



# UP2DATE



NEWSLETTER June 2022

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As you will see from this edition of “UP2DATE” we are slowly beginning to get back to normal with groups both meeting monthly and going out for visits. We have two new groups both of which are featured in this magazine. And the Strollers group has started again for its spring and summer outings. Some of us have even ventured abroad for a well-earned change of scenery and holiday.

In March we had our last meeting, after a very short stay at Brookdale, and in April had our first meeting at Hazel Grove Methodist Church. For those of you who have not ventured to a main meeting yet, we meet in the church which is in the right-hand side of the picture.



In addition to Margaret Minns, who joined the Committee during 2021, we have two new additions to the Committee, Barbara Marriott and Reynold Higginbotham. Your committee for the next year until March 2023 is as follows:

Joan Davies (Chairman),

Gill Cameron (Treasurer),

Pauline Hadfield (Membership Secretary),

Millie Gillespie (Secretary, Speakers and Room Bookings),

Ken Jones (Web Master)

Alex Drysdale (Hall Management)

And Ruth Faulkner, Margaret Minns, Barbara Marriott and Reynold

Higginbotham. **(BUT WE STILL HAVE ROOM FOR MORE VOLUNTEERS.)**

## Stockport U3A Family History Group Outing to Stockport Heritage Library 8 February 2022

At a recent discussion about what the group wanted to cover in forthcoming meetings it was agreed that a couple of outings would be nice. So, Sheila went on to contact Michelle Hewitt, Senior Librarian Archives and Heritage and arranged for a talk and tour of the Stockport Heritage Library at the Central library. We had to visit in two groups as the space was limited. So, giving my recently acquired bus pass its second outing and armed with my hiking walking stick (the pavements in Stockport are atrocious) I duly set out to join group 2. The talk was given by librarian Jenny Dean.

One of the first exhibits we were shown was a copy of the Breeches Bible, also known as the Geneva Bible, a protestant Bible, New Testament published in 1557 and the complete version in 1560. The name Breeches is believed to be derived from the fig leaf garments woven by Adam and Eve when they discovered they were naked. The Bible was used by Shakespeare, Oliver Cromwell, John Knox, John



Donne and others and was taken to America on the Mayflower by the Pilgrims. A copy of which is kept in the Pilgrim Hall Museum. It was used until after the Civil War. The Bible predated the King James Bible by 51 years. King James felt that this Bible usurped his position as King and ordered a new translation which became known as The King James Bible. The Breeches Bible was banned.

Then we had a tour of the available resources which included archive on microfiche, terminals to access the internet including library versions of



Ancestry and Find My Past, historical documents about major industries in Stockport.



Then a whole host of information about military records and maps that can be perused and copied including the first map of Stockport ever produced. For those who are interested in the BBC television programme a House Through Time we were advised that the library held a full collection of the Trade Directories that are often referred to in that programme. I am hoping, during a further study visit, to discover more about my grandfather's shop.

Finally we were shown the complete family archive of the Bradshaw Isherwood Family who owned Marple Hall. The writer Christopher Isherwood

and his brother were the last generation of this family and as neither wanted to keep the hall it fell into disrepair, was demolished and is the site of Marple Hall School.

There was almost too much to take in. So the next time I decide to have a Family History study day at home I will be making a list of things I would like to find out next and then take my bus pass and walking stick for another outing. One thing I realised is that you don't just have to focus on one person at a time. I shall be listing numerous family members in my study.

On the way back to my bus stop I had to pass a new Boutique which had very attractive things in the window and has created strong temptation for a further unscheduled outing for my buspass and walking stick.



I am indebted to Wikipedia for the additional information about The Breeches Bible) Photos provided by Stockport Heritage Library.

Article by Veronica Bland



**SILVER LINERS (or the Beginners Line Dance Group)**

Line Dancing? What's that? Isn't it all "Yee-Ha", cowboy boots, Stetson hats and thumbs in belts? Well, actually no. It's dancing choreographed routines to a variety of music, not only American Country Music but good tunes from all genres, an enjoyable way to keep your body and brain functioning in a healthy way, to meet up and make new friends and just have a laugh. There is no need to dress like a cowboy or a saloon girl (unless you feel you have to), you just wear what is comfortable and, there is definitely no "Yee-Ha" (unless you really can't help yourself).

The U3A Line Dance group first met in January. Along came absolute beginners, some with experience and others who had done it before but not for a while. We didn't know how many would turn up, although we were at least confident we could make up a line, but we were really chuffed by the numbers who arrived ready to join in.

To date (March) they have eight dances "under their belts" (note no thumbs) and we will be adding to their repertoire, week by week. It makes us proud to see the group mastering something new. Every session we revise the dances learnt because, of course, everyone has "slept several times since the last lesson"! And there is always that question of "how did it start?"



Just like learning a new language, to drive a car or ride a bike, it feels daunting at first but as each dance routine is walked through, the steps like grapevines, jazz boxes, struts become more familiar and it's a great feeling to be able to master and enjoy the dance, along with the group.

Each routine consists of a number of "walls", we have one wall, two wall, four wall, hence the dance is turning. What we say to our beginners is, if in doubt, make sure you can see someone's feet to follow and try to be in the middle of the group. You don't want to be on the back row or at the end of a row, because when the dance turns, the back or the side could then be the front and everyone may be watching your feet! Yikes!

However, going wrong is not just a problem for the learner, it is the same for the more experienced dancer and can also happen to the instructor too. Surely, not you, Les? We all know, you only go wrong on purpose, to see who's listening, but nobody's perfect..... it's called "being human". It really is all part of the fun of line dancing. We have asked everyone to give some thought to a name for our line dance group, they have already come up with some interesting suggestions. Watch this space for the result. See below

Linda and Les Scholes

( **STOP PRESS : THE SILVER LINERS** )





## RUMMIKUB

Rummikub is a tile-based game for 2 to 4 players, combining elements of the card game rummy and the tile game mah-jong. The game is very easy to play. We have members who play regularly and some who have just learnt the game. We try to put an experienced player on each table who are more than happy to coach as we play so don't be afraid to come along even if you have never played before.



We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 1.50pm ready to play at 2pm and we play until 4pm. We meet at Offerton Community Centre, Mallowdale Rd, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5NX.



The community centre has a café in the same room, so some members arrive approx. 12.30pm and enjoy lunch together before playing. We have access to the kitchen to make a hot drink during the afternoon.

**Please come along and give it a try.**

Group Leader Article and Photos

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**[www.u3asites.org.uk/stockport](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/stockport)**

Don't forget you can always check out activities and keep up to date if you use our website.





## MADEIRA MARCH 2022

As you probably know Joan (Davies) and myself both lost our husbands tragically to Alzheimer's. I have known Joan for many years but after Len and Michael passed away, we became more than "passing ships" we became

friends. Joan had visited her time share in Madeira at the beginning of Covid-March 2020 not really enjoying being there on her own- so -myself – not shy at coming forward- I offered to accompany her next time and she agreed I could due to certain conditions I asked about. "I'm not coming if I have to share a double bed with you". Joan horrified "Good Grief – not a chance" or words to that effect! The time share has two bedrooms, so all systems go, and flight tickets booked for 2022.

Eventually "D" Day arrived, after many consultations what we would take to wear etc. as if we were a couple of London Fashion Week Divas. Poor Joan had injured her back the previous week- line dancing- so I suggested she have assistance at the airport. This was duly booked and Joan, in pain, was deposited in the wheelchair waiting area after we had checked in. We waited a while and realised no staff to push so I took charge of her "chariot". Smooth ride and easy to push and quite a bonus as we were directed to the Special Security line. We bypassed a huge line which we later found out took two hours to clear.

We went on our way peacefully arriving on the prettiest island I have ever seen. Joan's beautiful apartment overlooked the bright blue sea and made out winter blues fade away. Unpacked, ready for a week of sun, good food, great company but no frolics. Think we're past that- or were we !?

Our first day was spent at a traditional, still working fishing village, where the men are at sea twelve days at a time bringing in their catches of many varieties of fish. We had decided to take the bus to the village. The aisle of the bus was so narrow we were practically sitting on the passenger's knees as we made our way up the crowded bus to find a seat. We decided some of the Portuguese bus drivers did not seem to have "safely" or "Drive slowly" in their vocabulary. After a twenty-minute hair raising drive we arrived at the

village glad to be alive and hoping that the journey back would be slower so that we could actually enjoy the scenery. The many fish restaurants in Madeira have wonderful choices of local fish which are very hard to choose from. No one anywhere could get tastier, fresher fish, I'm sure. This day was like stepping back in time, old fisherman's cottages with a beautiful old village church. The village littered with small restaurants and gift shops now but of no detriment to the warm feel of the village people. The day was enjoyable, and we decided to go into Funchal the following morning early so we could visit the fish market to watch the fishermen sell and barter prices with the locals, restaurateurs and commercial buyers shouting for the best, cheapest buy. Of course, we were late so did not get the full effect of what happens on a daily basis., but the sights, the smells and workings were fascinating. Everything from the smallest sardine to the largest tuna fish I have ever seen- and I thought tuna came in tins. The rest of Funchal market was filled with flowers, vegetables- some of them unknown to us- hundreds of chillies hanging from hooks., cork handbags, sweets etc. It was special to wander around, wishing we had room in our cases to buy and take home.



Our next adventure was afternoon tea at the famous Reids Hotel. This time we were dressed as London Fashion Divas presenting ourselves to the very handsome concierge in Reception. Shining glass, brass fittings, chandeliers, thick carpets. We were directed to the large velvet sofas where others were patiently waiting. The atmosphere was hushed, quiet and serene. Both Joan and I felt a clinic doctor would appear and through for a procedure of some kind. Fortunately, this did not happen and at last we were taken to a bright terrace overlooking Funchal harbour, blue seas and skies. Our table was in a prime position, of course, so we settled down to an afternoon of delight. The

pristine white tablecloths, silver cutlery, beautiful chinaware all added to a very exceptional experience. Our ladylike attitude dropped a little when we realised later, we had demolished ten finger sandwiches, two scones with butter, jam and cream, and eight cakes. Not a crumb was left with tea and coffee by the bucket full. Stockport afternoon teas were just not like this. A special day we shall remember for many years to come.

One of our last days was spent with two friends of mine who live on the island. We visited their home eating lunch at their local café in Garajau, a small village to the east of Funchal. Their apartment overlooked the sea, we were welcomed by three cats. Mia apologised for her bidet being wrapped in clingfilm, one of the cats had learnt to spend a penny there but now used the toilet. Quite bizarre we thought but true. In Garajau there is a huge statue of Jesus. Mia and her daughter Lua explaining that it faced the other large Jesus statues in Rio, Lisbon, Macau etc. The Christ statue here in Garajau had a hole in his head where lightening had struck and there were barriers surrounding the huge monument.

After lots of food, walks, shopping, discussions, our day for returning to sunny Stockport loomed. We were due to fly out on Monday but on Sunday Joan received a vital message from Jet 2 about our flight. Bad weather was forecast, the cross winds across the airport made flights dangerous to land or take off. Sunday night brought the winds, rain, lightening, even snow on the hills. Hotel loungers blown into the pools. The sun well and truly gone. Our instructions were to carry on as usual and carry on to the airport as if the flight were going. There we were told the storms were delaying our flight for two days. Back on the coach for the hotel Jet 2 had arranged for all passengers not just the Manchester flight. Joan and I were given instructions we would stay in the Aldo Lido Hotel, just across the road from the place we had travelled four hours previously. This hotel was new with beautiful interior designs, entertainment, and excellent staff. The downside was we had to share a twin room. Both of us were a bit apprehensive but as it turned out our two nights spent together turned into something like a girl's dormitory at a boarding school. Chatting until 3am and drinking tea and coffee with our biscuits. The bonus of spending two more days in Madeira was that Jet 2 paid the hotel bill and we were full board also. Brilliant two

days, free hotel, free food, swimming pool entertainment, lovely people, and most of all the SUN. The storm had passed on Monday, so all was well with the world. On the last evening we joined a huge group of people with a band entertainment. A really good evening to end the holiday on.

Wednesday evening, we were taken to the airport where there was three days of backlogged flights with other airlines. The whole place was so crowded you couldn't see the floor for feet and luggage. Our "golden girl" arrived for Joan with a wheelchair and bypassing the crowds like an Olympic Athlete saw us through the baggage checks and deposited us at our departure Gate in a café. Another freak storm delayed the flight for a short while, but we finally arrived home early Thursday morning.

We were very tired, but both had had a wonderful time, enjoying each other's company like two schoolgirls making many memories but not counting how many custard tarts we had eaten. Personally, one of the best holidays I have had and so grateful to Joan to let me share her time, holiday, and experiences. She is a true friend.



Barbara Marriott

Photos. Joan and Google



## NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the thirty-three people who have become members since the last issue.



Gail Barry  
Derek Brown  
Anna Buchanan  
Howard Burton  
Fiona Clear  
Paul Clear  
Rosie Devine  
Margaret Evans  
Roy Evans  
Janet Huddy  
Lynn Lush  
Trevor Lush  
Linda Mains  
Linda Mair  
Linda McDowell  
Glenda Miller  
Pat Malloy

Diana Moore  
Margery Morgan  
Helen Nightingale  
Mary Pennington  
Alan Radcliffe  
Sylvia Roberts  
Martin Sadler  
Jackie Sanderson  
Dorothy Shaw  
Frances Wacker  
Susan Walker  
Anthony Wareham  
Kathleen Wareham  
Geoff Watkins  
Susan Watkins  
Joan Willans

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Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this magazine, as usual the variety of articles makes it a pleasure to put the magazine together. Deadline for the next issue is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022 to the below addresses.

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## ADLINGTON HALL

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May, thirty four members of the u3a visited Adlington Hall for a self drive visit History visit. This had been organised by Isabella Collinson and had been postponed for two years as we all coped with Covid.

We met near the black and white aspect of the hall, having all successfully negotiated the long diversion from Macclesfield Road. As we waited we discovered that despite the Hall being near to Stockport very few of us had visited before and those who had had done so a long time ago. The Hall opens on a very limited basis usually only Sundays in the summer but as we were about to find out well worth a visit.

We were divided into two groups with two excellent guides who, in addition



to telling us a great deal of facts about the hall, skillfully negotiated the plan which had been drawn up that morning to ensure that the two groups were never in the same place at the same time.

The Hall covers a a great span of time and architectural styles, including Elizabethan and Georgian. The tour led us upstairs, around the living quarters, down into the quadrangle and finally into the Great Hall . Here the two oaks,



around which the original hunting lodge was built, are still in existence. The great organ, dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, was played in his time by Handel.

What impressed many of us about the tour was the number of chairs provided at each of the stopping places. Isabella had mentioned when she booked the tour that many of us struggle with our

mobility so that advantage had been taken of the fact that Adlington Hall is also a wedding venue. The chairs provided for us were gold with red upholstery. With many of us sitting down, we all had a better view of the objects being described by the guides.

The tour finished with a visit to the tiny chapel which is still in use today. The corridor to this chapel had a display describing the use of the hall as a maternity hospital during World War II for patients from St. Mary's Hospital in Manchester. We then enjoyed scones, jam and cream, (which goes first the jam or the cream?) and as much tea or coffee as we wanted. We were all given the guidebook to the Hall. The gardens were also ours to investigate until the gates were closed at 5 o'clock. Some people made the trip down to the bluebell woods and commented on the beautiful smell of the flowers. Others made their way through the more formal gardens to the maze which was



planted in 1996, This has a unicorn in the center, the unicorn being a symbol of the Leighs.

Altogether a very enjoyable afternoon out.

Ruth Faulkner Vivian Bath /Google





## STROLLERS



The second outing of the Strollers this year. Twelve members attended and enjoyed a pleasant walk around Brabyns Park followed by coffee/lunch and chatter at Etherow Park Lakeside Café. Check website for next stroll.

Jayne Whittaker      Margaret Minns