

West Bridgford u3a Highlights

March 2021

This is your way to keep in touch with all our members. So, please send your ideas, poems, pictures, information or memories to **Pat:** wbu3aeditor@gmail.com
Deadline for contributions is Friday 9th April.

Open Meeting

Thursday 25th March - David Skillen: "Starfish, Stripes, Decoys and Dummies - Camouflage and Deception from Trojan Horse to Desert Storm"

Camouflage and deception has been an integral and fascinating part of military tactics from the time of the ancient Chinese to today. From a four-eyed butterfly fish to a stealth bomber this talk covers some successful (and some less effective) ideas for fooling your opponent.

We will see how steel trees "grew" overnight, why you can't torpedo a ship that looks like a Zebra and what did Abraham Lincoln say about fake news!



Future Open Meetings

Thursday 22nd April – Professor Jim Turner, Emeritus Professor of Chemistry at Nottingham University: “What We Owe to Einstein”

Thursday May 27th – Andrew Smart, who was the Nottingham Post’s journalist in charge of Bygones: Bygones – Pictures of Nottingham’s Past”

Have you Renewed Yet?

You will be aware that the deadline for renewing your u3a membership for the new year is fast approaching.

If you have not renewed yet we do hope that you will do so. You will have received an email or a letter explaining the preferred process but if you need any further help, do not hesitate to contact me.

John Tidmarsh

Membership Secretary

WBU3A

WBU3AMEM@gmail.com

Use of Photographs and Videos

We would like to remind u3a members that we presume members' consent to the use in u3a material of pictures of activities that may include them. The photographer will normally endeavour to give those members who do not wish to be recorded an opportunity to leave the picture.

Joe Colls wbu3a Vice Chairperson

National Census Day

The National Census Day will be taking place on the 21st March. You should have received information about this in the post.

Billions of pounds are allocated to local services using census-based information every year, and so that these funds can be allocated in the most appropriate and effective ways, it's important the census accurately captures everyone in our society regardless of their internet access.

This time they hope most people will complete it online, but paper forms will be available on request. The u3a will try to be supportive where necessary, within covid restrictions. **We don't want anyone to miss out.**

General u3a Enquiries

Our u3a has now set up a general enquiries system for those outside the West Bridgford u3a as well as anyone else in the public who would like to be in contact for any reason – general information about a group, about the organisation, etc.

Currently there is a contact form on our web page but it is a layer below the home page and asks you to select who you want to contact. The new enquiries email address is a single point to write to particularly if you aren't sure who you should be contacting. The voicemail is the phone equivalent of the email system. It is only for leaving messages.

The enquiries system is not for members needing immediate responses (e.g. Where is this mornings walking group meeting?) Clearly group organisers are the first point of contact for members already in specific groups. Enquiries will initially be monitored by Peter who will pass these on to the most appropriate person.

For enquiries about the West Bridgford U3A:

Email: wbu3aenquiries@gmail.com

Voicemail: 0115 871 1810



Snowdrops Aileen P



Winter David J

Groups on Zoom

Group	Contact Name	Contact Details
Architecture Active	David	dnicholsoncole@gmail.com
Book Group 4	Angela	9986679
Book Group –Wednesday	Liz	9145642
Book Group – Tuesday	Judith	9231539
Book Group 3	Fran	8789790
Brush Up Your Bridge	Marion	9234552
Conversational Spanish	Lynda	07887392138
Cryptic Crosswords	Stephen	9140255
Dance Around the World	Nora	0115 9259726
Discussion group 2	Patricia	9234285
Etymology	Joe	07760 458 791
Film Discussion	Joe	8789829
Finding Out About Music	Pat	9146670
Folk Fiddle	Gill	9822192
French Conversation	Anne	9814196
Genealogy	Paco	9233109
Guitar	David	07970059525
It's Good to Talk	Trish	077 888 53157
Knit and Natter	Joan	07847 209399
Local History	Yvonne	07746668469
Murder Most Foul	Trish	077 888 53157
Photography	Paco	9233109
21 st Century Women Writers	Trish	077 888 53157
Remarkable Women	Pat	9146670
Science For Everyone	Peter	9743844
Spanish Conversation	Graham	9232832
The Crown	Sue	0790 0886765
Ukulele	David	07771515810
Wine Appreciation	Rod	0115 923 2019
Yoga Type Exercise	Elizabeth	9146941

Cryptic Crosswords Update

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month and we now use the u3a licenced version of Zoom.

Folk Fiddle

The Folk Fiddle group is a new group and we meet twice a month on Zoom. It is open to anyone who plays violin to around grade 1 or above, and we meet twice a month on Tuesday evenings.

More details from: Gill, phone 0115 9822192 or email gill.cubitt@btinternet.com

Orienteering Walking

2021 Walk Dates

Tuesday 30th March
Tuesday 27th April
Monday 17th May

1. This update was written before full details of the COVID 19 lockdown easing measures were clear, including in particular allowed travel distances from home. Hence further details, including walk location, will be made available nearer to the dates of the walks. For more "real time" information, see point 3 below.
2. As we walk in sub groups of 2-4, we can adapt the way we operate for the "Group of 6" restriction, if the previous exemption from this restriction for organised walking groups does not apply.
3. New members, irrespective of prior orienteering experience, are welcome to join the group.
4. For further details and/or to join (or be removed from) the group's email distribution list, **contact John - 07721 538057 (or via email)**

Remarkable Women

This group looks at some of the women overlooked in history, but who made significant contributions to the world. Each month a specific area is chosen and women from that area are researched by members of the group. They then report back their findings to the group. Not all members of the group do research. It is up to the individual. It's okay to come along and just listen. Now meeting via Zoom third Thursday of the month at 2pm. For more information, contact Pat 9146670.

The Summer of 1966

I have written some articles about my young life in Spain but of course I was still a teenager when arrived in England in 1966 and it took me a bit of time to get used to life in Nottingham. Because of circumstances my integration became much faster than it would probably have happened in normal circumstances.

I may have mentioned before that five months into my stay in England I became ill and had to spend nearly six months in hospital. During this time I was thrown into English life at the deep end. I became closer to people that I hardly knew and one of the biggest effects that had in my life was the rapid progress that I made in becoming fluent in the English language. But the time I left the hospital I could speak without having to think in Spanish first.

As a young lad I liked playing football with my friends, like all boys of my generation. In my youth I followed all the conquest of Real Madrid, having won five consecutive European cups. Spain also had won the European Nations cup as well in 1962. Spanish football was doing well in the world of European football. I did not know much about the English game but the summer of 1966 would change all that.

The World Cup was taking place here in England and Spain was part of the competition. I had a television in my hospital room and watched every match that was on to keep me occupied and also to give me something to talk while doing my newspaper delivery around the ward to the other patients. I loved doing the rounds as I could talk to them and they told me their stories and other things. So talking about football was a good way of learning both the language and social skills and above all about football and the clubs, like Nottingham Forest, Notts County and so on.

Spain played some of its matches in Birmingham and a group of my fellow Spanish workers at the University had arranged to go and see them play. Unfortunately I could not join then and miss out on a great occasion to see my home National Team playing here in England. After the match my friends came to see me in hospital to tell me all about the match and they gave me a Spanish flag that they had taken to the match and I still have this flag to this day.

That summer English football became a passion for me, and ever since I have followed the fortunes of Spain and England in all competitions. I could never lose if they played each other because I always win irrespective of who won or lost.

As we know, England won the World Cup that summer of 1966 and Spain won in 2010 as well as winning the European Nations Cup in 2008 and 2012 so as far as football is concerned I am a happy fan.

That summer in hospital I saw another memorable sporting occasion on television, the Wimbledon Tennis Championship and it became more special to me because it was won by Manuel Santana, one of Spain's best tennis players. **Paco**

Crossword

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25						26								
27									28					

Thanks to Sinclair for the crossword

Across:-

- 1.Relative(6)
- 4.Senior Naval Officers(8)
- 10.Careless(9)
- 11.Cover(5)
- 12. In relation to bird study(14)
- 14. Summoned by announcement or mobile(5)
- 16.Unprejudiced(9)
- 18.Compliance with a command(9)
- 20.Twigged broom(5)
- 21.Lack of power or resources(14)
- 25.Resident of Baghdad(5)
- 26.Large group of instrumentalists(9)
- 27.More ingenious(8)
- 28.Robust(6).

Down:-

- 1.Idiot!(10)
- 2.Irreligious(5)
- 3.Expelled a tenant legally(7)
- 5.The same(5)
- 6.Greater skin irritation(7)
- 7.Irregularities(9)
- 8.Alcoholic rice drink(4)
- 9.Great love(8)
- 13.Simple(10)
- 15.Plum variety(9)
- 17.Defined area around a cathedral or shops(8)
- 19.Conceive(7)
- 20.Most able to face danger(7)
- 22.Habitual home(5)
- 23.Bury(5)
- 24.Gramophone record(4)

Virtual Science Network Meetings

The National Science Network Team is planning to hold three short virtual meetings in 2021 on Tuesday 20 April, Wednesday 11 August and Thursday 14 October.

At the April meeting there will be 3 presentations of 45 minutes on topics as broad as chocolate, vaccines and Darwin.

More about the u3a Science Network on [their website](#).

There will be 3 presentations of 45 minutes followed by questions at each meeting, with a break for refreshments and for lunch. Each day will start at 10:30 and will end with a plenary session. Details of the April meeting will be announced shortly together with a booking form for those who wish to attend.

Book Review

The Thursday Murder Club

I was very interested in last month's book review of North and South in the newsletter. I think Mrs Gaskell has written some great books giving real insights into the grim social history of the time.

For something completely different I would like to recommend a more recent book: Richard Osman's first published novel called The Thursday Murder Club. It is a very entertaining read. He is perhaps more well known for his appearances on BBC quiz shows Pointless and House of Games.

The book is set in a peaceful luxury retirement village where four friends meet up once a week to investigate unsolved murders. When a killing takes place on their doorstep they find themselves in the middle of their first live case. A book with great characters, twists and turns, plenty of humour, but also some warm and moving moments.

As well as reading the printed book I have thoroughly enjoyed listening to the full unabridged audiobook read by Lesley Manville. The audiobook and an ebook are both available to download for free on the Notts library Borrowbox app.

A shorter abridged version of the book was read by Haydn Gwynne on BBC radio recently but as a lot of details of the story were missing, I preferred the unabridged audiobook version by Lesley Manville.

Pat W

VACATION

All folks need a holiday
And I am no except
But when I think of my one
No wonder that I wept.

Me, my friend named Billy
Thought that we would try
A tour of Glorious Devon
But now I wonder why.

We heard about its beauty
The air so fresh, and clean
So thought that we would cycle
As cyclists, we were keen.

So off we set that August week
A doubtful afternoon
And just as we expected
It started raining soon.

But we cared not an atom
For rain, (we're used to that)
Till I discovered that I'd lost
My new sou'wester hat

But on we pushed to Cheddar Gorge
A sight worth all to see
And left again that evening
For Minehead-by-the-Sea.

We reached that town next morning
And took a snap or two
Of Bill, and I, and scenery
We were a happy crew

Then off again up Porlock
The toll road we did take
But it was one long steady "Grind"
We thought our backs would break

Eventually we reached the top
And gazed upon the scene
For it was indeed beautiful
Worth all our sweat, and steam

On we went to Lynmouth
And dropped down to the shore
The air was crisp, and bracing
Unlike I've had before

Then out, and up to Watersmeet
A place I'll ne'er forget
It was just like a paradise
That Mother Nature set.

So off again to Lynton
And down the other side
Until we came to Barnstable
But, "Blimey" what a ride

The hills were quite annoying
Much less ride than hike
If I'd have known, what I know now
I'd have gone without my bike

Then down we went to Dartmoor
A dismal, gloomy place
For crooks of all description
Make this their country base

Off across the Moors we rode
It rained with all its might
Until we came to Post Bridge
And put up for the night

We left again next morning
For Exeter you know

It was mostly downhill
So "golly" did we go

We reached the town in safety
And stopped there for a beer
Then carried through to Honiton
With evening drawing near

On to Chard & Yeovil
We rode without a care
It was a bright, and sunny day
No need to rush, and tear

Salisbury was reached next day
We soon left that behind
With just a few more miles to go
And here, and there a "grind"

But as we reached the Great West
Road
The "bonk" began to show
"Stick it Bill me lad" I said
We've not so far to go

The journey finished slowly then
We peddled down our street
And after seven days ago
We our friends did meet

Alas, a War has started, now
I am no pessimist
I'm sure that I will see again
That Devon so sun kissed.

(But not on a bike)

Irene G – poem written by her dad in 1939 when he was 18

Crossword Solution:

Solution:- Across:- 1. Nephew 4. Admirals 10. Negligent 11. Cloak 12. Ornithological 14. Paged 16. Impartial 18. Obedience 20. Besom 21. Incapacitation 25. Iraqi 26. Orchestra 27. Cleverer 28. Sturdy.

Down:- 1. Nincompoop 2. Pagan 3. Evicted 5. Ditto 6. Itchier 7. Anomalies 8. Sake 9. Devotion 13. Elementary 15. Greengage 17. Precinct 19. Imagine 20. Bravest 22. Abode 23. Inter 24. Disc.