



Newsletter

Wandsworth



I've got a new job collecting all the jumpers left in the park at the weekends. But it's not easy.

They keep moving the goalposts.

Pumpkin Parade is squashed but surely we can still have our Christmas Pudding, mince tarts and crackers?

Another victim of the virus! – Friends of Tooting Bec Common will not be able to run their usual **Pumpkin Parade** on the Common this year. Like so many other events, it will though go virtual. The online Pumpkin Parade will take place at the end of October, with an invitation for people to email photos of their artistic carvings. More information to come on this event.

No wonder we look so grumpy! No holiday (though some did sneak one in), no cinema blockbusters, no large-scale weddings or funerals, so will Christmas be the next to take a fall? Not to judge by the number of Christmas charity catalogues I have already received nor by the prominence of the John Lewis Christmas Shop I saw in Kingston last week.



IN THIS ISSUE

- **Virus on our Parade**
- **Monthly Meet**
- **Had your job?**
- **Group News**
- **Competition result**
- **Tooting Black History Trail**



Likewise we shouldn't let Halloween slip away – there's plenty to get your grandchildren excited about. You can still carve that pumpkin and leave it outside (– but don't forget the risk assessment!). Or the pumpkin could stay indoors along with some lights (candles, a bit dodgy) and scary skeletons and witches. And then there is all that cobwebby stuff to adorn your hedge. Trick or treat is probably out and remember: no cold-calling!

NEWSLETTER TEAM

Don Brind and Peter Martin are keen to hear from you.

Please email us at

u3anews@wandsworth.com

PM: 020 8672 8150
DB: 020 8673 1116

WANDSWORTH U3A MONTHLY MEETING

Lesley Alabaf will be speaking about the Langdon Down Museum of Learning Disability (in Teddington) at 2 pm on Monday 19 October



HAVE YOU GOTTEN YOUR FLU VACCINE?
GET VACCINATED NOW!
IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

Group News: Bird and Wildlife

This month's meeting will take place on Tuesday 20 October: as usual we will be in the courtyard at 11am at the Wetlands Centre, Barnes. You will need to book your place on the Wetlands website for the day. Binoculars are not essential but are extremely useful.

Be Covid safe. Please make sure you have your face mask with you as they are needed inside and also in the hides. We will make sure that we split into Covid-safe groups if numbers exceed Six.

Maggie Jones/Sue Leigh

We have a winner!

Well done, Barbara Dinham for spotting the two deliberate typographical errors in our last edition:

- **Zoom Pro license** - should be **'licence'**: here it's a noun, not a verb (unless you're writing for Americans) *and*

- **it's** should be **its** as in the Black Jacobins and its leader Toussaint L'Ouverture. A very common greengrocer's apostrophe! (it's = it is).



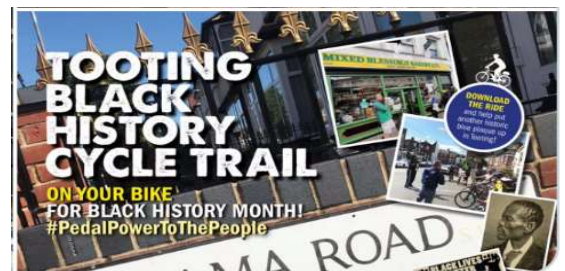
TOOTING BLACK HISTORY CYCLE TRAIL

Get on your bike was once a rather callous suggestion to jobless people to go out and find work. It has now been adapted to more progressive terms. Hence the TOOTING BLACK HISTORY CYCLE TRAIL, whose organisers have produced an extraordinary document covering 24 sites around the area, backed up with a wealth of interesting historical detail.

Under the hashtag #PedalPowerToThePeople they say the trail "was inspired by the events of this summer when the Black Lives Matter movement caused many of us to reassess our approach to communicating history. Wandsworth BLM led the way with a series of extraordinary, educational and informative gatherings on Tooting Common, attended by thousands of people. As statues came down around the country, we looked at the big houses, the expansive gardens and the generous benefactors in a new light. It explains a little bit about how we are as a country today. No one wants to change history but eyes are opening, minds are expanding, and things will not be the same again."

Even if you are not a cyclist this is definitely worth downloading to inform you about the history of your neighbourhood. You could walk it – a chunk at a time if needs be. Check it out:

<https://summerstown182.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/tooting-black-history-cycle-trail.pdf>



NO. 20

on the trail

Daphne Steel was a Guyanese nurse who started work in the UK at St James's Hospital and went on to become the first black Matron in the NHS. St James's Hospital lives on, in spirit only, in the St James's Wing of St George's Hospital – where you will find Marlene, a Head of Nursing, dressed in the colours of the Jamaican flag as part of the hospital's celebrations of Black History Month.

