

Group News Update No 2 September 11th 2020

Hello Everyone.



Why the long face? Because there hasn't been very much gnoos coming in from the groups so far. But we do want to encourage you all to let us know about your experiences and thoughts on U3A under lockdown.

The next issue of GNU will be the day after the next Committee meeting, which takes place on Thursday October 8th.

[And who *is* this woman who is trying to make me look like a cross between an alpaca and a giant anteater? - Gnasher]

We do have, among other things, 'Zoom for the Terrified', tips on pursuing your thirst for all things historical, ukulele news, a call for leaders of short walks, and memories of West Bridgford in the good old days.

On the end page there is an item about a House of Lords Select Committee questionnaire which members might be interested in completing. This needs to be done by **next Tuesday** 15th September.

Pam and Gnasher (*)



'I hate these primary school face masks. I've brought home the wrong child again'

(*) Quiz question for Issue 2:

Why did I originally call my pet gnu 'Chas' ?
(yes, it does involve a stupid pun)

Zoom for the nervous, hostile or terrified

If you are comfortable using zoom, read another article. This one is not for you. This article is for people who have never tried zoom or who tried it once and didn't like it.

Zoom is probably the easiest way for several people to meet up on line. It is very flexible. You can share video clips, pictures, music – anything which you can bring up on your computer. You can even join by phone (see below in this short article).

Why should I bother?

There are lots of reasons to learn how to zoom, but there are probably 6 main ones:

- It opens up new horizons
- It stops you missing out
- More and more of our interest groups are using zoom. Our ability to meet in face to face groups will probably get less as autumn and winter make meeting outside impracticable
- You can boast about your new tech savvy skills to your grandchildren, great grandchildren and anyone else who's prepared to listen
- It's dead easy
- You can even join by telephone (although you won't see the picture unless it's a smart phone)

What do I have to do?

Joining by laptop or pc

You will receive an invitation by email and only need to click on a link and the device will guide you through simple steps to set up a temporary link to Zoom and join you to the meeting. Once in the meeting you can switch your video and audio on and off. Zoom will show you who is speaking. At the end of the meeting Zoom will terminate the connection and disappear from your device. (If you want to set up your own meetings, you will need to install the software.)

Joining by smart phone or tablet

You need to download the zoom app to your smartphone, then away you go!

What do I do next?

Next time you get an invitation to join a zoom meeting, just say **'yes'** and **click on the link.**

Paul Martinez

Carol Williams has some suggestions for history enthusiasts:

The Past. They Did Things Differently Then

Check out HistoryExtra Podcasts.

The award winning HistoryExtra podcast, from BBC History Magazine, is released up to five times a week. It features interviews with world-leading experts on topics spanning ancient history through to the world wars and beyond. There is an archive of more than 700 previous episodes.

(Best Specialist Podcast by The Publisher Podcast Awards)

Download episodes for free from iTunes and other providers, or via historyextra.com/podcast.

Become a History Student at home.

Perhaps you may fancy giving remote learning a try.

Futurelearn

Features a range of engaging MOOCs (massive online open courses) created by experts from cultural institutions and universities intended to make education accessible to all.

Usable via desktop, tablet and mobile, most Futurelearn courses range from 6 to 10 weeks and include video lectures, articles, quizzes, tests and debate forums.

The history portfolio includes courses on ***Propaganda and Ideology in Everyday Life***, led by the University of Nottingham and the British Library; ***Genealogy*** from the University of Strathclyde; ***British Imperialism*** from the University of Exeter; and a free course on ***the Evolution of the British Army*** jointly run by the University of Kent and the National Army Museum.

futurelearn

Gresham College lectures

Head to Gresham College's website for a surprising variety of free talks. Beginning in October Joanna Bourke will be delivering a six part series on ideas about "evil women" beginning with Eve and ending with Myra Hindley. Also look out for a series of talks marking Black History Month, including David Olusaga on ***postwar migration***. Olivette Otele on ***slavery and reparations*** and Miranda Kaufmann on ***Black Tudors***.

Other upcoming lectures range from the ***Mayflower*** and ***Plato*** to the ***Houses of the Boleyn Family***, and a large archive of past talks is available anyone to dip into.
gresham.ac.uk

University of Oxford online learning

Oxford's 10 week online courses consist of approximately 100 study hours in to Courses scheduled for 2020 and early 2021 include in-depth examinations of key figures from history such as *Henry VIII, Elizabeth 1 and Churchill*, as well as introductions to broad subjects such as *Politics, the Victorians, the History of Medicine, and the Making of Modern Britain*.

conted.ox.ac.uk/about/online-courses

Coursera

An array of courses created by academics at universities across the US and Europe. Courses are made up of video lectures, students discussion forums and assignments, with some free elements.

Options include courses *on Ancient Egyptian Civilisation, Greek and Roman Mythology, Feminism and Social Justice, and Russian history from Lenin to Putin*. Those interested in historical buildings can also study courses on Roman architecture and Gothic Cathedrals developed and led by scholars at Yale.

coursera.org

The Open University free short courses

It has a selection of free short course available on its website. With intended studying times ranging between 2 and 20 hours, they also cater for different experience levels, from complete beginners to advanced students. Instantly available the archive includes several courses on *art history* as well as *on key thinkers and writers and significant historical texts*.

open.edu/openlearn/free-courses

BBC History Magazine is a pleasant read and will keep you up to date with forthcoming TV programmes and the publication of Historical Books and novels If you subscribe to the BBC History Magazine you can try 3 issues for £5.

Order online www.buysubscriptions.com/HTP260

By phone 03330 162.115 please quote HTP260

Synchronised Strumming – news from the Ukulele Group

We have met weekly since the start of lockdown and continue to do so using Zoom. On the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month we play and sing songs. On the other Thursdays we play and sing a couple of songs but use the rest of the time for discussions. We've had a range of topics including shopping under lockdown, favourite songs, new songs we'd like to add to our repertoire, favourite books, a quiz etc. We are planning a Room 101 with all voting on whether the subject goes into the room, or not. These sessions have been attended by an average of 12/15 people. They all enjoy the time to share information and get to know more about each other, as well as the singing and playing.

Learning about and using Zoom has challenged us all. Some have had a remote lesson using the phone to talk whilst using a tablet or phone for practising Zoom. We've arranged for one member to borrow a tablet so they could join in. Everyone who wanted has been able to join in. Add to that we've learnt that when we get thrown out after our free 40 minutes we all log back in to continue. Our maximum has 3 lots of 40 minutes, so far.

Using Zoom for music has its own issues, mainly timing as when we all played with microphones on we were all playing at different times and it made a dreadful noise. The time lag means we now just have the one person leading with their microphone on, the rest are mute. We are adept at the muting and unmuting process. This has the added bonus that no one can hear anyone singing or playing, apart from the leader, so we are all brilliant players, except when we lead!

To date we have played just under 100 different songs including 36 new ones, so our repertoire is expanding.

We plan to carry on 'meeting' this way for the foreseeable future as physically meeting seems some way off.

We have had one new member join us and although technically we are at our maximum of 50 members we are happy for others to join us, at least until we physically meet again when numbers will need to be reviewed depending upon government and U3A guidelines, plus space.

David Alexander

Wednesday Short Walks

The people who have been leading the group and leading the walks are not currently able to do so, so there will be no walks for the foreseeable future. Many thanks are due to them for their efforts in the past.

If anyone would like to step in as group leader or a walk leader I expect there will be a few people keen to follow. So just let me know. Perhaps someone from the longer walks groups will feel like downsizing for a while.

This seems to be an opportune moment for me to step aside, so good luck and I hope people can get out onto the footpaths again before too long.

Christine Rhodes - group leader - retired (0115 9743309)

Edwalton & Sharphill Wood

Patrick Armstrong's local walks No.12.1 and 12.2 are now on the U3A West Bridgford web site. To see the rest of the walks go to the Coronavirus tab and pick from the list on the right hand side of the screen.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/west-bridgford/docs/12.1edwaltonsharphillwoodpart1.pdf>

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/west-bridgford/docs/12.2edwaltonsharphillwoodpart2.pdf>

There is also an addendum to Walk no 9:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/w/west-bridgford/docs/9.1.addendumtowalkno9.pdf>

West Bridgford Library

My deliberate mistake last week was to say that WB Library was closed. Or perhaps I just can't read. Anyway, Yvonne has sent me this helpful photo...

These hours may change at short notice but you should be able to check online.

We have reduced our opening hours to give our staff extra time to clean and make the building as safe as possible.

Please note our libraries will be operating a reduced service.

Temporary Opening Hours

Monday	9am-1pm
Tuesday	1pm-5pm
Wednesday	9am-1pm
Thursday	1pm-5pm
Friday	9am-1pm
Saturday	9am-1pm
Sunday	CLOSED

Debbie Luxon remembers the good old days . .

West Bridgford 1967

I recently found an old press cutting from the Evening Post when they used to run a feature called Down Your Way. The cutting I had was about West Bridgford in 1967, particularly the area of Gordon Road near the Test Match. Of particular interest to me was the piece on Bradleys Dairy that used to be at the corner of Gordon Road and Blake Road as my aunt married into the Bradley family and as a teenager I used to help out at the business in my school holidays.

The Dairy was started by 'Grandad' (George) Bradley in 1909 when he delivered milk direct from the churn on a handcart. Things had moved on a little by the time I was involved and my Uncle Jack, George's son, was mainly running it by then. Milk would arrive in churns direct from the farms and be processed and bottled on site. Cream would be produced too and eggs and orange were also sold. There were a number of milkmen employed there and also several self employed distributors who bought their supplies.

Recycling was key even then and empty milk bottles were collected and went through the bottle washing plant prior to being refilled and capped on the large bottling plant beyond that. These working areas were in the building now occupied by Strawberry Blinds and others behind the main house. A noisy area and very cold in winter. Cream was a little less automated and once produced in an upstairs area above the main plant was bottled or put in cartons by hand in a pantry in the house, as was the orange juice.

My key roles were that of dogsbody and tea-maker. I was involved in bottling the cream and orange juice and selling items from the door to the public. My tea-making duties would see me making cups of tea for the milkmen as they returned from their rounds. I coped with this pretty well and they were in the main a friendly cheerful team but I once upset the team out in the plant. Having been given the responsibility to make a very large pot of tea for them I took it out to them with a plate of biscuits feeling quite pleased with my achievement. A few minutes later the fore-woman came to the kitchen with the pot . . . the tea tasted awful as I'd not rinsed the pot properly after washing it and they had soapy tea rather than PG Tips. I was rarely trusted with that job again as I could have caused a walk out.

One of the highlights of the year for me as a young teenager was the summer months when the students arrived to relieve the milkmen as they took their holidays. It was quite hectic then as they didn't know the rounds and routes very well so took longer to deliver, maybe got the order wrong or even missed some customers out. The phone would ring constantly with customers asking when they might get their order or reporting an error. Another technical hitch would occur if they forgot to put the electric (yes all electric) delivery floats on charge overnight so they were flat in the morning or ran out of charge en route. Not good for business but I enjoyed being with the students near my own age and having great fun and many laughs.

After seeing this article I Googled 'Bradleys Dairy' to see if I could find the article on-line. I couldn't but guess what did pop up, a Bradleys Branded Milk Bottle and a Bradleys of West Bridgford Orange Carton. Apparently some people collect milk-round memorabilia. Now my Uncle Jack would never have disputed this as the bane of his life was tracking down his empty bottle for recycling. The Post report mentions that every week some seven gross of his bottles disappeared, broken lost or just forgotten. They'd even be taken on holiday and then abandoned as we had them returned from seaside resorts. Oh, in case anyone has forgotten, a gross is 144 so that makes 1008 bottles going astray each week and a huge cost to the business so I can relate to his frustration!

Can any of the Times readers remember Bradleys Dairy, or their shop on Radcliffe Road? Maybe you worked or shopped at one of them? Did I poison your tea or sell you pots of cream from the door?

Debbie Luxon



House of Lords Select Committee Post Covid-19 Inquiry

WB U3A committee has been sent an email with details of an opportunity to contribute to the House of Lords Select Committee Post Covid-19 Inquiry as per the text below

The Third Age Trust and U3A movement has been given an opportunity to respond to a House of Lords Inquiry.

U3A Movement's CEO Sam Mauger said, "Many of you have contacted us about Covid and how it has impacted upon you. The Trust can respond to the Inquiry with the points that you feel should be included."

This link will take you to the survey if you are interested in contributing; after completing it himself Joe Colls tells us it is more a series of questions you can enter comments to than a tick box / options type survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/B3Z75X7>

If you do want your responses to be considered then returns to the questions are needed by **15 September**.

GNUs

The next GNU should hit the airwaves on Friday October 9th and subsequent ones appear every month on the Friday after the Committee meeting (which is normally on the second Thursday of the month).

Please send contributions to the editor (email address on first page).