

York Newsmail



No 1
June 2020



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In place of York Newsletter Number 184

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Front Cover Picture

The bridge theme has ended...we are now on to public clocks. This clock is on the Bar Convent building. It was photographed from the top deck of a bus going into York. If you would like to know precisely where it is, take a look at the photo on the back sheet.

The Bar Convent is England's oldest lived-in convent, founded in 1686 being the home to a community of Catholic sisters. It is also open to visitors all year round and operates as a B&B.

Chairman's Message

As I sit down to write this brief message for the first edition of our Newsmail, hoping that you are all keeping safe and well, I am acutely aware that I am having to exclude from this message the 150 or so York U3A members who don't have email addresses and accordingly can't receive this Newsmail. These are unusual times, to understate the case, and we will revert to our usual Newsletters, with all members receiving them on the basis of their original choice of email or hard-copy, as soon as we can.

Reflecting on just how unusual these times are, it occurred to me that I haven't seen the inside of a shop for two months. I obviously can't remember my days in pram and push-chair, but this will almost certainly be the first time in my entire life that this has been the case. It is a tribute to family, friends and neighbours, and to the hard work of our butcher, greengrocer and fishmonger, who have all started home-deliveries, that Susan and I haven't needed to set foot in a shop for two months.

Unusual as the times are – and even the weather is joining the party with a singularly un-May-like gale blowing outside my window – there are good aspects to it. The almost empty roads are a blessing for walkers and cyclists, and everyone else who has lungs. I have only heard one siren from an emergency vehicle in eight weeks. It is now easier, and infinitely preferable, to hear the birdsong. People seem much more aware of each other and generally take pains to keep their distance. Our street feels, and is behaving as, much more of a community than it has in the last twenty years. So we hold onto the positives and wait for the time when we can resume a more normal life as U3A. In the meantime take care and stay safe.

David Maughan Brown

Editorial

You are invited to send your items to newsletter@yorku3a.com on or before 12.00am Monday 25th July for the August edition for publishing on Friday 31st July.

This is a very bizarre episode for me ... so used to typing just a few instructions, dates etc. now I have to act a bit more like an editor. But really far from it. Please note that there has been no attempt to place the articles in any particular order. Perhaps the feed back that I get will drive me to place articles more carefully rather than the random array we have here.

I'm instigating a little diversion for members under lockdown, hopefully to ease the boredom. What I'm hoping to receive for the next **Newsmail** will be **50-word YARNS** including the title spun by your good selves. Here's an example

Paws for thought

My daughter's family have just got BOBBY, a short-haired Border Collie bitch. A highly promising pentathlete, one of our granddaughters is in absolute raptures with the idea of running with BOBBY for training. However, BOBBY does not know how to put the shot or throw the javelin.

Now, I have counted this several times. I hope it's correct. Please send your **50-word YARNS** to the editor for the next **Newsmail**. And if you could make it rhyme as well – magnificent.

Talking of rhyming please take a chance to digest Dick Ockelton's comic offerings further on in this **Newsmail**; they are superb.

Another point worth making is that if you know of a U3A member who has no IT access then please print off the **Newsmail** – give them a copy so that they can share the publication. However, be sure to remember the social distancing required under the government's current regime.

John Powderley Editor

Message from Groups Co-ordinator

It is really encouraging how many groups are keeping going using technology, phones, apps, emails and even letters (snail mail). Congratulations to you all for embracing the technology.

Normally at this time of year many groups would be ending their season and members going off on holiday and I would be compiling the booklet for next year. This year looks like it might be somewhat different so you might like to consider as a Group Leader how to extend your season, or as a Group member how you might help your leader to extend the season, or even start up something new. If anyone wants help to continue or to start a group please do get in touch with me at groups@yorku3a.com.

Seeking new Group's Co-ordinator

When I first came to York nearly 5 years ago, I joined the U3A and went to a Saturday morning talk. There was an urgent plea for a Joint Group's Co-ordinator and I put up my hand as I thought it would be a good way to get involved and get to know our wonderful organisation. I jointly ran a new members' meeting, never having been to one myself and similarly a Group Leaders' meeting. I have been the sole Groups' Co-ordinator for two years and I have achieved my objective of getting to know lots about the U3A and its membership and activities. However, now I am hoping to spend more time with my daughter in New Zealand, and can no longer fulfil this role. The key tasks are preparing the Handbook, organising the timetable for the Fell and Woolman Rooms, responding to Group Leaders queries, running the Group Leaders' meetings and attending the U3A committee meetings. The role has its predictable busy periods but otherwise can be done within one's own schedule. If you are interested, please contact me on groups@yorku3a.com with a phone number and I will give you a ring. It would be great to have a shadow for a while!

Groups Co-ordinator - Alison Holmes

Revisiting the Classics

You may think that discussing books in a group has now become impossible. Not at all! – and we have even attracted a new member! As we meet at the end of the month, we have so far discussed, online, *The Go-Between* by L.P. Hartley in March and *To Serve Them All My Days* by R.F. Delderfield in April with *Kipps* by H.G. Wells to come in May and still have books chosen for June and July. We just use e-mail, so the person who was going to introduce the book sends out some preliminary information, perhaps some crucial autobiographical details and/or some questions or comments about the novel, and this sets in motion the responses, which are then taken up and responded to. You can't fall out over anything and setting out your ideas in writing forces you to think more deeply, I find. I can see that it may not be easy to settle down to a book, when all around there is upheaval, but it has been comforting to escape into another person's world for a time every day. Strangely with all this "extra" time, I hardly ever have time to sit and read in daytime, but when I have, I have appreciated the bright light, making the small print so much easier to read.

revisitingclassics@yorku3a.com or 01904422414

French for Absolute Beginners on Zoom

This group started in the traditional Fell Room setting in Oct 19 and we have had some fun together and maybe even learnt some French along the way...

When the dreaded lockdown struck we decided to transfer to Zoom (the free version)

There were some teething troubles with the technology but now we are improving our techie skills as well as our French.

The original class was fully subscribed but, as not everyone made the transition to Zoom, there are one or two places available now.

It's lovely to see each other online and chat but each meeting does have a particular focus and there is usually a follow up exercise to reinforce the points covered, sometimes a Crossword. Example below.

It's NOT the same as face-to-face meetings (no shared cuppas) but still enjoyable

At least I think so!

Barbara Hull
Group Leader

Cercle Français

Vous parlez bien français?

Vous ne voulez pas perdre votre français pendant le confinement?

Vous aimeriez participer dans un groupe de conversation française avec Zoom?

Je propose une rencontre online de 40 minutes (la limite de l'accès gratuit sur Zoom) tous les jeudis après-midis à 3 heures.

Si ça vous intéresse, envoyez-moi un mail.

Barbara Hull

The U3A Moves into the airwaves

Monthly Talks on Zoom

From September until possibly December we will stage our Saturday Talks by Zoom which is an excellent platform for lectures as the speaker can share his PowerPoint on our screens. Peter Jarman's experience is that one can see and hear better than in the Methodist Hall! We will try to keep the social aspects of the occasion by having a Chairman's introduction and members' questions, and I am even trying to set up break-out rooms for chatting over coffee. We will circulate the titles weeks in advance, and the programme will include some of the lectures we have had to cancel this season. Please email talks@yorku3a.com with your Membership Number if you would like to be sent the Zoom link so that we can make a secure group for this exercise. I can walk you through setting up and using the Zoom app by phone if you request this.

The Autumn Programme of Talks is

September 12th Tony May: Traffic in York post corona.

October 10th Michael Waller: Medical Imaging

November 14th Peter Addyman: Highlights of York Archaeology 1972-2002

York U3A hopes to return to the Methodist Hall for Saturday talks next year.

Meanwhile several Groups are already on the internet in various ways. The Haxby Camera Club (which welcomes York members too) is continuing on Whatsapp with members sending in a picture every day! Romantic Poetry works well as a fortnightly Zoom class with members talking about poems they have received on email, and marvelling at how much Keats managed to write in less than 5 years before he was snatched away by an earlier respiratory scourge. The Ukulele Group is somehow keeping going – they always were a game lot – and so is Mindfulness, though I hope the technology does not spoil the mood. Several language groups are Zooming conversations, and the Wine Tasters are getting sozzled by Zoom. Other groups, such as Philosophy, or the Armchair Film Group, use email to share ideas, and the Exploring Other Cultures Group will be using Zoom to hear talks from September.

The Keeping Fit and Flexible Group is using email to exchange a weekly 'Bits and Pieces' newsletter including tips on gardening or researching family history, where they walk, videos they have found, Recipe, poems Book they read etc.

Details on all these and more can be found on the website and you can ask to join any which attracts you. We hope you will ask someone in your group to set up a Zoom meeting to try, or email me (talks@yorku3a.com) and I will set one up for you. Members without Zoom can phone into a Zoom-Pro such as minemeeting.

Finally, the University of York Open Lectures and its Festival of Ideas are still alive and well on line. Our age-group continues to be the one with the greatest appetite for such stimulating delights.

Anna Baldwin

Lockdown or Lockup?

So, here I am in lockdown, it really takes the biscuit.
I'm not allowed to go outside, it isn't safe to risk it.
I'm sleeping in a different room, my wife is at a distance.
It was a disappointment that she put up no resistance.
I got the strong impression that in helping me move bed,
She would have been quite happy if I'd moved into the shed.

For years she's tried improving me, with limited success.
I thought she'd take the lockdown as a chance to just address
A few outstanding issues on the road to my perfection,
But instead she's set off running in the opposite direction.
With the current limitations on both restaurants and retail,
I thought she'd use it as a chance to finalise my detail,

But it seems the lifelong object of my helpless admiration
Is strangely keen on helping me with social isolation.
She says the rules must be obeyed because she really cares,
And I guess it isn't all that bad, down here, beneath the stairs.
And there's an unexpected benefit of mass incarceration....
Brexit's simply disappeared from daily conversation!
Dick Ockelton, March 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 2

Another week in Lockdown, and this is how it's going.
It seems to me, uncannily, our pace of life is slowing.
No point in early rising, our meals are getting later,
It's strange, but being locked inside, you lose the urge to cater.
Three hearty meals a day ensured that we were always fed,
But now it's brunch, then dinner, then it's almost time for bed.

My room beneath the stairs is snug, but I think it will be fine,
It's full of toilet rolls and stuff but, best of all, there's wine!
I won't be short of things to read with all these shelves of books,
But I'm crowded by the Dyson and that's what really sucks.
I get out in the garden for some exercise each day
And my wife has bought a six-foot pole for keeping me at bay.

It is quite clear my life, I fear, has lost a certain quality,
But, "Hip Hooray!" now every day is crammed with online jollity.
With people having lots of fun, much more so than before.
Because I don't do "Twit-Face", though, I'm seen as such a bore.
But I've seized the opportunity to use our virus fears,
To stay away from people who I haven't liked for years!

Dick Ockelton 18th April 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 3

Another week in lockdown, and life's still getting slower.
Jobs just expand to fill the time; my rate of work is lower.
A vaccine is a year away, a cure still out of reach.
That Floss-Topped Fool across the Pond suggested drinking bleach,
But we're still optimistic, with cheerfulness undimmed.
I've had a lockdown haircut and it looks like I've been strimmed.

Down in my den beneath the stairs not all is well I fear.
The Primus stove for making tea was not a good idea.
It caught the stash of toilet rolls. Don't laugh, It was no joke!
Does anybody know a way to shift the smell of smoke?
So now I'm spending much more time, lurking in the garden
But as I've watched the folk stroll by I've felt my manner harden.

I've found that I have now become a sort of vigilante,
If people don't comply with rules I really up the ante.
I shout "just stay six feet apart!" or "Keep your dogs on leads!"
Or "are you people ignorant of social distance needs?!"
I've found I can shout further if I climb the apple tree.
I have to say some folks are **rude**.... but there's nothing wrong with me!

Dick Ockelton 25th April 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? 4

Another week in lockdown; it's becoming slightly hairy.
Communication overload is getting pretty scary.
Our phone just keeps on ringing, demanding our attention.
What's the point in paying for "unwanted call prevention"?
We feel obliged to answer it, because we can't go far,
We can't pretend we're not at home; folks know just where we are.

I've stopped the garden shouting thing, my wife thought it absurd.
She had a point; the police came round to "have a little word".
I know my rights, I stood my ground, my manner mild but mocking,
But threatening to Taser me, I thought, was, frankly, shocking!
Amazing how it clears the mind, the thought of sudden pain.
Although I "won the argument", I won't try that again.

So now I'm banished to my den, with nothing much to lose.
I'm freeing up a bit more space by drinking all the booze.
A little word of caution, when swigging from a bottle,
At first a little bit'll come then suddenly a lot'll.
My wife's out in the garden, dead-heading flowering plants.
Sometimes I think she'd dead-head **me** given half a chance.

Dick Ockelton 1st May 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 5

Another week in lockdown and a big VE day party,
With everybody waving flags and being hugely hearty.
Social distance etiquette was really quite off-putting,
Each breach enough to trigger a cacophony of tutting,
But all in all a happy day, a feeling of release,
And best of all, such fun, reporting neighbours to the police.

Beneath the stairs I'm still OK and busy making space
By drinking wine; the problem is, I'm always "off my face",
So when I went on Zoom-Face, to socialise with friends,
I couldn't get the hang of it, or work out how it ends.
I pressed all sorts of buttons, to try to disappear me.
Just wish I hadn't said those things; I thought they couldn't hear me.

A visit from the "Parcel Fairies" brightens up our day,
Delivering all sorts of stuff, they knock, then run away.
We wait with bated breath to see our Sainsbury's solutions;
When out of stock they send us some exotic substitutions,
Like "Wood-smoked chilli mackerel", or "Pasta Pouch (serves one)".
They're not much use to pensioners whose toilet rolls have gone!

Dick Ockelton 11th May 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 6

Another week in Lockdown; new rules are now apparent;
The trouble is, despite the hype, it's clear they're not transparent.
As far as I can tell I have to exercise all day,
Play tennis with a stranger, tell my wife to keep away,
Take a trip into the countryside so long as it's hygienic,
But locals can just torch my car if somewhere's classed as "scenic".

My wife suggested gardening; turns out it was a ruse;
Whilst I was out she cleared my den; "More room" was her excuse.
Out went my "Eagle" annuals, my tapes; my stuff's depleted;
My model of "The Victory" was chucked, though part-completed.
I saved it from the bin because of all the time I'd spent;
But it's slightly stained with gravy and the mizzen mast is bent.

And still a load of "Lockdown" stuff keeps cluttering my screen;
With folks just acting daft or doomed with little in between.
A flood of jokes, despite the fact the road ahead is bumpy;
I think I'll just rebel by being resolutely grumpy.
But one thing really gets my goat; this bloke keeps butting in,
By sending Lockdown doggerel; it's wearing rather thin!

Dick Ockelton 18th May 2020

German Conversation has always been about more than just talking over a cup of coffee, although that image is lovely at this time, chatting in German with not a care in the world. We have been reading, discussing and analysing, agreeing and disagreeing but always in a friendly manner roughly once a fortnight for years now.

Since 18th March, when we decided to share our email addresses, we have evolved into a German reading and writing group, expressing our views to all, but virtually, in response to a daily article from the German press and/or to something a member has sent. As most of the German press online is still free, and they are open-minded and keen to report about Britain (but we do give the world plenty to report about), there is no shortage of articles of various lengths and difficulty. We don't confine our activities to reading about politics, but it's the human stories behind the news that are often more interesting. For example, the sign that Belgium is getting back to normal is the re-opening of Maison Antoine, where Angela Merkel has been known to enjoy their chips when attending a summit conference in Bruxelles, or the history behind the slogan "Keep Calm and Carry On" when it was discovered in Alnwick by a German couple holidaying in Britain.

More contentious was an article about a study showing women to be better crisis managers than men, citing the seven countries with the lowest Corona Virus deaths who all have women leaders. (It remains to be seen whether Scotland and N. Ireland will fare better, having broken away from a united British approach to lockdown.)

But the topic that really got the most attention was the article about the opening of hairdressers and barbers shops in Germany from 4th May, far more than the controversial wearing of masks. Suddenly there was an influx of photos of members' hairstyles back in the 70s. We also share photos, poems, cartoons and jokes. (Es ist ja nicht so, dass die Deutschen keinen Sinn für Humor haben. Die Briten haben einfach keine lustigen Witze! - It's not that the Germans don't have a sense of humour; it's just that the British don't have any decent jokes.)

As well as this, one of the groups has also initiated Zoom meetings, which we have been holding once a week since 3rd April, after an initial practice session. We always have a topic to talk about, such as the positive sides of the virus, what I look /am looking forward to after or what I have learnt about myself during lockdown and after a short break, we come back and read a related text through screen sharing. It works well because one of the members organises the technology, leaving the leader free to focus on netiquette and German.

It feels as if we are in a little bubble, and we are certainly reading more German, writing more German, thinking more German than we ever did before. In all the negativity of the virus, it's been an opportunity for growth.

Ukulele Group

One of the Ukulele groups meeting via Zoom. We're improving our technique and learning to play new songs whilst in lockdown. Plenty of laughs too!



WILD FLOWER WALKS REVIEW 2019



Unlike 2018 when the weather was extremely hot and dry, the relatively small number of very hot days in 2019 didn't cause any problems with plants drying up and going over early. The total number of plants recorded for the year was 305 and included 35 species not previously recorded. This was the first time in eight years the total count exceeded 300!

The first walk of the year was around Brayton Barff at the end of April. The Barff is an almost circular, small, steep-sided hill south of Selby thought to have been formed after the last Ice Age. There are many ancient oak trees which is the reason The Barff has been designated a Planted Ancient Woodland (PAWS). Part of The Barff is owned by Yorkshire Water which maintains a covered reservoir at the top of the hill. Lots of legends and history are associated with the Barff. One legend says two witches, one at Brayton and one at Hambleton formed Brayton Barff and nearby Hambleton Hough by throwing clods of earth at each other. The Barff is regarded as the home of the 'faerie folk'. The Fairy Pin Well now buried by the reservoir, is supposed to be at the top of the Barff. When threatened with invasion by Napoleon in 1803 The Barff was used as a beacon point. There is evidence of stone-age burials and allegedly flint axes have been found. During both wars there were military camps and also a Prisoner of War camp in World War II. Remnants of a pump house which housed pumps designed by James Watt are on the south side of the Barff. In the past the number of species seen on the first walk is mid 20's but surprisingly nearly twice this number was recorded on the Barff. There were masses of Bluebells on the slopes of the hill but unfortunately most were robust hybrids having crossed with Spanish Bluebells. Some of the ancient oaks had large numbers of oak apples caused by a species of gall wasp laying eggs in the buds. Other oaks had attracted Green Longhorn moths, a shiny grey-green moth with white antennae four times the length of its body.



Our second walk took us to East Yorkshire. Starting in the village of Elloughton we walked through Welton village, up Welton Dale and back to Elloughton. Fifty-five species were recorded including White Comfrey which is not often seen. A few False Oxlips which are crosses between Primroses and Cowslips, were seen in the woods among extensive drifts of Early-purple Orchids. In previous years a white Early-purple orchid [1] has been found and 2019 was no exception. Sadly, the number of orchids, probably over 1000, was less than previous years when over 3000 have been seen.

In the middle of June, a walk south of Hutton-le-Hole produced a list of 96 species. Many different habitats were present, open grassland, woodland, limestone cliff and trackside verges which probably account for the high number of species. Spikes of dark-red Fly Orchid were found at the base of tree trunks and the maroon-coloured flowers of Hound's-tongue and Deadly Nightshade [2], both uncommon in North Yorkshire, were seen close to each other. A single white spike of Greater Butterfly Orchid was spotted nestling in tall grass in the shade of the over-hanging branches of a tree, an excellent find! The top of an old quarry was covered in golden yellow Common Rock-roses which brightened a damp, cool drizzly day.



At the end of June, the walk was in Wheldrake Wood. Orchids were seen in profusion. The previously orchid-filled ditches either side of the main track had been scraped out some weeks before the walk. Nevertheless, hundreds of mauve Common Spotted-orchids and smaller numbers of purple Northern and Southern Marsh-orchids were seen, all having survived the brutal machine clearing the sides of the track. There were also Common Spotted-orchids which had crossed with both Southern and Northern Marsh-orchids, in most cases producing taller plants than the parents. A small number of Bee Orchids were found at the side of the track and bracken provided excellent camouflage for a group of 30cm high green Common Twayblades, members of the orchid family with flowers which look like little green men. To add to the list of orchids a single Broad-leaved Helleborine still in bud, was found in an open patch of rough grass. A grand total of 79 species including six species of orchids in this wooded area was a surprise.



At the end of June some members of the Group went to Upper Teesdale where typical Teesdale weather was experienced. One morning, spent near Cow Green Reservoir, was cold and damp with rain which was a sharp contrast to six miles down the valley where it was dry, warm and sunny. It was great to find plants restricted to mountain areas such as Upper Teesdale. Scottish Asphodel, a short spike with a cluster of small greenish-white flowers, Alpine Bistort [3], an attractive plant with a spike of pale pink flowers which are replaced by dark-red bulbils as the flowers die and Yellow Saxifrage with its orange-spotted yellow starry flowers were all seen. Near High Force waterfall there were extensive patches of Mountain Pansies, our largest-flowered wild

pansy, in colours ranging from all yellow to blue and purple or a mixture of both. A large patch of Melancholy Thistle, a tall stately plant with a beautiful purple 'mop-like' head and white undersides to the leaves but lacking the spines which are usually found on thistles, was seen near Low Force waterfall. Gaudy bright yellow and red Hybrid Monkeyflowers[4] were seen in some of the wet areas. There was added interest near Low Force waterfall where remnants of the stage sets used in the making of the current Oscar and BAFTA winning film '1917' were being cleared away.

The walk at the end of July took us to the lowland heath of Hatfield Moors National Nature Reserve. This walk was cancelled in 2018 due to the extremely hot dry weather resulting in many of the plants succumbing to the extreme heat and lack of rain. Species not previously recorded were found on this walk. In some of the ponds



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the golden-yellow flowers of the uncommon Greater Bladderwort were seen on stems above the water. This interesting rootless insectivorous plant has tiny bladders on threadlike leaves below the surface of the water which entrap small invertebrates. In autumn the bladders fill with water and sink the plant to the bottom of the pond which then reappears the following summer. New Zealand Pigmyweed or Australian Swamp Stonecrop with tiny white flowers barely 2mms in diameter was colonizing mud below one of the viewing decks. These plants,

originally introduced from Australia or New Zealand, had probably been discarded from a garden pond. In addition to the 74 species of plants recorded, 12 species of butterflies were seen and seven species of dragonflies including the spectacular 8cm long bright blue and green Emperor Dragonfly

patrolling a pond not far from the car park.

In mid-August the walk was on Skipwith Common, another lowland heath habitat, similar to Hatfield Moors but without the large bodies of water and with different plants. Just starting to flower were the rare exquisite, blue Marsh Gentians[5] and about 20 plants, some with multiple blooms, were amongst the heather and grasses in the low turf



5

Two unusual ferns were seen. Pillwort with its thin un-fern-like



6

thread-like leaves had established in a small water-filled scrape. In complete contrast a majestic Royal Fern nearly 3m high was seen surrounded by a stockade of dead birch twigs placed to prevent grazing by the Hebridean sheep, Longhorn cattle or

Exmoor ponies which roam the Common. A very small patch of Round-leaved Sundew[6], the second insectivorous plant seen in 2019 was found in an area

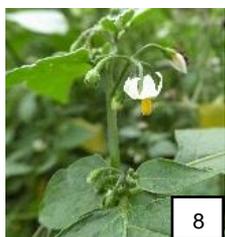
adjacent to a dry ditch. The sticky red hairs on the green leaves were glistening in the sun waiting to trap a passing insect. Sundews like damp boggy places and the plants were clearly struggling in the dry conditions. Plants of Pirri-pirri-bur[7] were seen regularly during the walk. A member of the rose family this creeping plant develops brown globular heads covered in hooked spines. The heads attach to the wool of the sheep, main spreaders of Pirri-pirri-bur, but they also attach to fabric boots, laces and clothing and are best left in the car park!



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The last walk near Terrington was at the beginning of September. Walks in late summer don't usually produce large numbers of species but a total of 97 species was recorded on this walk including a number of 'agricultural weeds' common along field edges and headlands of

cultivated fields. The edge of a field of potatoes had a very interesting selection of 'weeds'. There were Small



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Nettle plants which are annuals unlike their larger cousin Common Nettle which is a perennial. Black Bindweed with tiny greenish-pink flowers and heart-shaped leaves was seen scrambling along the ground twisting and twining its stems around the adjacent vegetation including Black Nightshade[8] which has white flowers but gets its name from the black berries which develop after the flowers have died. The potatoes hadn't been lifted but the foliage had died back revealing hundreds of small 'purplish-green tomatoes' indicating potatoes belong to the same family as the tomato.

Hopefully 2020 will be another interesting year. My thanks go to the group members who recorded the flowers we saw and also to Lynne Fiddy who added interesting notes to the flower lists.

Sonia Donaghy

OBITUARY TONY AND MURIEL POOK

Born into a musical family he was a bandsman with the royal navy, then trained to become a manager in the General Accident Insurance Company. He became a gentleman of wide cultural interests, mostly musical. He was Chairman of the Yorkshire and North Eastern Music Society, Patron of the York Guildhall Orchestra, and Chairman of the Northern Branch of the Recorded Music Society through which he became a popular and captivating speaker. He joined the York Coronary Support Group whose Newsletter he edited for some time and whose fund raising activities he supported by donating items from his extensive music and literary libraries. He readily took over the Chair of U3A Music Circle when the incumbent could no longer do so and carried on until he, too, had to give up for medical reasons. Having shared a lot of hardship due to flooding with his devoted wife Muriel, Tony is survived by his first wife Jean and for the last few years of their lives Muriel and Tony were lovingly cared for by Muriel's son Richard O'Connor.

Anyone for Croquet?

Croquet is now, like golf, an approved outdoor sport for responsible adults. The U3A croquet group will start again in June. Sessions will be at various times, not as advertised in the groups booklets, as there are restrictions on the way we can play. But we can accommodate new starters who will receive individual coaching. If you are interested, contact Aileen Hingston on croquet@yorku3a.com or ring 01904 656385.



THE EARLY DAYS OF CINEMA

This group will be continuing for 2020-21 and until distancing regulations change, will be operating on-line. We are exploring the great wealth of surviving film, c. 1890 to 1935, so not all silent, and certainly not all comic films! We have looked at famous directors:

Murnau, Fritz Lang, D.W. Griffiths and Hitchcock, as well as the mega-stars of their day: Chaplin, Fairbanks, Lillian Gish, and Clara Bow. The group has been running for a few years, and I plan to return to some of the best

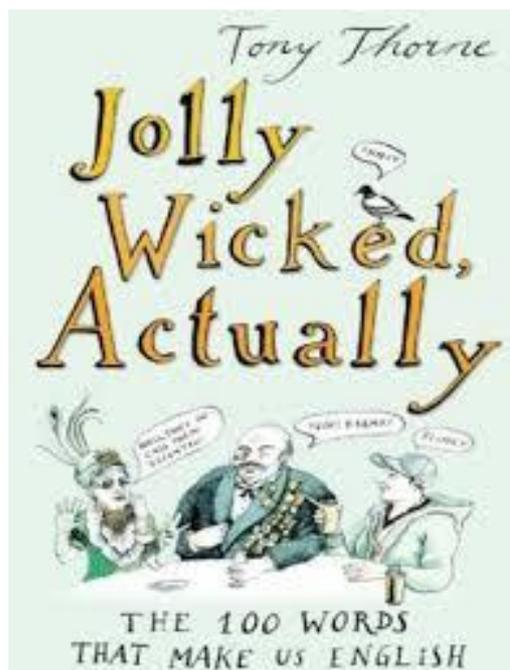
films viewed some time ago.

We have been meeting in the Fell Room on the second Monday of each month, but until further notice, if you join us, I will send out a web-link to a film once a month, and invite comments (entirely optional) from you. If you agree (your choice) these are then circulated to the group which really adds to our enjoyment of this important historical medium. This does not involve the use of social media, just an internet connection.



You are welcome to join the 2020-21 season. Richard Beaton.
earlycinema@yorkU3A.com

Language and Linguistics in Lockdown



Published by Little, Brown 2009

The Language and Linguistics (L&L) group has adopted a low-tech approach to activities during the lockdown: we have been meeting by email.

For our April meeting I was already planning a session based around a book that had been lurking on my shelves for a while, called "Jolly Wicked Actually: the 100 words that make us English" and had circulated the list of 100 words to group members asking them to nominate a few for exploration.

We held an email meeting in our normal April slot, followed by on-going discussions that have continued for over a month. As well as looking at the words in our shortlist, we have had a general discussion of the 'Englishness' of English, suggested our own additions to the list from the book, and written short stories and poems incorporating some of the 100 words.

Several of the individual word discussions have spun out more widely. We have touched on such varied matters as regional accents, slang, origins and evolution of words, and use of idiom by non-native speakers. Members have shared insights based on their experience and professional knowledge, photographs, links to websites, jokes and anecdotes ... We have learnt about the social status of yeomen,

shared anecdotes about making toast, admired photographs of hedges, reflected on our perceptions of regional accents - and much more.

About three-quarters of the group's members have joined the meeting and/or the subsequent discussions. There seems to be an appetite for continuing with email-based activities, turning our attention to other topics, perhaps with further scheduled meetings and certainly with on-going discussion.

If any other groups would like details of how these email activities have been organised, please email me: language@yorku3a.com

Liz Swinbank

York U3A Language and Linguistics Group Leader

Films Plus via Zoom

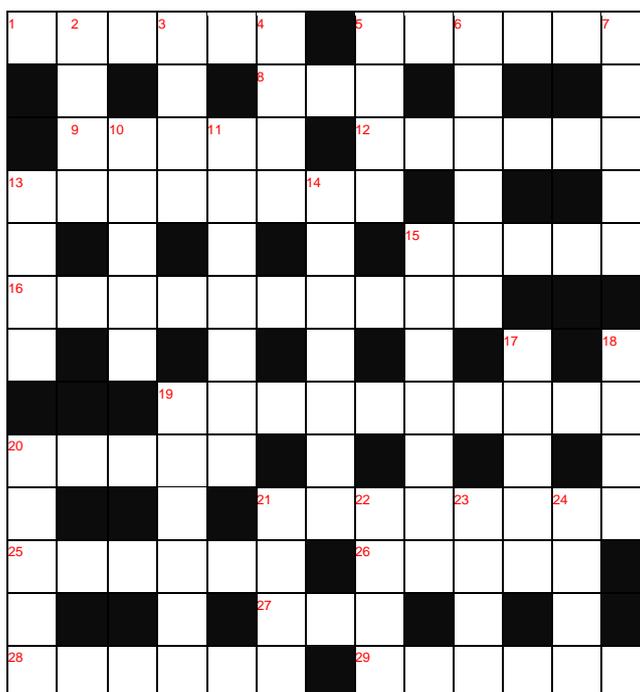
We've just started running Films Plus meetings via Zoom. We discuss a film I've suggested, generally one available on BBC iplayer. We meet at 7.30pm on a Tuesday evening once a fortnight. If you'd like to give it a go email me and I'll send you the link. You simply join in for the films you've have had a chance to see and that you'd fancy discussing. Join in for as many, or as few, films as you would like. However, you will need to let me know you are planning to join in a particular meeting, or you risk not being let in from the Waiting Room. If you need any advice on using Zoom I can send you a link to a YouTube video clip where a lady called Marcia explains it very slowly and carefully.

Elisa Main Email filmsplus@yorku3a.com

Read any good books lately?

The crime fiction groups, after a short period for private reading, will be getting going again on our agreed programme by Zoom, starting at the end of May. This enables us to include two members who have been locked down with family away from York. Others will contribute their views of the books by email. Sorry, no new members for the time being.

contact Aileen Hingston on ring 01904 656385.



CROSSWORD

Created by No 13

Across

- 1 Put an end to drink (6)
- 5 Replaced under bed (6)
- 8 Dismissed in cricket (3)
- 9 Stirs associates (5)
- 12 Say so like company (6)
- 13 Breaks up the shard (8)
- 15 Screen without seeing (5)
- 16 Spinning tonal ratio (10)
- 19 A nag 19 down upset, grew angry. (3,2,1,4)
- 20 Carriage ripped a gown (5)
- 21 Quiet calm almost whole (8)
- 25 Couch arranged golf ball support (6)
- 26 Upset, have abbreviated desire and infuriates (5)
- 27 A shot in history (3)
- 28 Lament character and white heron (6)
- 29 Sunbathe back by Yorks river character (6)

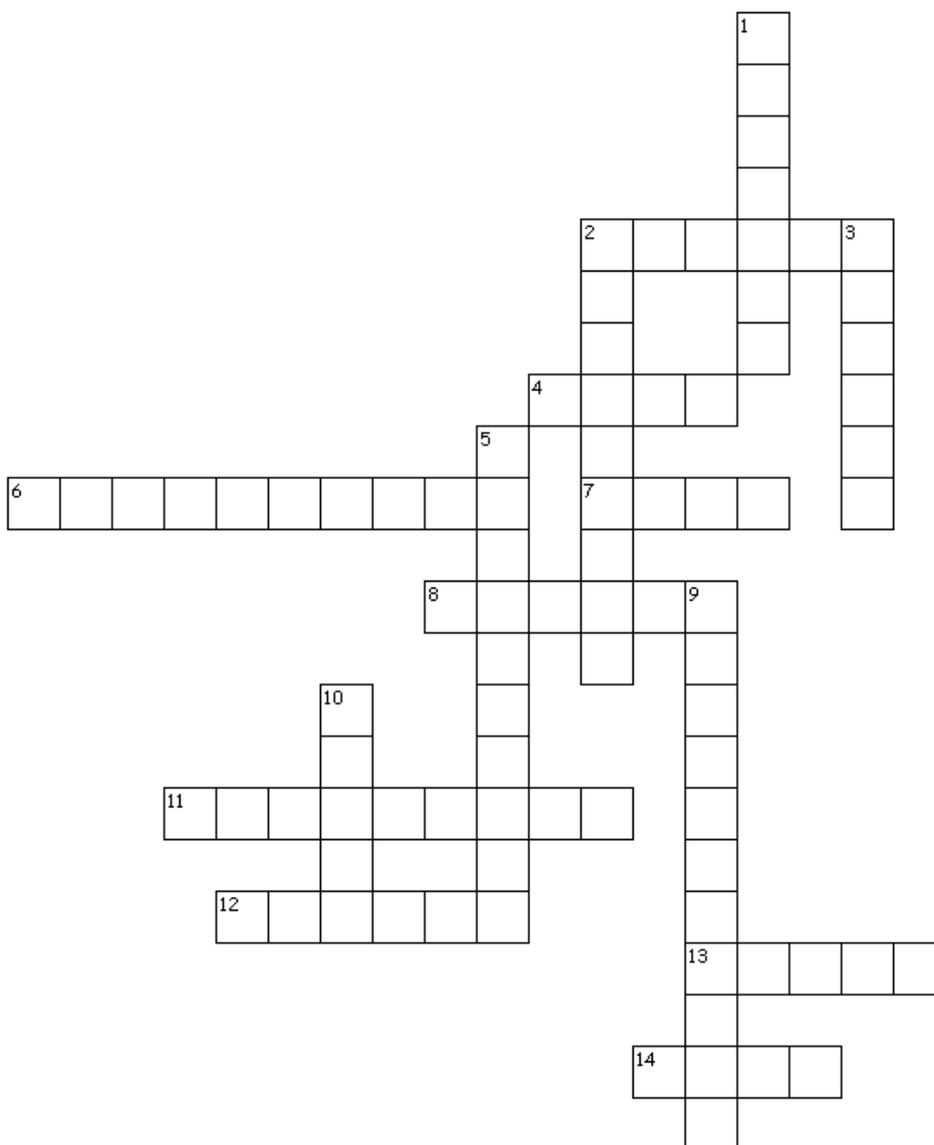
Down

- 2 in a tent about politician (4)
- 3 It comes back holding a 10-car hiring. (4)
- 4 Crowd formed by southern hot surroundings (4)
- 5 Top actor hidden in lorry's tarpaulin (4)
- 6 Happen with British Empire demise (6)
- 7 Freedom, education holds bell-shaped form (5)
- 10 "Certainly not wealth" says Ruskin (4)
- 11 Electronic society create virus infection leaf outgrowth (7)
- 13 Certain pleasure losing request (4)
- 14 Decision to move tie could become touching (7)
- 15 Weigh what's in the account (7)
- 17 The foreman has a mistake (5)
- 18 Healthy waterhole (4)
- 19 Undergo it ere it shows on the neck (6)
- 20 Better educated in clockwise rotation (5)
- 21 Sounds like a lad, in the bog (4)
- 22 Make-up river (4)
- 23 Exchanging a vowel in 3 could be way out (4)
- 24 Drugtaker in refuse reclamation (4)

Answers
on page 17

French Fruit and Veg Crossword

Answers are ENGLISH



TRANSLATION

Across

- 2. pomme de terre
- 4. poireau
- 6. pamplemousse
- 7. poire
- 8. ail
- 11. framboise
- 12. cerise
- 13. oignon
- 14. haricot

Down

- 1. chou
- 2. ananas
- 3. orange
- 5. Fraise
- 9. choufleur
- 10. pomme

York U3A Committee

*invited on to committee

David Maughan Brown	Chairman
*Mike Barnard	Secretary
Sheila Wilson	Treasurer
*Brian Frodsham	Regional Representave
Eve Birch	Office Co-ordinator
Sandra Mason	Membership & Communications
Alison Holmes	Groups Co-ordinator
John Powderley	Newsletter Editor
Lorrae Atkins	Website
Paul Howarth	IT & Audio Visual
Peter Jarman / Anna Baldwin	Joint Talk Secretaries
*Hilary Davies	Travel Representative
*Janice Oxtoby	Minutes Secretary

Contacting the Committee

Messages can be left at the office or by using email.

chair@yorku3a.com
secretary@yorku3a.com
treasurer@yorku3a.com
office@yorku3a.com
newsletter@yorku3a.com
secretary@yorku3a.com
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membership@yorku3a.com
talks@yorku3a.com
technical@yorku3a.com
communications@yorku3a.com
groups@yorku3a.com
travel@yorku3a.com

Office Opening Hours

At the moment the offices are closed. The opening will be notified on the York U3A website.
www.yorku3a.com

Travel Section

Unfortunately, nothing to report from the travel group. We are taking note of the Government's advice and will be ready to start our outings as soon as we can. Watch this space!

Hilary Davies



Bar Convent stands at the right-hand end of Blossom Street

Solution to crossword on Page14

Across

1 scotch 5 subbed 8 out 9 mixes 12 affirm 13 splinter 15 blind 16 rotational 17 got in a rage 20 wagon 21 peaceful 25 settee 26 vexes 27 ago 28 regret 29 nature

Down

2 camp 3 taxi 4 host 5 star 6 befall 7 domed 10 illth 11 enation 12 sure
14 emotive 15 balance 17 gaffe 18 well 19 goiter 20 wiser 21 peat 22 Avon 23 exit 24 user