent. Julie is a member of our own Writing for Pleasure group and I certainly identified with her offering.*

## LOCKDOWN

I sit with pad and pen. My page is bare.  
Seeking inspiration from such peace  
As lockdown brings: it gives me cause to cease  
My endless social round, and time to stare  
Into an empty sky, to go nowhere.  
Till suddenly a ribbon of wild geese,  
Returning from their wintering grounds, release  
Me from my reverie. The air  
Is filled with sounds of coming home. The day  
Is theirs. Today's sun rose and shone  
Exclusively for them and them alone.  
Their leader turns the arrow head and they  
Fly off towards the South. Away ,away.  
I'm heavy and immobile as a stone.

**Liz Beardsley.**

## TODAY I CLEANED THE FRIDGE

There was an old woman who lived in a shoe  
With so many projects, which one should she do?

There were cupboards and boxes and things in the hall  
Sewing and mowing and planting and all  
Tidying and filing just won't do themselves  
Unless you can call on an army of elves.

She looked at the boxes, she looked at the files  
She thought about sorting them all in neat piles  
She could not leave this mess to her children to clear  
For who knew if her life would extend to next year.



But the sunshine was calling, the flowers were out  
The birds in the treetops creating a rout  
So, she put on her trainers, went out of the gate  
And set off on her rambles, the housework could wait.

But guilt overwhelmed her, she must make a start  
The fridge was a mess, it was falling apart.  
She assembled her gloves, bicarb and a cloth  
And a bowl of warm suds, all stirred to a froth.

There were big jars and small jars and lots in between  
Some last were opened in Twenty-eighteen  
Yogurts and pasta and fruit all a-wither  
All into the bin! This was no time to dither.

Then there at the back with a label of gold  
Stood a bottle of bubbly, surely not all that old?  
Yippee, said the woman, just what I need!  
To let it go wasting would be a bad deed.

So quick as a flash all was tidied away  
The fridge and its problems could wait one more day.  
Out in the garden with bottle and glass  
To hell with the dusting, to hell with the grass!

All alone in the lockdown, what harm could it do?  
Thought the happy old woman who lived in a shoe.

**Julie Valentine, April 2020.**

## WHAT IS A SETTLEMENT HOUSE?

This question arose for me recently when my daughter became a volunteer at a charity in Battersea called Katherine Low Settlement, or KLS for short.

What, I wondered, is a Settlement House?

Much of interest was to be found as follows:

The Settlement Movement was a Reformist Social Movement that began in England in the 1880s and spread extensively in the US, peaking in England in the 1920s.

The first one opened in Whitechapel & remains operational. Toynbee Hall is a Grade 2 listed building (future visit for our London Explorers Group?) KLS, opened in 1924, so probably the last one here.

What was the main objective of the Movement?

It was the building and establishment of Settlement Houses in poor urban areas (largely the East End in London) funded by philanthropic organisations such as Oxford University, where students were encouraged to experience living in a deprived community and help in practical and intellectual ways by sharing their knowledge.

In which volunteer “middle class” settlement workers would live and work, hoping to share knowledge and culture, as well as healthcare, daycare and general support for their low-income neighbours.

There are 7 Settlement Houses still carrying out these ideals, 5 in London, 1 in Bristol & 1 in Manchester.

Katherine MacKay Low (known as Katie) (1855-1923) was from a wealthy background, but not much is known about her except that she worked to support the United Girls School Mission and to set up the Peckham Settlement. KLS settlement house has been built to her Memory.

KLS continues to be a major support to the local community.

Please do check out the website and join us when we visit as soon as we are able.

**Isobel Wilson**, London Explorers Group.

## CARTOON

*I was sent this preliminary sketch for a cartoon by my son-in-law in Auckland for possible inclusion in the April newsletter but it arrived too late so I pass it on to you now as an example of the problems with social distancing.*



**Peter Thompson.**

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