

From the Chair Personage

Last month I said that my interests and priorities are in our members. To this end I have enlisted a roving reporter who will explore the far corners of U3A Wymondham, carrying out erudite interviews with various members. These will be the unsung heroes and heroines of our wonderful organisation, who beaver away behind the scenes, ensuring things run smoothly.

Consequently, I would like to introduce you to a dear old friend of mine who will carry out this task, called

Lari Peterson, who happens to be a snail. His/her (being hermaphrodite) reports will start in next month's News Letter. Bill Yeates has kindly provided the

portraits of Lari, although Lari insists that he/she is far more handsome/beautiful in reality!



Indeed, this is a month of introductions, as I would like to introduce you to six members of the committee in more depth. The remaining members of the committee will feature in next month's News Letter.

My very best wishes to you all to keep up the good work, keep well, safe and sane.

Gilly

Each member has written about their particular role - so in alphabetical order - here they are:

Jennifer Attwell We moved to Wymondham 4-ish years ago from Hove, following our daughter who came up here to go to university and forgot to come home. We joined U3A Wymondham and within six months had met many new people and joined several groups. U3A Wymondham has played a big role in making Wymondham become our home and helping us feel that we had made a good move. So, becoming part of the committee and taking on the catering is my way of saying thank you and giving something back.



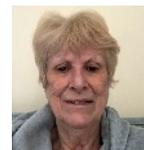
This news-sheet is more than just text and pictures. It also contains links to audio-visual material, that video and sound. You can access this material by clicking on the blue links within in the document, assuming you are reading it on a computer that has access to the web. The material is then fetched from storage on the world wide web. There is a video showing how to do this on the [Newsletters page](#) of the U3A Wymondham website.



Knit and Natter group member, Wendy Bowles, has spent the lock down joining the squares produced by group members to produce these blankets.

Gilly adds 'Jennifer is our 'Queen of the Kitchen'. She began this role with last year's Summer Lunch and was thrown in the deep end, catering for 120 people for the Christmas lunch, both of which went very well. She also has made aprons for all her 'kitchen elves' with Vivienne's being 'Queen of the Dessert!' Jennifer is also our Vice Chair for this year.'

Linda Birkett Joining U3A Wymondham has completely changed my life. I moved to Wymondham not knowing anyone and now I have a full circle of friends. I therefore volunteered to be on the committee as I really want this organization to flourish and to give other people the interests and friendship I enjoy.



My role is **Girl Friday Help-Line**. I can field your questions and if I can't answer them then I can find a person who can.

Alan Browne I volunteered to join the committee to make a contribution to the continued success and progress of U3A Wymondham. My role as Compliance Officer is to ensure that we comply with our legal requirements and our own internal policies and rules



Gilly adds 'Alan is a clever chap who helps me understand all the stuff I'm rubbish at!'

Stuart Crowther -For those who don't know me, I am no relation to the late Leslie Crowther! Elaine and I joined U3A Wymondham in September, 2017.



My background was in Banking so I quite like dealing in figures. I was attracted to the role when I overheard a conversation about U3A needing a new Treasurer and foolishly put my name forward.- the rest is history and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first 2 years in the role.

What does the job entail? In simple terms, I, together with John Dollimore on the Social and John Spencer on Membership side, collect in and account for all U3A's income from subscriptions, group participation fees, Coffee Morning entry fees, lunch events, coach trips, holidays and a few other bits.

Out of this income I have to pay or account for hall hire fees, payments to Third Age Trust for insurance and the Third Age Matters magazine, other administration costs of running our U3A and finally payments to suppliers for lunches, coach trips and holidays.

Each year I produce a report and accounts for approval at our AGM.

In a nutshell, I am one of many cogs which keep our U3A running in such a successful way.

Gilly adds 'Stuart is a man of many talents and full of good advice to the chair personage who can go off on one at times.'

Ginny Gibson - I joined the committee because I wanted to be part of a team. My role is to co-ordinate a **New Members' Team**. This is a group of friendly people who will greet new members at our meetings, ensuring that they feel welcome and looked after with drinks, good people to chat to etc. Our task is to establish their own skills and interests and gently point them in the right direction eg joining a group or establishing one of their own.



Gilly adds - these members will wear a blue and yellow sash to allow them to be easily identified. We are also working on a New Members' Pack that will contain information about U3A Wymondham.

Paul Moss is our **Beacon Deacon**

Many of you know who I am but, you may not know what I do!



I am 'In Charge' of our membership system called Beacon. This involves ensuring the system is available for our Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Group leaders to perform their roles. I can be seen trawling through the system reports to ensure that our data is only used for the U3A

purposes that it was collected and stored for. I regularly check the email 'failure' reports to see if any emails have not been sent and investigate why.

There are other tasks performed to keep the system 'functional' but I'd bore you to death and heaven knows there are enough risks to our health out there already!

I am also responsible for our website, assisted by Julian who has fast become the 'expert'. We do our best and thankfully you have all been very forgiving -we rarely hear any complaints.

I'm a National Volunteer too and I have a badge to prove it! This is mainly in a support role, assisting those U3A's who are new to using Beacon or might consider doing so. I also provide some technical support by testing 'upgrades' of the Beacon system to ensure that any changes have a minimal impact on those who use it. I get the occasional, "How do you do this on a 'phone or laptop?" And maybe a few, "Is it possible to do this in 'Excel' or 'Word'?"

I'm occasionally allowed to use the scanner to record attendance at Coffee Mornings or Open Meetings.

Apart from that, I spend all my time trying to avoid getting tasks assigned to me from "Her Indoors"!

Other members of the committee will be introduced next month.

Membership Renewals

Twenty-eight members have yet to renew. Renewals were due on the 1 April. If you have not renewed please contact me whether you wish to renew or not. 31 May is the last day for renewals. If you have not renewed by then your membership will lapse.

My contact details are:

John Spencer, Membership Secretary, Ash Farm, Ash Lane, Carleton Rode, Norwich, NR16 1RU, 01953 609914, wymu3amem@outlook.com

An audio version

We are exploring ways of producing U3A Wymondham Newsletters and News-sheets in an audio format. If you, or anyone you know, has difficulty reading print and would appreciate this, please contact Georgette on Georgette@ValeMail.eu or 01953 605434 or 07867 681839.

The Aviation Group

The Aviation Core group has held 2 Zoom meetings, with more planned for the coming weeks. After checking that everyone is managing without problems, we discuss the latest aviation news, which is generally bad at the moment. Then we had a couple of aviation quizzes, just to keep the brain cells active. As the saying goes 'it's good to talk',

Keith Tomlinson

The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam

During the U3A Wymondham Dutch holiday in 2017, myself and other members took a tour of the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam. The guide was fine and informative but the museum was incredibly crowded. Now you have another opportunity to tour the museum, but this time without the crowds. Just click on the link:

[4K video tour](#)

Julian

Coronavirus: the science explained

[Coronavirus: the science explained](#)

This website, presented by UK Research and Innovation, lays out the evidence and the facts about the virus, the disease, the epidemic, and its control.

Prepared by leading researchers and science writers, this series of short articles addresses questions of interest to individuals seeking information on the coronavirus outbreak, whether for personal or professional reasons.

The information in each article is believed to be correct, at the date of publication. As the global research effort gathers pace, there will be many new findings about this virus, its effects and treatment, and the number of articles published on this website will grow accordingly.

Some new discoveries may alter what was previously understood. When there is new evidence that materially changes what has been published here, it will be updated accordingly. Where there are no answers yet to outstanding questions, the articles will make that clear.

UK Research and Innovation

Dawn Chorus - a post script

BirdNET is a prototype app for Android phones that can identify birds from their songs. To use it search for it in the Play Store and install. Then go and listen to the birds' and start the app. When you hear a specific bird song select that portion of the recording and press the Analyse button. After a short delay you will be presented with either a name, a wild guess or a 'Don't Know',

This link will take you to their website [BirdNET](#)

Editor

Something different to watch

Talking Pictures TV channel (Freeview 81. Sky 328. Virgin 445) is under financial pressure and needs audience support. Much of the programming will resonate with older viewers.

For a list of films being shown click [Talking Pictures Schedule](#)

Tony Vale

A request from the NCH&C NHS Trust

Please could you knit or crochet hearts for us to give to relatives of patients who have died in our care. One heart will stay with the patient, and the other will be given to their family with a card giving details of our bereavement service.

The hearts should be flat, crochet or knitted, any colour and of a maximum size of 7x7cms. This is different to the last request; these are flat and not filled



Please send them to 'PBL Hearts' Priscilla Bacon Lodge, Colman Hospital, Unthank Road, Norwich, NR2 2PJ. Thank you all, happy knitting!

Pat Cullen

craftypat12@gmail.com

01603 453410

Tony Vale

And some of Gwen's lock down activities

On the better days I have been in the garden - moving plants, splitting them and sowing seeds and am relieved that at last my water tubs are all full. Now is the time for the sun to come out again. During the garden sessions I watched as two pairs of blackbirds going about their business - one pair had obviously got chicks as they were filling their beaks with grubs etc. and the other pair were a little later - still gathering nesting material for their nest behind my pink montana clematis. I have a pair of blue tits and plenty of sparrows, dunnocks and occasionally a robin. I have seen a few butterflies - brimstone, small copper, holly blue and peacock and the white one (photo attached). I am not sure what this one is as it seems to differ from the various whites I have in my books - the lower wings seem to be different. Perhaps someone can enlighten me.

Gwen Jenson



Gwen's photo of a white butterfly - can any one identify?

Some suggestions from the EDP of things to do:

- start a diary
- learn to cook six dishes well
- gardening
- evaluate past relationships
- keep a dream diary
- exercise daily
- write letters
- explore new types of music

These suggestions are taken from the EDP article '[Alone but not lonely: the art of staying sane when you're solo](#)'

A poem by Georgina Court

I watched a programme about the wonders of the Monarch butterfly, and wrote the following poem, I do hope you enjoy reading it.

However do they do it
With such delicate amber wings
They are a thing of beauty
A truly wondrous thing

No one tells them how to
As they fly on through the night
Guided by the twinkling stars
The clear and bright moonlight

Their journey is a long one
Two thousand miles or more
It starts with just a whisper
As into the sky they soar

They are called the king of butterflies
A majestic sight for sure
If man protects their habitat
We will see more...and more...and more

Georgina Court

Member Nick Cullen's poem

Nick hurt his back and was in such pain that he was carted off to hospital, where he was prescribed pain killers. When it was time for another 'fix', his wife Pat was elsewhere and Nick couldn't get to his painkillers. So, he penned the following email to Pat. It goes to the tune of 'Jerusalem'.

Bring me my pills to soothe the pain
And a glass of water, please
Bring me my pills I ask again
I soon want to be climbing trees.
I'll cast aside the stick I use,
The tabs should help to clear my blues,
Til I have have fin. ish..ed the course
Then I will leap just like a horse.

This was successful and Pat came to his rescue. No more digging for Nick for a while!

Gilly

Impressions of a new home

Having left the fabulous hills and valleys of Wales to live here in Norfolk I suggest that in a very different way it's quite as beautiful. I love the rugged coastline, the seals with their pups along the beaches and the countryside I'm so fortunate to be able to walk through.

During the past weeks of isolation, I've enjoyed my walks along the River Tiffey, first of all winding my way along the back streets and passing the beautiful Abbey. I walk with our dog Wilson, he is a black Labrador who is an 'old boy' now of 12 and he attracts a lot of attention because he is so well behaved. On one of our walks along the river I chatted to a man who lived in Rattle Row, the name originated from the weaver's workshops where the machines would rattle from early morning til close of day. I am fascinated by the street names, for instance where Helen lives is named Skipping Block Row where just four of the original 1840 circa cottages remain. When isolation is over, I must go on a heritage walk and see more.

Linda Luxmore

This Norfolk

I'd like to share with you a poem (not a daft ode) I wrote for a W.I. competition.

"Well?"

They were asked,

"Was this Norfolk of yours
Worth dying for?"

Boudica drove her chariot hard

Around the fertile fields,

With gently whispering streams

Meandering through the softly rounded hills.

Nelson sailed through

Quiet villages of warm brick and flint

With rainbow gardens spilling flowers,

Past great houses and lush estates

And a myriad of mellow churches,

Returning by creaks and marshes

To the vast capricious sea.

Edith Cavell, who knew the cost of caring,

Carefully walked amongst the generations

Who had loved this land of huge enveloping skies.

And as one they replied,

"Oh yes."

We are so lucky to live here. Keep well and safe in this wonderful part of our country.

Gilly

My county of skies

When are ya' gorna come ta Norfolk?
dorn listen ta them there lies.
Norfolks not fla' an' borin'
Its my beautiful county of skies.

When are ya' gorna come an' listen?
to the tiny lark as she rise
from 'er nest hidin in the grars,
she sings in my county of skies.

When are ya' gorn a come an' watch trees?
Chestnut Oak, poplar' and pines
sway in the wind, housing the birds,
siloets on my county of skies.

When are ya' gorna come for a walk?,
in the country you see miles a' miles,
Churches are many, with spires a' steeples
stand proud in my county of skies.

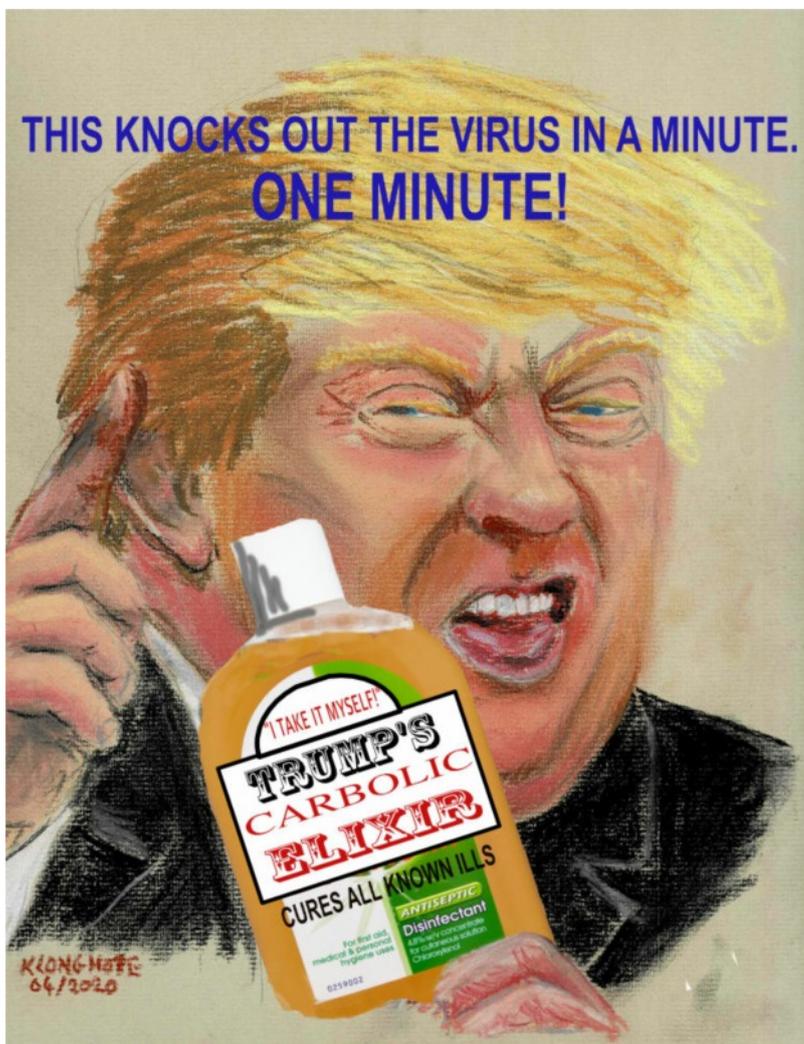
When are ya' gorna gaze crors the fields?
patches of all diffent size,
from browns ta greens ta yella then whi'e
engulfed by my county of skies,

When are ya' gorna watch a hanser?
seagulls folla a pouch with their cries,
shapes a' ferces in the clouds,
in my wonderful county of skies

When are ya'gona marvel
At a rainbow so wide and so high,
The magnifsan' arch of colour, you'l see'
all in my county of skies

When ere ya' gorna wait for a sunset?
yer'l never believe yer eyes.
pink, orange, fewsha an' red,
in my glorreis county of skies

Julie Slaughter
January 2012



Trump by Keith Longmore

Registered charity no. 1183055

Officers of U3A Wymondham (2020/21)

Chair - Gilly Spencer - wymu3achair@gmail.com

Secretary - Georgette Vale - georgette@ValeMail.eu

Treasurer - Stuart Crowther - stuartgcrowther@aol.com

Membership Sec. - John Spencer - wymu3amem@outlook.com

Groups Co-ordinator - Lorna Tomlinson -

lorna.gplead16@yahoo.co.uk

A few Uxbridge English Dictionary definitions:

AGOG - Half-finished Jewish temple

ALCOPOPS - Alcoholic dads

ASTERISK - The chances of being hit
by an asteroid

BIDET - Two days before D-Day

CANDID - Past tense of can do

CARDIOLOGY - The study of knitwear

CAUSTIC - Good heavens, a twig

CLAPTRAP - A condom

CRUCIFIX - Religious adhesive

DEPENDABLE - A confident swimmer

DESCENT - To remove the smell

DISDAIN - To insult a Scandinavian

EYELINER - A big ship made by Apple

FAJITAS - What they use gas for in
Newcastle

FLAGRANT - Tramp with a whip

GENTILE - Where they keep the
men's products in a supermarket

GRANARY - An old folks' home

GRINGO - Mexican Traffic Lights

HAMAS - What Geordies use to bang
nails in

HERBICIDE - The murder of a
Volkswagen Beetle

HOARDING - A prostitute's
microwave

Simon Fellingham