

SOMERTON U3A

Newsletter 6 September 2020



LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE

Chairman's Message



I feel September is quite an extraordinary month, it can strip out lots of emotions. Wishing for longer days full of warmth and endless sunshine to picking the last of the fruit or beans for making chutney, lots of warm recipes to beautiful autumn walks, the smell of wet leaves and beautiful skies full of amazing colours.

The past months have been so life changing but I believe it has been so inspiring. Sir Tom and his fundraising at the age of 100 little Tony Hudgall, just five and an amputee walking over 10km in 30 days brought a tear to the eye and a lump to the throat but as my 7 year old niece said, " We have survived " to her 96 year old Little Nana .

We have so much to be thankful for and so much to look forward to, but, best of all I hope September sees us all getting our lives back to a so called normal. Everything appears to have been on hold and now it's time to start living again.

Be positive and look forward to all the possibilities. Many of you have been so creative over the past months and just think of the endless opportunities that lie ahead .

That leads me on to this year's Membership Renewal.

I hope you received my recent communication and the details of how to enrol and the payment methods .

As they say the best is yet to come ..

Judi, Charman, SU3A

Editor's Note

Welcome to our 6th newsletter.

A big thank you to all our contributors and this month we have a real mixture of articles about surviving Covid and the joy and satisfaction felt in making beautiful things. We have the usual collection of stunning photos and some really clever and heartfelt poetry.

Since our first edition of the newsletter way back in March we have received many positive responses. If you have any suggestions to make on what you would like to see in the newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Mike and I would love to hear from you.

In the last newsletter I mentioned the possibility of starting up a walking group, focusing mainly on the Somerton area. On July 30th the easing of lockdown restrictions meant that up to 30 people can participate in group walks.

To register your interest in taking part in these walks, please contact Viv Winterburn vwinterburn@hotmail.com

Kay, Co-Editor

My Lockdown

Valerie Taylor

It's hard to believe that I have been so housebound for 5 months. Whoever would believe it?
I have missed U3A activities so much and look forward to meeting up with everyone again as soon as we can. The reality is that I have become quite a recluse.
At first it all felt very unreal sitting at home until listening to the news, telling us of the terrible statistics which were mind blowing.
So many infected all over the world and so much suffering and death.
I felt quite safe tucked up in my house in quiet Somerset. It was consoling to think so.
But fate had other ideas.
My very faithful car decided to break down when I was out for a drive and had to be towed to a garage.
It was the beginning of July and restrictions were easing so I felt quite safe about going out for a change of scenery.
When the car was repaired I went to collect it: in the small office I paid by card, using their card machine and drove home.
As usual when I came in I washed my hands.
Six days later I went to the recycling depot in Somerton. These were my only activities!

2 days later I had a Covid test as I was going to have minor surgery in Yeovil hospital.
A nurse took the test and I felt quite well so I felt 100%, quite sure that there would be no problem.
On Sunday 19th July I had a text....I WAS POSITIVE!
How could that be? I had no symptoms. I hadn't been near anyone.
What luck!
The news threw my mind in a spin but there was no one to ask questions.
I had to answer a questionnaire on line for Track and Trace but nothing came of that.
The next day I started to feel unwell with a severe headache which lasted 5 days and pain in my neck and shoulders, then lethargy and mind confusions.
No temperature, no sore throat, no cough.
Each day and night I waited for further symptoms; it was very worrying.
After a week I awoke one morning and felt much better. Very relieved.
I was totally isolated of course and it was a very depressing time. I felt like a leper and worried in case I passed it on.
I didn't thank goodness.
I have had another Covid test which was negative so then I felt much happier.
Do I have immunity? Who can say?
So we can't be careless about Covid. It is everywhere.

My Life in Lockdown

Viv Winterburn

As I am now leader of the Sunday Lunch Group formerly lead by Andrea Talbot, I have sent an email update of how life has been treating me in these peculiar times to the other members in the hope we don't lose contact altogether.

So my first epistle was on the 29th March when we would normally have met for our lunch. Of course we had only been under lockdown for just over a fortnight then and the weather had been brilliant – so sunny and hot so for a change I had been out in the garden every day working.

My garden was more like a jungle than a garden and some parts have now improved over these 5 months but I have a long way to go so many brambles, ivy, thistles and nettles had certainly taken over the back garden whilst to call my front lawn is an insult to all others – more like a collection of moss, buttercups, daisies, dandelions and various odd grasses.

I have managed to make my many pots productive this summer for a change – I bought 5 bargain roses and 4 of them have provided some lovely blooms and seem to be thriving along with petunias, busy lizzies, aubretia, pansies, etc. For the first time in over 25 years I have grown tomatoes and so far have had the pleasure of eating over 20 of them – my next door neighbour also gave me some green bean plants and I now have yet to eat the first 8 of them – perhaps for dinner now the weather has changed today.

..... *Continued on page 3.....*

Continued.....

Looking back on that email, I can see that many of my good intentions fell by the wayside – reading, puzzles, sewing, knitting and spring cleaning never happened. I did do a lot in the garden and family history – not so much organising my many files but actually doing research for and with 3 WI friends on their family trees, latterly visiting them in their gardens to carry on with it. I also mentioned that I wasn't allowed out like many of us U3A members and had to rely on others in the village for food shopping. Our Village Hall and Playing Field Committees undertook to help but unfortunately more than half of us were over 70 so couldn't be of assistance – in fact we needed help ourselves!

April began with me discovering that YouTube were showing many productions from cultural organisations that had all been closed down of course – and the first one I watched was *One Man, Two Guvnors* uploaded by the National Theatre. This proved fascinating as Pitney Players had performed the original version of this play at one of our open air Pitney House productions over 10 years – me being the deaf prompt!

This was just the start of the most wonderful cultural entertainment for me – I have watched ballets from the ROH, ENB, BRB, La Scala, Bolshoi, Mariinsky etc – Operas from ROH and Glyndebourne – Musicals and Plays from RSC, National Theatre, the Really Useful Group and The Globe, etc. It has been simply marvellous – all have been uploaded for a certain period of time – varying from 48 hours to a fortnight - free of charge although the companies have requested donations – which naturally I have made – but I admit not up to the total costs of seeing these live or in the cinema at Strode Theatre. In addition the BBC have added lots of past tv programmes on I-Player as part of their *Culture in Lockdown* – so Shakespeare plays & *Line of Duty* series seen.

I have seen a lot of one set of my neighbours which has been very helpful when you live alone. My other neighbour has moved to a care home so that house has been empty and 3 of us met each week to clap for the NHS but otherwise our very social village life definitely disappeared sadly. However, we did have a get-together on VE Day – socially distant with most of us sitting in the road – luckily we don't have much traffic on most days and even the farmers didn't bother us on that day – and that was great especially as it was such a beautiful day as well.

It hasn't all been fine though. I have had several attacks of Vertigo which I think is most likely linked to my ear problems. In the middle of May, my baha (Bone Anchored Hearing Aid) broke – I wasn't allowed to go to Musgrove Hospital to get it repaired of course – understandable but it meant that for nearly 10 days I couldn't hear at all as my hearing aids (which I had previously used for many years) had been removed and meant it was pointless to watch tv, listen to radio, ring or

try to see anyone – that was a very depressing and difficult time for me. Luckily my son and I do Whatsapp and he organised the repair with the hospital so that all was sorted thankfully. I then managed to contact my surgery about the Vertigo attacks and I now have medication prescribed to help with those and a few days later I was given an ENT appointment – no doubt due to my doctor. After seeing the specialist, I also saw the Audiology department where my baha was retuned and I was given 2 new hearing aids as well – for use only in case of another emergency arising.

In addition, I missed out on my city break to Riga with my son and daughter-in-law – which had been my 70th birthday present from them last year – it now looks as if that will – with luck – happen in September next year.

However, life has improved slightly since the ease of lockdown restrictions. I have visited Lytes Cary and Barrington Court NT gardens with a friend as well as having social distant chats with her on her patio several times.

Our WI Sewing Group has met in one of the member's garden every fortnight since 6 people were allowed – just to have a chat not sew! I also joined the U3A Garden group for 2 visits to beautiful gardens in Rodney Stoke and Wells but had to cancel going to the Isle Abbotts visit due to the arthritis in my knees flaring up very badly and I am still hobbling around sadly at present.

The other major event that has happened recently is that my son has moved house – from a small flat in Herne Hill in London to a detached large property in Deal in Kent – even further away for me to visit and obviously that won't happen for a while due to their needing time to settle in especially as they intend to carry out a lot of renovations. However, I am happier about them being on the coast as they can enjoy the seaside – not too busy as a pebble beach – they have been swimming in the sea already and of course, a much lower possibility of Coronavirus infections there compared to where they used to live – within a couple of minutes of Brockwell Park where on one hot sunny Saturday the media reported there were over 3,000 people resulting in the police closing it.

I am a sports fan so am now enjoying listening to TMS Radio about the cricket, watching the F1 races now that some sport has been allowed to start again as well as re-runs of Rugby Union matches on YouTube and past matches of tennis at Wimbledon on BBC TV.

So as you can see it hasn't been all bad but have missed my WI and U3A friends and meetings a lot.

Viv Winterburn

What I Did During Lockdown.....Joan Banbury

When lockdown started I, like probably many of you, made a mental list of all of those jobs that needed doing. As the weather was so good during April and May I painted my garden fence and shed, dug a new bed in the garden, decorated the



1. A very sad Singer treadle sewing machine base before lockdown

conservatory and tidied a drawer or two. Thanks to Kelways Nursery home delivery service I was even able to get bedding plants to put into my empty garden pots.

Come July I was wondering what else I could do – the prospect of yet more cupboard tidying had lost its appeal!

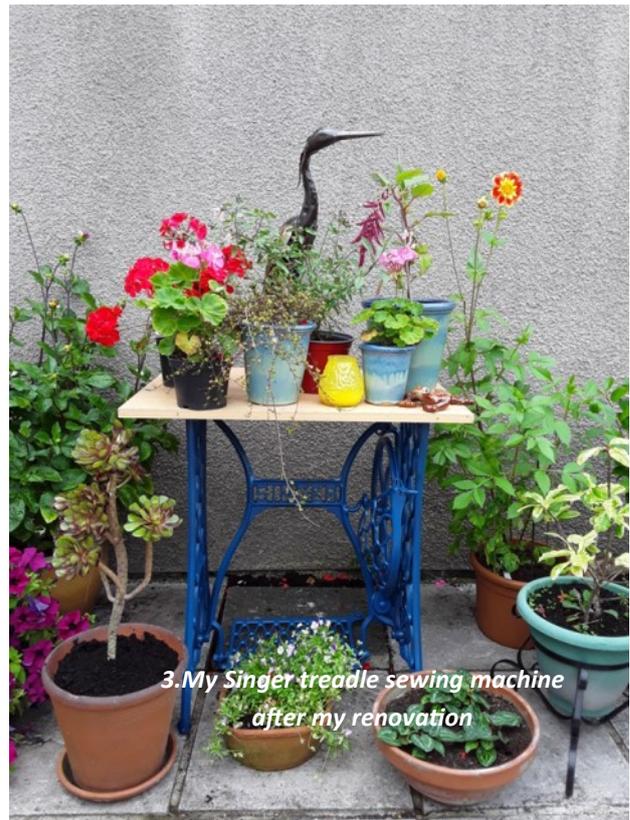


2. Midway through renovations, stripped back to the original black

So I decided to renovate the base of an old Singer treadle sewing machine which had stood in my garden for about 10 years and in the garden of my mother and previously an aunt for about 40 years prior to that. I too was going to use it in the garden to display plants on. It had been painted white at sometime in its life and had a marble top which was splitting and flaking when I acquired it, leaving just the iron work base worth salvaging. (Picture 1). So armed with steel brushes, both hand held and attached to an electric drill, steel wool and paint stripper, I spent many (and I mean many) hours getting the treadle back to its original black (picture2).

The purists among you will say I should have repainted it black and decorated it in gold, which would have been its original livery, but I wanted it to cheer up a dull grey garage wall in my back garden and, as my other garden furniture was blue, I decided to paint it blue. I did try and pick out the rather intriguing Singer logo on the sides in gold (as it would have been originally) but for some reason, the gold leaf paint I managed to get hold of would not adhere to the blue gloss and I had not the heart to sand that area again in the hope that the paint might stick. When I first looked at the machine I thought the logo represented a beetle, but closer inspection revealed it to be a shuttle with a piece of thread woven around it. Quite a work of art actually.

Well, I have now managed to complete all of the painting and am now ready to make a top from some hardwood



3. My Singer treadle sewing machine after my renovation

strips which a kind neighbour has said he will source for me. For the purpose of its inclusion in the magazine, it is sporting an old piece of kitchen worktop! (Picture 3).

My next project? As I had some paint over I decided to renovate an old wrought iron chair, again from my mother's garden.

You might think I had learned my lesson.....

Pandem - onium *By John Rickard*

Covid plague besets the nation	Empty buses, empty station	Retail jaunts - anticipation
Instant lockdown – isolation	Appointments, after registration	Facial masks – an inspiration
Nurses, doctors – adulation	Fresh air walks – in/exhalation	Paired with glasses – condensation
All key workers – admiration	Can we visit a relation?	Any chance of compensation?
Children, playgrounds – deprivation	Gard'ning, painting – vegetation	Christmas cheer in moderation
Payments late – no explanation	Zoom and Skype with computation	New Year too – a salutation
Unemployment and starvation ?	Where to take the year's vacation ?	Next year maybe - vaccination
Food banks, credit, obfuscation	Just in your imagination !	Back to life – what jubilation !

Group News



Veg, Cook and Eat Group

This is the Veggie Lunch Group outdoor socially distanced monthly meeting. We met in August at the Pitney Farm Cafe and were joined by Monica Richmond who just happened to be there! Previous months since lockdown have seen us meeting in members gardens with ' take your own' picnics.

Jane Redgrove



Photo of Veg, Cook and Eat group, sent by Steve Davis

Blessings *by Wendy Allington*

Days of warm sunshine,
most welcome in early
Spring

I am thankful

Summer flowers planted
while the robins sing

I am thankful

And then by chance, it
rained

I am so thankful

I woke up this morning, left
my cosy bed and splashed
my sleepy face

I am thankful

My shopping was delivered
but in a different place

I am thankful

And then as if by chance, it
rained

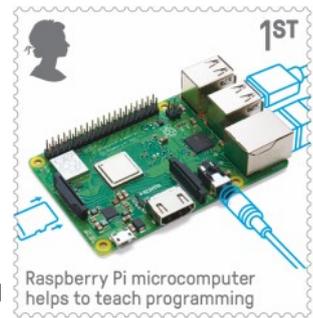
I am so thankful

Group News



U3A Raspberry Pi Group

The Raspberry Pi Group with its nine members builds projects using the Raspberry Pi computer which costs less than £10. This credit card sized computer was designed in Cambridge, is manufactured in Wales, and has sold over 30 million world-wide! Last year the Royal Mail even published a special stamp to mark this UK achievement.



At the group's last fortnightly "real" meeting we decided to try to build a robot that would solve a Rubik's Cube, our aim being to have this on display at the U3A Open Day, however lockdown occurred.....

We now meet by Zoom each week, and our Rubik Robot is now running.

The project has not been without a few difficulties. The mechanics which has to lift and turn the cube without throwing it onto the floor were a challenge. Simon's 3d printed plastic tray that the cube sits in, and Ernest's precision brass arms that grip the cube were key to solving these issues. In order to "solve" a cube, the Raspberry Pi's camera has to first look at each face and determine how the coloured squares are arranged. Correctly recognising the colours under different lighting proved to be far harder than we had imagined, however Laurence's software is now working splendidly.



Doug suggested that we should make a short Youtube video of a cube being solved and you can see this at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R3ARyvPHd7Y>

With this "Lockdown" project complete we have just started a new one which is to log the height of a model aircraft.

John Light

Nancy's film review *A DVD revue by Nancy Schooling*

"All Passion Spent" by Vita Sackville West, 1931

DVD of BBC adaptation 1986, Wendy Hillier, Harry Andrews, Maurice Denham.

A beautiful, gentle and thought-provoking story of Lady Slane who finds new friends when she is widowed. The book was written in 1931 and adapted for TV by the BBC in 1986. There are her children who are comical in their different ways and her new Hampstead friends, all very different and interesting characters.

Much to the surprise of her family, Lady Slane (Wendy Hillier) takes a dilapidated house in Hampstead and goes to live there with her French maid, Genoux. The owner (Maurice Denham) of the house finds a sympathetic builder and they transform it into the cosy home

Lady Slane has always wanted. She discourages visits from her family, and is reluctant to meet Mr Fitzgeorge (Harry Andrews) whom she had met briefly when her husband was Viceroy of India. But he becomes part of her life and they walk on Hampstead Heath together.

The settings are lovely, especially if you know Hampstead village; the acting is superb and unhurried; and the story is a wonderful picture of upper class life in the 1920s. The book is very good as well, but slightly different because of the needs of the film.

Group News



BIRD WATCHING GROUP *Kay Williamson*

The bird watching group have met up 4 times since the social distancing rules were slightly relaxed. Shapwick and Ham Wall have proved to be popular with families, walkers and cyclists, eager to get outdoors during lockdown so Catcott Reserve, not so well known with the general public, was more enjoyable and we had our resident expert, David Perkins, on hand with his truly encyclopaedic knowledge of plants, birds and insects.

The summer months are usually very quiet as regards spotting birds but on one occasion at Catcott we were lucky



Cattle egrets bred in Somerset for the first time in 2008. Slightly smaller than little egrets, like the Great White, Cattle Egrets are much rarer. They like to spend time close to livestock and grab insects and worms that the cows' hooves disturb. We were very excited to see to see one perched on the back of a cow.

Other birds seen were a Hobby, Crow, Pheasant, Wren, Chaffinch and a cob and pen with 7 cygnets.

As well as birds the Avalon Marshes are also fantastic for



enough to see about 20 Cattle Egrets, 1 Little Egret and 1 Great White Egret, all members of the heron family. 25 years ago the sight of Little and Great Egrets would have been greeted with great excitement as they would have been rare visitors from the Mediterranean. Now the Little Egret is relatively common but the Great White is still a much rarer visitor.



insect life. Due to the many stretches of water, dragonfly species, including the Emperor, Darter, Hawker and Common Blue are a common sight here.

August plants seen included Bog Asphodel, Bog stitchwort, Yellow Loosestrife, Meadowsweet, Devil's Bit, Greater Birdsfoot, Trefoil and Scabious.

We are truly lucky to live so close to such a rich natural environment.



Ten Things Grandchildren Ought to Know About Butterflies

David Perkins

1. The long distance migrant species navigate by the sun, but the sun changes its position in the sky during the day. So it needs a clock. Where is its clock? Surprisingly – not in its brain – part of it is in each antenna.

2. I thought its antennae were just sensors. Can they do more than tell the time?

Yes -They balance the butterfly in flight, and they detect scents – sometimes at vast distances, like a kilometre!

3. How different to our eyes are butterflies?

a) they have compound eyes – sort of knew that,

b) they separate light into more ‘colours’ than we do – the cabbage white is said to have eight ‘channels’ of vision’.

c) different colours trigger different responses, ‘blue’ tells them to feed, ‘green’, to lay eggs.

4. How do they eat? They don’t! Their food is nectar. They have no mouth, caterpillars do!

(When the caterpillar goes into the chrysalis its mandibles (jaws) disappear and its proboscis develops.)

5. What’s it doing on a flower then? Usually ‘taking in’ nectar.

(It may just be having a rest).

(‘Taking in’ is not as obvious as it sounds – the proboscis (long sort of tube) is not a ‘straw’. It’s a kind of sponge which it pokes down the flower and absorbs nectar, or any other fluid, at the tip which moves up into its abdomen by capillary attraction. i.e it doesn’t ‘suck’.

6. Then how does it take in solids like salts, needed for reproduction?

The process above goes into reverse and it sends liquid DOWN the proboscis, which dissolves the ‘salt’, and then re-absorbs the solution back up.

7. There are different kinds of ‘ends’ to the proboscis. The flower feeding nectar species have a smooth end; those that feed on fruits have a saw to cut through the skin. There is at least a female of one species which has no proboscis at all! It lives about a week and has to mate and lay eggs in that time.

8. Butterflies don’t have lungs either, they absorb oxygen through spiracles, little holes along the side of their bodies.

9. The colours and patterns on their wings contain no pigment.

Colours result from varying thickness in their scale which causes ‘light interference,’ similar to the colours made by oil on the road. The colours get dull when the scales come off from damage or old age and if it loses all its scales it looks grey .

10. Butterflies can’t grow once they emerge as adults. All their growth happens at the caterpillar stage, so if you see what you think is a small version of a butterfly like a ‘cabbage white’– it didn’t eat its ‘greens’ when it was young! N.B.(Each species of caterpillar has a specific food plant that it calls ‘greens’.)

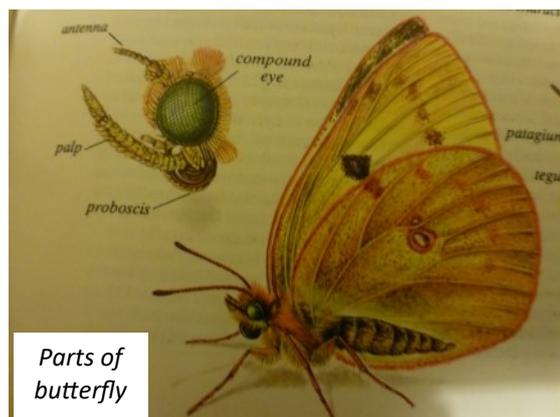
Question: - How does a tiny frail little thing with a brain the size of a pin, like a butterfly, work all this lot out? It has taken entomologists about five hundred years to sort out what is going on!



Large Skipper showing Compound Eye and curved proboscis inserted in flower



Six-spot Burnet Moths



Sky Poem

The Sky is Perfectly Blue

Today, it reflects what should be our flawless, fragile world,
The sky is perfectly blue

It belies the strife and hardships that befall our world today
The sky is perfectly blue

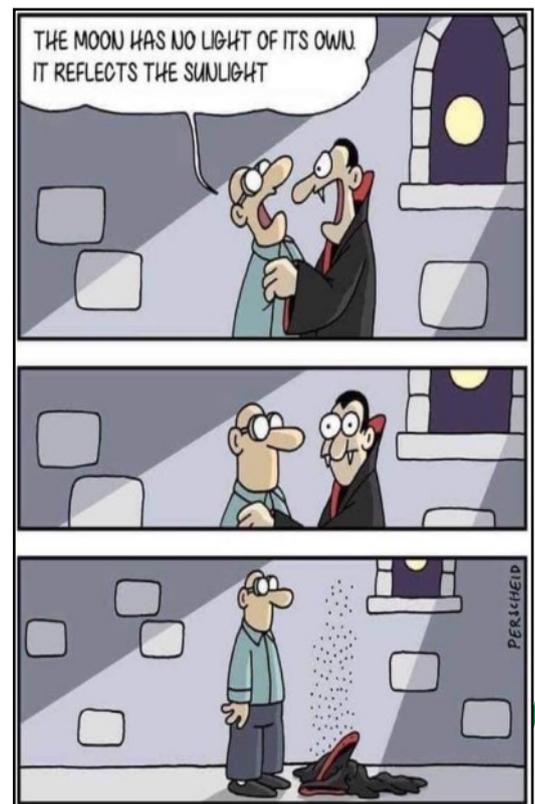
Wake up!
What have we done?

Our selfish actions, words and deeds
Destroying all our basic needs
Please, grant us Wisdom to see us through
Keeping our sky permanently blue

Wendy Allington

The moon over Weymouth Bay

By Dick Carlyon



Uke Build pt1

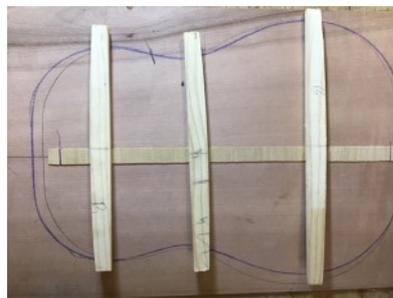
by Haydon Callow

Since the recent newsletter article about the Lockdown Ukulele building, I have had several people stop me in the street and some have asked how difficult it is and how it's done.

First off I get the basic parts from a Luthier in Derbyshire, he provides me with the wood I request and the sides of the instrument pre bent to approximate shape, the rest of the components are up to me. There is plenty to do

and below is a set of photos showing the stages in construction.

First off you need a good strong flat building board, I use a piece of solid wood kitchen work surface, next you need to lay your outline of the ukulele on the board and make a simple jig to hold the sides to the correct shape whilst glueing.



Next the perfling strips need to be glued to the inside of the sides, these strips give the top and bottom something to glue onto.

The 4 strips are glued top and bottom of the sides, whilst this glue is setting the underside of the top can be worked on, the cross struts, bridge patch and tone bars can be shaped and glued to the underside. The top is a sheet of Red Cedar and the Sides/Bottom Mottled Pear, the neck when we get to it is Mahogany and the fretboard Rosewood.

Now we can start working on the bottom sheet (mottled pear wood) just 3 struts but these are slightly curved to give some shape to the instrument. Now we have all the parts ready to glue the body together.

In the next newsletter we will finish off the body and start shaping and finishing the neck and fretboard.

If any of you want to have a go at putting one of these together I can put you in touch with the supplier and having now made about 15 myself I can help with any problems. The cost to build one is under £100 and depending on the standard of the finished instrument you will have a high quality ukulele made of the best quality woods.

Ukuleles come in 4 sizes, Soprano (small), Concert (standard), Tenor (large) and Baritone (Biggest). The one we are building here is a Baritone, I tune all sizes to GCEA, Baritones are often tuned differently.



Companion Planting *Mike Davis*

Companion planting is an organic method of maintaining a natural balance in your garden, aiding pollination and keeping pest numbers down.

Mint The strongly scented leaves of mint confuse pests of carrots, tomatoes, alliums and brassicas, and deter flea beetles. But grow it in a pot, or it could smother your crop.



Garlic Chives The garlic chive, is a hardy perennial with white star-shaped flowers. When planted alongside carrots, its strong scent confuses and deters the carrot root fly, which can normally smell carrots from up to a mile away.

Lavender, attracts a range of pollinators, including bees, butterflies and hoverflies. Its strong scent can also deter aphids. Plant with carrots and leeks to confuse pests.



Wormwood, is a strongly scented herb that can deter aphids and flea beetles from attacking neighbouring plants. Its yellow flowers attract hoverflies, lacewings and ladybirds, which prey on aphids.

Marigold, repels whitefly from tomatoes and can lure aphids away from beans. It also attracts beneficial insects, including ladybirds, lacewings and hoverflies, which prey on aphids.



Sage, is strongly scented and will confuse pests of brassicas if planted alongside them. Its blue flowers attract bees and hoverflies, which also pollinate crops.

Borage, is an attractive plant with hairy leaves that have a slight cucumber flavour. Its delicate blue flowers are a magnet for pollinators, such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies, which pollinate crops. If planted nearby, borage can prevent attack from tomato hornworm and is said to improve the flavour of strawberries.



Thyme, makes a good companion plant for roses, as its strong scent deters blackfly. A tea made from soaking thyme leaves and sprayed on cabbages can prevent whitefly.

Nasturtiums When planted with French and runner beans, the nasturtium, acts as a sacrificial crop, luring aphids away from the beans. Its attractive flowers help attract beneficial insects, which prey on aphids.



Fennel, if left to flower, produces attractive yellow blooms that attract hoverflies, which prey on aphids

...more on companion planting next month...

Astronomy Update *from Brian Knights*

I take an interest in photographing events of interest in the night sky and the last two months have been particularly interesting with the Neowise comet and the conjunction of the planets Jupiter and Saturn. I think it likely that most people will have been disappointed if they saw the comet at all. My feeling was that it was fainter than I felt I had been led to expect and it was higher in the northwestern sky than I had expected so that against the evening twilight it proved hard to locate.



The appended photograph was the best image I obtained which was obtained with a 60 second exposure and using the camera's sensitivity boost twice.



The last comet to be easily visible to the naked eye in the northern hemisphere was the Hale-Bopp comet of 1997 and a photograph of it is appended for comparison.

The camera for that was a Pentax 1000 with 1000 ASA film and the photo was taken about 25 miles southeast of Inverness whilst that of Neowise was on one of the rail overbridges at Upton so it can be seen that both comets were circumpolar at the relevant times.

Not the Creative Writing Group as We Know it!

Leonard Chilwell carefully eased his turbo-charged walking frame between the potted geraniums and hydrangeas, and propped it in the shade beneath the fig tree. "Got to treat these lions of the pavement with a certain respect, you know", he commented to Edward (Ted) Harding-Browne, his host for the afternoon. Ted nodded his understanding to his friend of many years.

Mary-Jane, as zestful as ever, playfully tossed her multi-coloured feather boa over one shoulder and launched straight into a vital description of her bridge partner from the night before. He, apparently, thought he was of genius, international, standard, whereas everybody knew he was the sort of fellow who simply talks too much about himself.

Candice was muttering quite fiercely to herself as she extracted one item after another from her voluminous shoulder bag. "Can't find my damned specs. I know I had them at lunchtime – had to put them on to slice a lemon for my G and T. I bet they're still in the kitchen. Never mind, I'll have to feel my way through this afternoon. Could be interesting, don't you think Leonard?" Leonard sighed deeply, he'd heard it all before. He gave himself very good odds that Candice would find her specs within ten minutes, deep in the bowels of her shopping bag. She always played this game.

Lillian and Maxine were deeply engrossed, as always, in a "sotto voce" analysis of the past month's episodes of

"The Archers". BBC Radio 4 was their life-blood, and as far as the goings-on in Ambridge, each lady knew her way blindfolded, from the village shop to the top of Lakey Hill and back again.

"Right then," Ted Harding-Browne cleared his throat and suggested the meeting came to order. "Jessica and Gordon will be here shortly – a snag of some sort with one of their horses, so I suggest we focus on this afternoon's subject – Jan 25th. Diary entry. 1907, found in Great Uncle Simon's diary."

"No, I don't think that's right", Leonard spoke up sharply. "I've had a shot at the conversation between Richard the Lionheart and Saladin. We talked about it last time."

Mary-Jane and Candice both spoke up at exactly the same moment. "No, Ted, you said Great Uncle Simon's Bad Luck was to be the subject." Lillian quietly thought that Great Uncle Simon's Disappearance was the agreed subject.

Ted calmly made the point that all subjects mentioned could be combined into a splendid afternoon's entertainment, and while they discussed their reading order, **he** would make a pot of tea, by which time Jessica and Gordon would have arrived. As he filled the kettle his thoughts were along the lines of "plus ça change"

John Crispin Au

Spot the Celeb



Answers next month

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

HAVE A VIRTUAL-GET-TOGETHER

Even if you're separated from friends, you can still hold a fundraiser.

Macmillan, organisers of the World's Biggest Coffee morning is offering the option to hold a virtual coffee morning or a socially distanced stall on 25th September.

Details at <https://coffee.macmillan.org.uk/>

YESTERDAY

by Wendy Allington

Yesterday, we hustled and bustled and scurried and scampered

No time to smell the roses we pampered

Yesterday, we darted to the dentist and dashed to the vet
Frantically doing errands.....before picking up the pet.

Off to appointments, they filled in all those gaps.....
The hairdresser, the doctors.....then dinner on our laps!

No time for each other, maybe a shallow.....* "luv u,bye"
Certainly no time for the significant "I"

No time for pleasantries.....we're too busy! We must dash!
If only we'd known it would be gone in a flash.....yesterday 😞

Wendy Allington
Retd NHS Reg Nurse

Membership enrolment

Don't forget to re-apply for membership.

If you have mislaid your application form, a replacement is available on

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/s/somerton/docs/membershipenrolmentbw.pdf>

Somerton U3A AGM.

will take place,
online via **Zoom**

on

Friday 25th September
at 10.30 am

To prepare, the following documents will be made available
on our website (link below) very soon.

Agenda 2020

Minutes of 2019 AGM

Chairman's report

Treasurer's report

New Trustee Nominees

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

Deadline for the October edition...20th September

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>