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U3A RADIO

The u3a Radio Podcast is broadcast on 17th of each month but you can view them all via u3a's [YouTube channel](#).

Episode 6 is about 'WW2, Pharoahs and Swaps'.

If you have a story to share, you can email it to: communications@u3a.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP

Subscription renewals are due on 31st March and letters were sent recently to anyone who paid for last year, during which we were unable to provide any activities.

Considering that lockdown restrictions have prevented meetings to date, it is very encouraging that 160 members have already renewed and more have promised their continued support.

Previous members who didn't pay last year can continue their membership by downloading a form from our website. Alternatively, forms can be obtained from Membership Secretary Alan Stevenson who can be contacted on 01782 395760. The fee will be the usual £10.

We would be very grateful if you could pass news to friends and relatives that they can still join even if they haven't had a letter.

The 2021/22 U3A year looks much brighter and we are optimistic about restarting some groups in the near future.

Thank you once again for being so patient during the past year – we should have some positive news soon!

MEETINGS, ETC.

Still no meetings yet, but at last there is some good news with the Government roadmap giving an idea of when we can restart some U3A activities, providing that the covid rates reduce or remain stable.

A maximum of six people or two households can now meet outdoors, and outdoor sport is allowed providing risk assessments are completed and the guidance of the specific sport's National Governing Body is followed. We can now consider groups such as walking, bowls and garden and nature.

From 12th April, non-essential shops, libraries, museums, etc. are allowed to open. We can finally visit the hairdresser or have a drink at the local pub if it has outdoor seating. Up to six people or two families will be allowed to meet in a private garden.

Dining with table service is permitted in pubs and restaurants from 17th May, providing you comply with the rule of six. On this date the limit on numbers meeting outdoors will be removed. Small indoor interest groups may be able to resume, providing that a suitable venue is available and risk assessments have been carried out.

Some indoor sports and entertainment venues may be open by then and from 21st June removal of all social contact restrictions should allow us to return to some form of normality.

Fingers crossed that there are no more hiccups along the way, so that we can look forward to meeting up at last!

A FEW HISTORICAL EVENTS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN FEBRUARY

(Listed by the date of occurrence during the month rather than in strict chronological order)

MAR	YEAR	EVENT
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1	589	St David died on 1 March 589 AD at Minevia (St. David's), and was allegedly over 100 years old. His remains were buried in a shrine in the 6th century cathedral which was ransacked in the 11th century by Viking invaders. St. David's Day and the national day of Wales has been celebrated since the 12th Century.
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St. David was a priest credited with performing several miracles. It is said that during battle against the Saxons, he advised soldiers to wear leeks in their hats to distinguish them from their enemies. This is why the leek is an emblem of Wales.

He became a missionary, travelling throughout Britain and even to Jerusalem, where he was consecrated as bishop. He founded 12 monasteries during his life, including Glastonbury and Minevia and was named Archbishop of Wales at the Synod of Brevi in Cardiganshire in 550.

4	1681	King Charles II granted a Royal Charter to William Penn, a Quaker, allowing him to establish a colony in North America. This was first known as Sylvania but King Charles changed the name to Pennsylvania in honour of William's father, Admiral Sir William Penn. The King owed money to the Penn family and the land was granted to settle the debt.
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Penn's ship the "Welcome" set out from Deal on 31st August 1682 and took 57 days to reach America.

7	1875	The first telephone was patented by Alexander Graham Bell, who was born in Edinburgh but had moved to America. His experiments were based on earlier work carried out by other inventors in relation to sound transmission. He applied for a patent for his invention and three days later the first telephone call was made, covering a distance of around six miles.
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19	1834	At a time when village life was becoming ever more difficult due to pay cuts, etc. six farm labourers from Tolpuddle in Dorset were sentenced to seven years transportation to Australia for 'swearing an oath of secrecy' for their part in forming a trade union (the Friendly Society of Agricultural Labourers).
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They became known as the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs' and were eventually pardoned in 1836 after successful mass protests by sympathisers and support from Lord John Russell led to them being returned to England between 1837 and 1839.

MAR YEAR EVENT

- 23 1956 Queen Elizabeth II laid the foundation stone for a new cathedral in Coventry. The new building was being erected next to the remains of the 14th-century cathedral destroyed by the German Luftwaffe in 1940.
- 23 2020 The start of lockdown in the UK due to the Covid-19 pandemic with restrictions expected to last for at least one month but still continuing over a year later! The first anniversary marked National Day of Reflection.
- 24 1944 The Great Escape - Squadron Leader Roger Bushell, whose Spitfire had been shot down over Calais devised a plan to escape from the German prisoner of war camp Stalag Luft III. It involved digging three tunnels – ‘Tom’, ‘Dick’ and ‘Harry’ – with the idea that the Germans would not discover all three.
- Tunnels ‘Tom’ and ‘Dick’ were unsuccessful but 76 men managed to crawl to freedom from ‘Harry’. However, deep snow prevented the escape of all but three of them. Sadly 50 were executed, including Roger Bushell, but the daring plan has since been immortalised in the much-loved 1963 film.
- 27 1871 England and Scotland played their first rugby international in Edinburgh and Scotland were the winners.
- 29 1461 King Henry VI’s Lancastrian army was defeated by the Yorkists, led by Edward IV at Towton in Yorkshire. It is estimated that over 28,000 people were killed in the battle.
- Henry had transferred the right of succession to the English throne to Richard, Duke of York and his heirs, but Henry’s strong-willed wife Queen Margaret was not prepared to accept an arrangement which deprived her son of his birthright.
- Following the death of his father, 18 year old Edward IV marched his followers into battle to depose Henry through force.
- 31 1889 The Eiffel Tower was built by Gustave Eiffel as a centrepiece for the French Exposition in Paris. It was opened to the French Government and press despite not being finished. The lifts were not working, so the official party had to use the stairs, with many giving up and remaining on the lower levels. A few made it to the top, where Eiffel hoisted a huge French flag, and the occasion was celebrated with fireworks and a 21-gun salute.
- The tower was an instant hit, illuminated each night by gas lamps, and dominated the Exposition and Paris itself. When the public were finally allowed in, the lifts were still not working. Yet despite that, in the first week alone, almost 30,000 people climbed to the top – a sign of how completely it had caught the world’s imagination.

MARCH QUIZ (Answers next month)

1. What is the largest island in the Mediterranean?
2. What is the capital city of Australia?
3. Which USA state capital shares its name with a mythical bird?
4. Can you name two of the Presidents carved into Mount Rushmore.
5. What sort of geographical feature is Wookey Hole famous for?
6. What British river is longer than the Thames?
7. Which capital city is served by airports with codes ORY and CDG?
8. How many strings has a Ukulele?
9. Which planet is called both the morning and evening star?
10. Which of the seven dwarfs has the longest name?
11. What was Al Capone arrested for?
12. Which snooker player was also known as the Hurricane?
13. What was dart player Phil Taylor's nickname?
14. Which sea creature has three hearts?
15. Whose face is said to have launched 1000 ships?
16. Name the child star famous for frilly dresses & ringlets who made her film debut aged 3.
17. Which British woman played an important role in the Crimean War and was awarded the Order of Merit in 1907?
18. What has a cake and table named after it and is used globally?
19. How many bones does an adult human have? A. 62 B. 206 C.602
20. 'I'm never gonna dance again, Guilty feet have got no rhythm' – name the song & artist.
21. 'No New Year's Day to celebrate, No chocolate covered candy hearts to give away' - name the song & artist.
22. 'Living easy, living free, season ticket on a one-way ride.' - name the song & artist.
23. Who did Sports Illustrated and the BBC declare Sportsman of the Century in 1999?
24. How many of Henry VIII's wives were called Anne?
25. The Velocipede was a nineteenth-century prototype of what transport?

Answers to the February Quiz:

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| 1. Mary Berry | 2. Bloody Mary | 3. Mary Poppins | 4. Mary Ann Evans |
| 5. Mary Wilson | 6. Mary Decker | 7. Mary Quant | 8. Mary Wells |
| 9. Mary Pickford | 10. Mary Jane Watson | 11. Mary Shelley | 12. Mary Robinson |
| 13. Mary Pierce | 14. Mary Norton | 15. Mary Hopkin | 16. Mary of Tec |
| 17. Mary O'Brian | 18. Mary Wilson | 19. Mary I | 20. Mary Tyler Moore |

We hope you enjoy the following article which has been submitted by Beverley Maher. It is very interesting and informative. Thanks Bev!

THE DOCTOR, THE DAIRYMAID, A BOY AND BUTTERCUP THE COW!

William Osler, a 19th century Canadian physician, who was considered 'the father of medicine' said, 'The three greatest enemies of mankind are fever (disease), famine and war, the most terrible by far being fever'.

Nowadays, we take good health care for granted. Preventive measures such as screenings and advice from caring professionals are offered and referrals are made for investigations and treatment.

In the long and distant past, little was known about disease. When someone developed an illness it was thought that it was because they had been 'bad' and were getting their punishment! Other thoughts were: an imbalance in their body fluids such as blood or bile (not so far out in some cases) or that it was due to 'foul air'. In view of the environmental conditions, the latter would have been pretty accurate, as well!

Records show that if an individual managed to survive childhood, life expectancy would be 20 to 40 years, death usually being caused by viral or bacterial infection. Remember, no Penicillin until 1928!

In the 1700's, Edward Jenner (ring any bells?) was a country doctor living and working in Berkeley, Gloucestershire.

This was a time when Smallpox was a worldwide disease, killing hundreds of thousands of people every year throughout Europe alone. Unlike the Great Plague of London (1665) which was considered a disease of the 'common people' caused by dirt, poverty, over-crowding and poor sanitation, smallpox affected everyone - the affluent as well as the poor, royalty and commoners alike.

For those who could afford, there was a treatment option available. It was known as 'variolaion' which was to become the forerunner to vaccination.

Records as early as the 1500's describe how a Chinese emperor, K'ang Hsi, having survived smallpox himself had his children variolated. This was done by grinding up dried smallpox scabs and blowing them up the child's nostril! (right side for the boy, left for the girl!). This would then hopefully cause a mild reaction and immunity.

Another method of variolation used at this time, outside of China, involved making a small scratch, or incision in the skin and rubbing in some of the smallpox 'matter'.

This was also referred to as 'inoculation' - a term we still use today.

BACK TO THE STORY!

This procedure, variolation, was being carried out by many practitioners, including Dr Jenner, but living in the country surrounded by farms gave the doctor other ideas.

It seemed to be fairly common knowledge locally that dairymaids seemed to escape the dreaded smallpox. Jenner picked up on this.

He had a gardener named Mr Phipps. Both Mr and Mrs Phipps must have had a really good relationship with the doc (either that or he handed them a hefty lump of cash!) because they agreed to let him use their 8 year old son James, as his guinea pig! But you didn't mention a guinea pig, I hear you cry, only a cow! Quite right! And where does the dairymaid come into this?

Well! Buttercup infected Sarah Nelmes, the dairymaid, with cowpox, a relatively minor and common disease of the time. Dr Jenner then took pus from Sarah's lesions and inoculated it into James's arm. James suffered a mild illness but made a good recovery. Some weeks later he was inoculated with smallpox matter but had very little reaction at all and did not suffer from smallpox.

Although this was a major breakthrough in preventative medicine, Jenner faced much opposition and had to work hard at getting his work recognised and accepted. Eventually, in 1807 he was honoured for his work.

I'm sure Jenner would be absolutely thrilled to know that by 1979 smallpox was totally eradicated!

The procedure for the introduction of material under the skin to produce protection against disease became universally known as 'vaccination' (derived from the Latin word for 'cow' which is 'vacca').

We've moved a long way since then, haven't we? These days we have an extensive vaccination programme which is growing year by year.

Without the introduction of vaccines, along with antibiotics, other medicines and healthcare services, what would our quality of life be like, assuming of course, we were alive at all?

References: The End of Plagues – J. Rhodes
Diseases of Poverty – L. Adams & J. Butterly

LOCAL HISTORY

The last edition of 'Great Canal Journeys' on More 4 offered the chance to see Cheddleton Flint Mill and the inside of Clarice Cliff and Colley Shorter's home in Clayton. If you missed the programme, it is available on the More 4 website at the address below but you will need to register or sign in to watch:

<https://www.channel4.com/programmes/great-canal-journeys/on-demand/70569-003>

Stoke's London Road Bakehouse, which closed on 27th March, was 140 years old and still had the antique coal-fired oven built by Alfred Hunt. The shop had been very popular with locals and had even been visited in 2010 by Hairy Bikers Dave Myers and Si King. There have been articles in The Sentinel recently and you can find these and photos on their website at [Famous bakery visited by The Hairy Bikers to close after 140 years - Stoke-on-Trent Live \(stokesentinel.co.uk\)](https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/former-minton-tileworks-building-up-5152381)

Also reported in the Sentinel recently was news that the former Minton Hollins tile factory in Shelton Old Road, Stoke is for sale:

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/news/stoke-on-trent-news/former-minton-tileworks-building-up-5152381>

A LITTLE LIGHT HUMOUR

Four worms were placed in four separate test tubes:

1st in beer
2nd in wine
3rd in whiskey
4th in mineral water

The next day, the teacher shows the results:

The 1st worm in beer, dead.
The 2nd in wine, dead.
The 3rd in whiskey, dead.
The 4th in mineral water, alive and healthy.

The teacher asks the class:
- What do we learn from this experience?

And a child responds:
- Whoever drinks beer, wine and whiskey,
does not have worms.



Esther Rantzen asks if this lady can tell the difference between whisky and brandy

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pq_uTgCIKf8

The Interesting Military Career of Sir Michael Caine (just be warned there is some bad language in this video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AkvQZSpl6lo>

Two more interesting videos to pass the time:

Sacla' Stage a Surprise Opera in a School Lunch Hall

https://www.youtube.com/embed/JNgCM7zp30M?version=3&start=1&end=198&autoplay=1&hl=en_US&rel=0

A NEW DAY – Beautiful video by Ernesto Cortazar

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/SN5c-m45fxs>

SCAMS

The National Office have advised us that one scam takes the form of a phone call from someone purporting to be the Fraud Department of your bank, saying they have noticed suspicious transactions on the account. They may have authentic sounding details, names of Trustees etc, that make it sound genuine. The upshot is they are trying to get you to transfer the balance to another account to avoid further fraudulent transactions. **Please be aware that this is a scam and your bank will never ask you to do this.**

This is just one form of a number of current scams and you are advised to be extra vigilant at this time. If you are unsure, end the call and if you're still uncertain, call your bank later using a number you know to be genuine. To be extra careful you could ring from a different landline or mobile than the one which received the suspicious call.

Digital skills for life... free course starting soon from Stoke-on-Trent College

Have you ever wondered how to stay safe online? Or perhaps you want to know how to get more out of online shopping and browsing the internet?

Then Stoke-on-Trent College's FREE, brand new 3 week course is for you!

The course will be delivered online and run on Wednesdays from 10am – 2pm. The first session starts on Wednesday 14 April.

So why not join our friendly course and learn how to get the most out of the internet.

Places are limited so book early to avoid disappointment by calling 01782 227650.

NUISANCE MOTORBIKING

Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire Police have launched a campaign called Operation Transom to catch culprits, who annoy residents by spoiling public green spaces, and support communities. A dedicated hotline and email address have been set up by the council to encourage people affected by nuisance bikes to report those involved and where the bikes are stored. The phone number and email address for intelligence gathering are: OperationTransom@stoke.gov.uk, 01782 233400. Live incidents of nuisance motorbiking can be reported to Police on 101 or by email to: www.staffordshire.police.uk/ro/report.

Please try to stay in touch with fellow members. Even a phone call can lift the spirits of someone who is feeling isolated. If any of your friends don't have access to the internet, it would be very helpful if you could let them have sight of this newsletter.

You can still sign up on the national website at <https://u3asites.org.uk> to receive the National Monthly Newsletter by email and it's worth a look.

Items for publication in the next newsletter will need to reach Fay Howell by Friday, 23rd April, 2021. Tel: 01782 658659 or email: hfhowell@live.co.uk.