



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

Chairman's Message

Dear Members ,

Can you remember February this year ? Not only was it the wettest February on record it was the last time we met at the Edgar Hall for our monthly meeting . Over 100 of us enjoyed our coffee and a chat and then sat down to listen to Richard Grundy talk about the "Splendid Isolation of Tristan Da Cuban". Little did we know that less than a month later we would all be self isolating. So much has

changed over the past 6 months.
Now it is August , named after Augustus Caesar, the harvest month, school holidays and Watermelon Day 3rd August , National Smile Week , 5th - 11th, International Left Handers Day 13th, plus many more !The birth Flower of August is the gladiolus and poppy meaning beauty and strength, love, marriage and family. Augustus inspired growth, reform and a stronger infrastructure. With this in mind , we can think of this month in terms of reorganising , improvements and overall development be it within ourselves or in

our communities. Our wonderful groups are so important to us all and we really appreciate and need them now more than ever in this changing world .



My thoughts are about how we can safely meet each other , how could we join different groups and gain more friendship and encourage communication. Let's try to enjoy the next few months because I hate to say this but the nights are drawing in!

Judi

This is to inform you that we now have the final Somerton U3A Annual Accounts . These have been signed and we can now plan for our AGM . In the next few days all the relevant documents will be placed on our SU3A website . I will then be inviting you to join a Zoom AGM Meeting . Some of the Committee members and I recently joined a tutorial on running large meetings , so I think we well prepared to welcome you all.

Editor's Note

Welcome to the August newsletter and thanks to people who sent in items. You may notice it is much shorter than the previous 4 newsletters but that is all we've received and I have twisted no arms as promised!

Unfortunately the new realities of living long term with a world-wide pandemic are only now beginning to be appreciated.

We all thought lockdown was probably only going to be a temporary measure but it is now apparent that the necessary restrictions are going to be a feature of our lives for the foreseeable future and that we have to rethink how we go about our daily lives.

The crisis has obviously had a huge

affect on Somerton U3A and its members with many groups unable to meet and the loss of that all important social interaction. Many of us have missed our weekly routines and meeting up with like-minded people and a chat over a cup of coffee. Some groups have been able to meet up in each others' gardens and the fine weather has certainly facilitated that. Looking forward to the autumn and winter, we just do not know when it will be safe for groups to meet up indoors.

This week I read about a £4 million government project, "green prescribing" to encourage walking, gardening and making more of Britain's green spaces to counteract the ill effects of an extended lockdown period. . This is an extension of the social prescribing scheme where doctors advocate patients joining social

groups such as U3A rather than prescribing medication.

I then had the idea for two new groups for Somerton U3A which would only meet outdoors throughout the whole year; a local walking group and a practical gardening group.

The walking group would be like the already existing Strollers group but would offer walks around the Somerton area and end with coffee at The White Hart if desired.

The practical gardening group would give opportunities to see other members' gardens, swap hints, tips and plants and possibly offer help with practical tasks.

More information about both these groups will be given in the September newsletter.

Group News



Garden Visits Group

At last members of the Garden Visits Group have seen their first garden this season.

Honeyhurst Farm In Rodney Stoke has been created over the last 27 years by Kathy and Don Longhurst. Fifteen of our members enjoyed an accompanied stroll around the flower beds, so jam packed with colour, no weed would dare show it's face. There were also many spectacular trees, hollies, copper beech and paulownia to name a few.

All the gardens we plan to visit are operating in unusual conditions this year. Please let me know promptly if you want to join any of our visits.

Jane Redgrove



What's for lunch today?

Well....the strawberries and cherries are finished but the swiss chard and lettuce is coming on a treat.



I'm starving....you coming?

...all he thinks about is food...well almost all.

Desert Island Ducks...Dick Carlyon

Locked-down, self isolating, it's just like being a castaway. Most of us know the 8 discs we'd chose to be marooned with, so it's time to change the rules and name the 8 birds you'd want to find on your desert island. The only rule is, 'no ducks', because otherwise it starts to look too much like a menu. So here we go Mr. Plomley, mine are:-

Wren:- A bird with attitude, the avian equivalent of a terrier, always scolding and banging on about something, always letting you know it's there. One of the first birds I could recognise. Has to be there.

Swift:- *Apus apus* in Latin, meaning that it does not show its feet. Barrelling down narrow streets, announcing its presence with loud screeches and wings beating as it pulls another manoeuvre, it is reminiscent of the fighter planes we'd watch on films on Sunday afternoon TV. The bringer of spring & reassurance that the world is still on its axis.

Skylark:- The Lark Ascending, regularly voted the most popular tune on Classic fm; sadly the skylark is now on the red list. Who can fail to be enraptured by this small bundle as it rises joyously into the skies, achieves invisibility and finally descends back to its nest. Always makes me smile.

Bittern:- A good news story for this bird that we came close to losing but is now regularly seen and heard out at Ham Wall. Coming back from Bristol airport at night I've parked up by there to hear them booming away, wishing that I had bought an empty beer bottle with me to join in their calls.



Kingfisher:- A bird you rarely see in real time but know when you've just almost seen it. The electric blue dart, lighting up the river, even in overcast conditions. You need patience and luck but the reward is great. It reminds me of fishing the Yeo when a young boy.

Red Kite:- Another one back from the brink and after its spread down the M4, is now reaching down towards us. I have seen one over Steart Drove a couple of times recently. Whereas a buzzard can look ungainly and that it has an ASBO, the Red Kite exudes gracefulness

and beauty (just so long as you're on the right side of its beak and talons!). Just pips the kestrel for me.



Sedge warbler:- Bit of a cheat here as they come with a truly remarkable range of song, notes and sounds. In terms of the desert island disc, get this one and you end up with a boxed, greatest hits recording, blasted out at full volume. A beautiful reminder of the unspoilt parts of our wetlands.

Hoopoe:- They have to be there. What is there not to like? Named after its call, it tells you it's there and then keeps giving you clues until you find it. It's one of those birds where you can imagine God giving a classroom of children crayons and colouring books to design a bird before then deciding to implement the winning effort.



apologies to fulmars, barn owls, bee-eaters, kestrels, nuthatches, woodpeckers, goldfinches &c who all made strong claims. I reckon armed with that selection I'd be happy. If I could only choose one bird, it would be the swift and as a book I'd take a second copy of the Shakespeare, this time in French as a parallel text in the hope that I might improve my language skills.

Oh, my luxury?A solar powered laptop with downloads of all of my CDs. What's that Roy? Sorry old thing, my game, my rules 😊

What about your choices?

Group News



SOMERTON U3A HISTORY GROUP – NHS Quiz

The Act of Parliament setting up the NHS was passed in 1946.

1. What was the date for the first day of the NHS? Do you remember it?
2. Can you find the name of the first patient?
3. Who was the Minister of Health who created the NHS?
4. How many hospitals were included in the NHS? Which hospital was the first?
5. “From the cradle to the grave” and “free at the point of use” are two key phrases to describe the NHS. What do they mean?
6. When was National Insurance introduced in England? Who was able to benefit from it?
7. When was the Beveridge Report published?
8. What were the five Great Evils identified in the Beveridge Report?
9. Who said “I stuffed their mouths with gold”, and what did he mean?
10. When were prescription charges and dental charges introduced?

The TV series ‘Casualty 1900s’ gives an accurate picture of hospitals before the NHS. You may be able to see parts of it on Youtube or i-player.

Nancy Schooling



Spot the Celeb....answers on p8...no peeping



Corrections from last month

Thank you and apologies to

Haydon Callow

who's article **Music...**

Uke build

**should have had his
name at the bottom**



History...VE DAY

Jean Rattenbury

**May 8th 1945 was Victory
in Europe Day.....tribute
should read appreciation**

IMAGES OF AUDREY by Dee & Leo Clarke

I see a young girl of thirteen or so in her white surplice and her chorister's cap leading the processing choir at the 12th Century church of St Magdelene Burstead, singing one of her favourite hymns, prayer-book and hymnal in hand. Eighty-three years later Audrey sits in her chair at Ashley House, prayer book in hand, searching for a text her mind has let slip for a little while or perhaps even longer. I sit beside her at a simple Christmas and Holy Communion service in the conservatory at Ashley House where she reads out, clearly and confidently, the story of the Magi.

Some of Audrey's life between these times I learn from the stories she shared with me, her new son-in-law.

I now see a fourteen year old girl leaving school and travelling to Wiltshire to 'domestic service' helping Nanny look after three little boys, going from the nursery down to the basement kitchen where the French cook helps her to learn

to say in French, among other things, 'What is for breakfast today?' and she rattles off the question for me when she might not have said it out loud for seventy-five years.

One more glimpse: Audrey is leaving a house by the Green at Richmond-on-Thames where she has been looking after Malcolm. She looks back as she goes and sees the boy at the nursery window. He waves good-bye, and she hears him say, 'Bye Bye, Mawdrey! I'll see you when I die.' Perhaps her favourite little tale.

LC



A few years later, in her early twenties, I see a strong, loving, young woman - now called Mummy - as she looks after me, her toddler daughter, born in the war years. She is alone because my father is somewhere in Europe fighting the Germans. I am a happy little girl, my only worries are how fast my tricycle runs away with me down the garden path. My mother keeps me safe, well fed and warm.

All through my life she was there supporting me, my sister and my father, and later her siblings when my grandmother died. She was the one they turned to for help and advice. When I was a teenager I likened our family to a fairground carousel, Dad, my sister Jill and myself all circling around and flying off at angles with Mum at the centre keeping us together.



Now that loving person has left us but we still have our memories, most recently of her 100th birthday party in February, with lots of her family around her, enjoying their company and ignoring Storm Dennis outside which unfortunately stopped some of her guests from attending.

DAC

AUDREY MADDOCK

14 February 1920 - 17 July 2020

BREADMAKING – NOW AND THEN : Dee and Leo Clarke

We have invested in a bread making machine – great fun! The first loaf was a great success except I hadn't been sure how to set the menu properly and we had a very large loaf which, as I don't eat much bread, Leo had to manage all by himself! The second loaf was nearly a disaster – I forgot to replace the kneading blade and had to scrabble about in the mix of flour, water, oil, yeast etc to put it in. However, the bread was fine when finally finished! With the third loaf, I remembered the kneading blade, put everything in correctly, set the menu and when the loaf was finished I couldn't remove it from the bread pan! When it finally came out a great lump of bread was missing from the base where it had stuck to the kneading blade.

Frankly, I was getting a bit miffed with it all but decided I would have another go. I put the kneading blade in, then all the ingredients in the right order, then, on tiptoe because I'm not very tall, I tried to set the menu. Unfortunately I hit a key by mistake and couldn't cancel it, even by switching off at the mains. I just left it to do its own thing and was grateful I had a proper loaf in the freezer! The bread didn't finish cooking until late so I left it in the pan overnight. In the morning, I turned it out and even the kneading blade came out without trouble – for a moment I thought I had forgotten to put it in as it was so neatly ensconced inside the loaf. However, I was able to remove it without too much damage and decided that in future I would leave the bread a very long time before taking it out. It was a lovely loaf and makes very fine toast!

This is all a far cry from Leo's childhood when his mother made dough and he and his three older brothers were sent to the baker with the loaves for baking. He has written an account of that time when he was about six years old and this is an extract.

Then it's all boys to the bakery. The string of us, booted and jerseyed, trooping single file; Jim first with the pennies in his pocket for the baker. The rest follow raggedly behind, past the doors of the terrace, a line of match-stick figures, balancing, clutching, steadying the tins. On one corner a dog squats on the kerb, pauses in his scratching to watch the parade, a cat's tail disappears down a back-street and across the way a thin girl with an apron and a blank face stands holding a pram. The littlest boy at the back, one foot on the kerb and the other in the gutter, one heel clicking a loose corker, worn thin as a penknife blade from the forbidden practice of sparking on the granite setts, bobs and sways risking loaf and limb. The procession moves on towards the red-brick corner; one patch of bricks a darker red from years of oven-heat and smoothed by the backs and hands of boys and girls seeking winter warmth.

The baker draws the offerings of bread through a hole in the wall and we catch just a glimpse of hairy arms and a pinched grey face. Then the hatch shuts. And we scatter.





Spot the celeb answers

1	TOMMY STEELE
2	JAMES STEWART
3	PYOTR TCHAIKOVSKY
4	ABRAHAM LINCOLN
5	RICHARD WAGNER
6	GENERAL BERNARD MONTGOMERY
7	KATHERINE HEPBURN
8	GARFIELD SOBERS
9	ALFRED HITCHCOCK
10	PABLO PICASSO
11	JOAN CRAWFORD
12	JIMMY JAMES
13	LAURENCE OLIVIER
14	KING EDWARD VII
15	FIONA BRUCE
16	KENNETH MORE
17	PAUL NEWMAN
18	BRIAN CLOSE
19	JEANNE MOREAU
20	ALBERT FINNEY
21	HARRY TRUMAN
22	KAISER WILHELM II
23	HUGHIE GREEN
24	DIANA RIGG



For latest Covid-19 guidance for U3As member

select this link

https://mcusercontent.com/656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed/files/13aa7ebd-4e55-4954-96f6-68582f28a271/U3A_Covid_19_Guidance_29_07_20_vs_4.pdf

All articles for the Newsletter send to the editor kaywilliamson46@hotmail.com

Deadline for the September edition...20th August

No entries can be accepted after this date.

Pictures welcome, but keep script brief

Minimum formatting please...**no pdfs!**

Web site:<https://u3asites.org.uk/somerton/home>