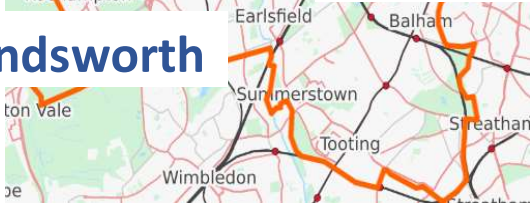


## Newsletter

## Wandsworth



**WANDSWORTH U3A MONTHLY MEETING**  
**MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2pm**  
**Bob Gilbert (see back page) speaks on**  
**TREES**  
**ZOOM details to follow separately**



Did Rudolph go to school?

No, he was elf-taught!

Why was the turkey in a band?

He was the only one with drumsticks.

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## The Vaccine – our Anne gets a double dose

“Before Christmas I received a call from my doctor asking if I was willing to receive the Covid vaccine. I agreed! I was given an appointment at another local surgery in mid-December and also the time and date of the second appointment, three weeks later. On the due date I was greeted outside under a gazebo with a heater and seats for those waiting. My name and appointment time were checked and I was invited inside the surgery at the due time. I had to verify my name, date of birth, and answer questions on my medical health and allergies; then went to one of the doctors administering the vaccine. He entered on a card the type of vaccine given, the Batch Number and the date. Then we each had to wait 15 minutes in another room, socially distanced, in case there was a reaction.



I don't intend to go out of my way to test whether the vaccine is 74%, 94% or 100% effective!

Then a setback with the announcement of the plan to introduce a 12-week delay before the second vaccine. But the day of my second appointment arrived and it was honoured. On the card I had been given previously was entered the type of vaccine (the same as the first), the Batch Number, and the date. I was told to keep this card safe as it would be my passport! So, I have now had the full dose – but I don't intend to go out of my way to find out whether it's 74%, 94% or 100% effective!”

**But in the meantime, things are getting worse rather than better and St George's Hospital Charity has re-launched its Covid Appeal.**



With your support we will continue to provide our amazing staff with Wellbeing Boxes on a weekly basis; we will also fund additional iPads for patients so they can stay in contact with their loved ones; we will also provide fresh fruit to staff – and so much more.

<https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/StGeorgesCovidAppeal>

### NEWSLETTER TEAM

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

Please email us at

[u3anews@u3a.org.uk](mailto:u3anews@u3a.org.uk)

PM: 020 8672 8150  
 DB: 020 8673 1116

## The virus breeds isolation; u3a can help

In a small way the **u3a** helps counter the isolation of lockdown, and this newsletter delivers our continued activities and companionship into many members' homes. But do you know of a friend or neighbour who no longer reads the newsletter because they have no email or have lost touch with us? Please let us know: [u3anewswands@gmail.com](mailto:u3anewswands@gmail.com)

## An Invitation from Kew Gardens

"Travelling Plants" invites volunteers from the **u3a** to take part in a collaborative project to transcribe, research and encode the first of Kew Gardens' *Register Books*. You will work with staff from Kew Gardens and the University of Roehampton to create a digital edition of a key source for the history of botany in Britain. We welcome volunteers with interests in botany, gardening, history, exploration, computer coding and/or editing, but we don't require any particular expertise - just a desire and willingness to learn along with us. For more information, email us at [TravellingPlants@kew.org](mailto:TravellingPlants@kew.org)



## Schools appeal for tech

Marcus Rashford is chief school dinners monitor, but kids also need food for thought. Laptop poverty makes home learning a tad difficult, so schools in Tooting are looking for over 100 devices to support remote learning – perhaps you have a device you no longer need or use? If you do, please email [info@nazlegacy.org](mailto:info@nazlegacy.org)

## THIS MONTH'S STAR SPEAKER



BOB GILBERT

"It is one of the best talks I have heard, he is a well-known comedian and knows how to keep his audience enthralled." Praise indeed – as our speaker knows what he is talking about. The Guardian tells us: "it seems an exercise in perversity to celebrate the greenery of Poplar, one of the most concrete-dominated patches of Britain, but Bob Gilbert, a former stand-up comedian who is now the husband of the parish vicar, has turned his daily communion with the unexpected species that find a niche in a city's cracks into a book, *Ghost Trees*."

## A Present is for Life, not just for Christmas

Christmas is without doubt a wasteful time of year, Wandsworth Council tells us. Some startling facts about the waste involved provide lessons for us for the rest of the year. One billion Christmas cards will end up in bins across the UK, the equivalent of 33 million trees - trees we cannot afford to lose. Consumers in the UK will use 227,000 miles of wrapping paper – over 83km<sup>2</sup> of this will end up in waste paper baskets. Anything we buy, even though we can't see it, has some sort of environmental cost. Last year, British consumers spent £1bn on unwanted gifts, with 70% of people admitting they received a gift they were unlikely ever to use.

270,000 tonnes of food is wasted in the UK each Christmas - mainly due to our overestimating how much we can cram into our stomachs. Cutting back on overly packaged gifts is a beneficial step or even try for a zero-waste Christmas gift. (In our household my wife used newspaper to wrap my presents – at least it was The Guardian, no rubbish.) We need to do all we can to reduce our carbon emissions; we shouldn't allow the crisis that is Covid-19 to put the climate crisis aside. Whether Christmas or birthday, we don't have to shower our loved ones with presents (and wrapping paper). **It's the thought that counts, after all, isn't it?**

## Once it's safe to venture out ....

The Northern Line Extension passed a major milestone at Christmas after test passenger trains successfully completed the journey through the new tunnels from Kennington to Battersea Power Station. The Northern line passenger trains entered the new 3.2km-long tunnels.

