

York Newsmail



No 2

August 2020



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In place of York Newsletter

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Front Cover Picture

We continue with public clocks. This clock is outside York Railway Station and is particularly relevant to timekeeping since it was the railways that adopted Greenwich Mean Time across the regions. It probably predates the time when wearing a watch was universal. Who needs a public clock when you have a mobile?

Chairman's Message

In welcoming you very warmly to this edition of our York U3A NewsMail, and thanking John Powderley for the trouble he takes in editing it for us, I am very conscious that it won't be reaching the rather more than 150 of our members who don't have access to email. So if you know a member in that situation, and can do so conveniently, it would be very much appreciated if you could pass a printed copy on to him or her.

So where have we got to four months on from the Covid-19 lockdown? Those of us who enjoy reading and watching television will have done much more of that than we anticipated at the New Year. The knitters and sewers will have produced much more than they ever imagined they would, including, in some cases, scrubs for hospital staff and face-coverings for family and friends. Those of us lucky enough to have gardens or allotments will probably have given them more attention than usual and may by now be beginning to wonder what we are going to do with all the excess produce we look likely to be harvesting.

In the meantime, more and more of our subject groups have been meeting, initially virtually and, more recently, for outdoor activities like cycling, pétanque and croquet. Thanks very much to the Group Leaders responsible. The committee has been busier than we might have expected. Paul Howarth's achievement in succeeding, after many months of frustration, in getting the office telephone problem solved is particularly deserving of mention, as is the Beacon team's work in transferring all our data to the new system. Sandra Mason, to whom particular thanks is due in that regard, has written a short article in this edition to update us all on progress.

News on the development of a vaccine that can prevent Covid-19 is beginning to sound much more optimistic, and reports on the recent interferon beta trials are offering hope that effective treatments, if not cures, may be on their way. So the outlook for a possible return to normality in the not too distant future is becoming much more positive. In the meantime thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

David Maughan Brown Chairman:

Archivist

The U3A is also looking for an amateur Archivist to sort out our paper records since our foundation in the 1980s. Discover what changes have taken place, how tastes have changed, how interests have grown as you sort, prune and preserve our past. Please contact me.

Editor: jpowderley@btinternet.com

Editorial

You are invited to send your items to newsletter@yorku3a.com on or before 12.00 noon, Monday 7th September for the October edition for publishing on Friday 18th September.

Yes, I know it is early but we have to present certain reports to before possible dates for the AGM.

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

Please if you know of a U3A member who has no IT access then please print off the News**mail** and give them a copy so that they can share the publication.

John Powderley Editor

Groups Co-ordinator

New Groups Co-ordinator

I am very pleased to announce that Rosemary Royds Tree has been appointed to the position of Groups Co-ordinator. She will be taking over gradually from me – in her words “we will go from Rosemary lurking to Alison lurking” to ensure a smooth handover of information and activities. The contact email remains the same groups@yorku3a.com. I know you will all be in good hands as I plan to spend more time in Rosemary’s native New Zealand!

2020/21

Many of our groups are continuing to run during lockdown and have put up their information for next year. Please be adventurous and think of new things to study/learn/enjoy through the U3A. And if you can’t find anything to please, but you have a burning interest in something, please don’t hesitate to start a new group. The Groups Co-ordinator is always willing to offer guidance and support, or just talk through what you may think of as a vague idea. groups@yorku3a.com

Seeking new Group Leaders

Russia and Eastern Europe: Culture and History

This group has been running for 13 years, but the current leaders are now stepping down. Is there anyone out there with an interest in this subject who would like to take over the group? A knowledge of Russian is not required. If you are that person, or would like to find out more, please contact Peter Griffin on russian@yorku3a.com.

Cookery for Men

The Group Leader is stepping down from this small, fun group. Obviously conducting cooking classes in a small kitchen is not currently possible, but hopefully will be in the future. In the meantime, someone with the technological and cooking skills could run a cookery class by Zoom. To facilitate this, the U3A stock of bowls, saucepans, cutlery and utensils is available. With Zoom, there is plenty of scope for increasing the number of participants. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Alison on groups@yorku3a.com

Please remember that in these strange times, new groups can be formed and run in any way which conforms to the guidelines about contact, social distancing etc in place at the time. The Groups Co-ordinator is available to offer support and guidance. Please contact Alison and Rosemary on groups@yorku3a.com

Alison Holmes

First Foray Out After Lockdown

On Wednesday June 3rd the cycle group (well part of it!) had a ride out to Howsham Mill. Were we the first York U3A group to get back to almost normal operation?

We go out on the first Wednesday of the month, so when we were told that we could meet five other people outside from June 1st, it seemed silly not to take advantage of our new-found freedom. Unfortunately, the weather had other ideas and the spell of gloriously hot weather ended that morning. The forecast looked dreadful and, of the six of us who planned to get together, only three were hardy enough to don wet-weather gear and brave the showers. It was good to get out though and, although the showers came and went, they weren't particularly heavy and didn't stop us enjoying the ride and the relatively quiet roads.

In normal times we're actually more limited in our choice of destination because we like our creature-comforts and go to places where we can look forward to a pub lunch. With the pubs shut, we had to take packed lunches anyway so headed out to Howsham Mill where we could eat our sandwiches by the river and under cover of trees if the rain was a problem.

I'm hoping that we will be able to continue to go out - and maybe next time the weather will be kinder to us. It's interesting just how many people are out and about on bikes now - one of the positive things to come out of these difficult times.

Doreen Magill

Saturday Talks on Zoom and then internet

From September until December we will stage our **Saturday Morning Talks** by Zoom which is an excellent platform for lectures as the speaker can share his PowerPoint on our screens. Peter Jarman's experience of this 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 break-out rooms for chatting over coffee in small groups beforehand. I can walk you through setting up and using the Zoom app by phone if you request this.

We will circulate the titles 2 weeks in advance, and hope that even more members will write to talks@yorku3a.com to request the zoom link from Anna Baldwin. It will be sent out on the Wednesday before the Talk.

Afterwards the Talk will be uploaded onto the Cloud (details to follow) and all members will be able to see and hear it, though not of course to ask questions or join in the socialising! So do join the Zoom Talk and help to make it an occasion.

Talks Programme

September 12th Tony May:

Travel in York: learning from the lockdown.

Tony May is an Emeritus Professor of Transport Engineering at the university of Leeds, and chairs the Transport Advisory Group of York Civic Trust. With the Trust he has been advising the City of York Council on how to develop its next Local Transport Plan, and has coordinated a survey of residents' needs and established a Citizens' Transport Forum. The experience of the lockdown has demonstrated the benefits of a different approach to travel in the city. Tony will outline the proposals which the Trust has developed and how the lessons of the last few months might influence them.

October 10th Michael Waller: Medical Imaging

Dr Michael Waller is a retired Consultant Clinical Scientist. He worked in medical physics within the NHS for 30 years, specializing in medical imaging.

The last fifty years has seen an enormous increase in the number and variety of medical imaging techniques that are used in hospitals. This talk will try to explain the particular advantages of each type of imaging, using basic descriptions of how they each work.

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

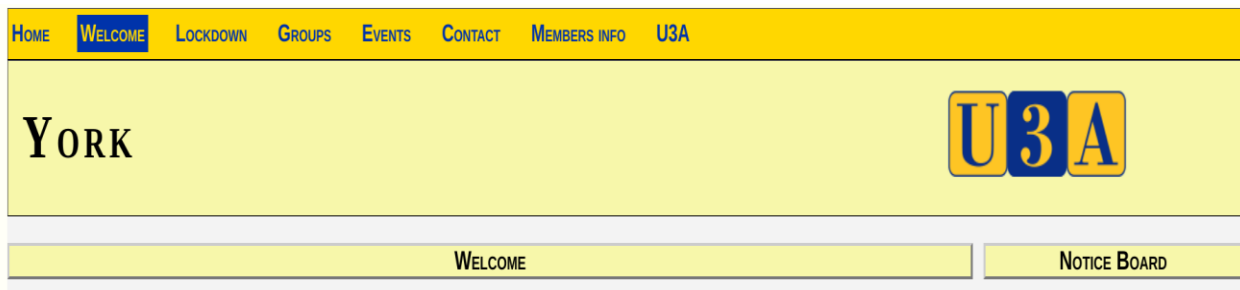
Meanwhile several Groups are already on the internet in various ways. The Haxby Camera Club (which welcomes York members too) is continuing on Whatsapp with members sending in a picture every day! Romantic Poetry works well as a fortnightly Zoom class with members talking about poems they have received 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, recipes, poems and books they read.

Details on all these and more can be found on the website and you can ask to join any which attract 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 meeting.

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

Anna Baldwin and Peter Jarman



Our York U3A Website

We have a website that aims to publicise our U3A and to provide information for our members, it can be found from any web browser: www.yorku3a.com

The information on it will be kept up to date, which will be important over the coming months to see which Groups are starting or adapting, and to find out about our Saturday Talks.

Have a browse of the various pages. If you have any comments there is a feedback form on the Contacts page.

Lorrae Atkins
Website and Communications, York U3A
web@yorku3a.com

BEACON – MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS AND GROUPS

In February our membership records were moved to the Beacon system so this is our first year using the new system and members will be able to renew their membership online. The committee members and their partners have already renewed their membership online. This was a useful exercise and we were able to do some fine tuning before we ask members to renew their membership online. It is not essential for members to renew online, but this is encouraged especially when access to the U3a office is limited. Members will continue to have the option to pay by cheque.

Due to the current situation your 2019-2020 membership has been extended until the end of the year. At that time you must renew your membership to continue being part of York U3A. If you are attending a group you should renew your membership straightaway.

We will be sending out 1,610 Renewal Notification emails, about 100 at a time, in alphabetical order, starting on August 3rd. If you have made the decision not to renew your membership at this time or not at all, please will you notify me by email at membership@yorku3.com so that we can save the cost of printing and posting your Renewal Form.

At the end of August Renewal Forms will be posted to 167 members who do not have email addresses on file. At the beginning of September an email renewal reminder will be sent to members who have not yet renewed their membership. From the beginning of October Renewal Forms will be posted to members with email addresses who have not renewed their membership. Members who have notified us that they will be not be renewing their membership at this time will not receive Renewal Forms.

Lockdown has given us the opportunity to move ahead with the second stage of Beacon. We have added our 149 groups to Beacon. Group Leaders were asked for lists of their group members and these have been added to Beacon. When entering the group members it was discovered that several members who were in groups had not renewed their membership for 2019-2020. The next step is to give Group Leaders access to Beacon in order that they may manage their own groups. They will be able to see which members are due to renew their membership and will be able give them a reminder. Group Leaders will receive an email containing instructions and login details next month.

Sandra Mason
Membership Secretary and Beacon Administrator
membership@yorku3a.com

50-word Yarns

AbFab Updated

And then she said young people were “betrayed” by us oldies, to the whole UN! I need a car. I can't use the tube in these clothes! The next thing you know they'll say a virus is going kill us all off! Pass the Bolly. Happy 2020 darling.

Mike Barnard

Play for Today

It is widely believed that William Shakespeare wrote Macbeth, Antony and Cleopatra and King Lear whilst he was in quarantine during the Bubonic Plague of 1606, a time when all theatres were closed. If he were around today, he might have penned 'The Two Gentlemen of Corona'!

Stephen Holman

And some of them even rhyme; Dick Ockelton has a lot to answer for

U3A Travel Abroad

To all our globetrotter armchair dreamers,
After Covid cancelled our trip,
Now professional travel blog streamers,
Remember this is all just a blip!

Our feet yearning to travel, minds on the go,
Brochures and maps we're now appraising,
Be patient, be kind, and just go with the flow,
Next year, post Covid, will be amazing!

Lis Jackson

And yet another Poem in 50-words

For speaking at schools about the holocaust I am awarded a gong
But waiting for it, thanks to coronavirus, is taking a bit long
So, the word now is that it may take a good while to appear
And may not happen at all before the garden party next year.

Marc Schatzberger

Stephen Holman wondered is Dick, Victor Meldrew in disguise? “

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 7

Another week in lockdown and another “Groundhog Day”.
Looks like we’re going nowhere fast; this thing won’t go away.
And now we’re told it’s causing clots and getting even scarier.
The Clot across the Pond is taking tablets for malaria.
He doesn’t like to wear a mask; it isn’t to his taste.
It’s no surprise; when telling lies he likes to be bare-faced.

Beneath the stairs a crisis looms; the booze is almost gone.
How will I keep my spirits up? How will I carry on?
My hair is growing long again; I feel my standards slipping.
My teeth need some attention and I want my toenails clipping.
But in a space as small as this I’m scared, I have to say,
I could be badly injured by a nail-clip ricochet!

I’ve heard there is some envy of us folks with “shielded” status.
By some who seem to feel that they are left in a hiatus
When it comes to food deliveries, where we can jump the queue.
The fact that they are healthier means they can’t do it too.
Strange times we’re in, when old folks seem to wish that they were sicker.
For them, a price worth paying if they got their groceries quicker!

Dick Ockelton 27th May 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 8

About Cummings and his goings to a place he shouldna gone.
But Boris couldn’t fire him; it would have just been nutty;
Imagine Harry Corbett being fired by little Sooty.
It’s clear as day, the pair, to say the least, are hand in glove.
Without Cummings where would Boris get his guidance from above?

There’s good news from my lockdown den; the booze has been replaced.
Another week in lockdown and the press kept banging on
My wife has been so thoughtful and it’s keeping me rat-faced.
She’s anxious to protect me from a fever or a cough.
She says that in my bunker I am clearly better off.
Perhaps I’m being paranoid, perhaps I’m getting dafter,
But from somewhere in the garden I keep thinking I hear laughter.

The Thursday night applause is getting slightly out of hand,
With saucepans, gongs and bagpipes. What next? A marching band?
There’s creeping competition as to who can clap for longer;
As if going like the clappers shows your gratitude is stronger.
And the person who began it all is now expressing doubt.
She’s suggested we should pack it in, before we’re all clapped out.

Dick Ockelton 3rd June 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 9

Another week in Lockdown and it looks like things are easing.
The thought of getting out a bit, for many, will be pleasing,
But the current lack of toilets, for some, will just bring grief.
For we fellas of a certain age it offers no relief.
And Boris, through his briefings, is still aiming to impress,
You'd think at least he'd brush his hair. He looks an Eton Mess!

In times like these our leaders should look steadfast and reliable,
But the Godless Goof across the Pond tried brandishing a Bible.
Was he hoping for a miracle? It would have been far better
If he'd brandished something helpful, like a resignation letter.
I'm staying in my den much more with every day that passes.
But I think that, from the garden, I can hear the clink of glasses.

Whilst the biggest choice I have to make is "Sauvignon or Merlot?"
You have to feel so sorry for the people out on furlough.
Returning to normality's the prize they've got their eyes on.
Let's hope that soon a vaccine will appear on the horizon.
And in case we'd miss a crisis to depress us every day.
Don't worry, we took care of that; Brexit's on its way.

Dick Ockelton 10th June 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 10

Another week in Lockdown and we've been in such a lather
With bubbles, schools and quarantine amongst the Covid blather.
Whilst dear old Brushless Boris burbles messages of hope,
I'd like to think it's not just more political soft-soap,
But he seems to change his mind a lot on things he says are planned.
In fact he's done more u-turns than a high school marching band.

I thought I could go out a bit according to new rules,
But my wife insists that rushing in is only done by fools.
She thinks it's best to stay locked down for now; I guess she's right,
But I'm losing track of time a bit. Is it day or night?
Perhaps it's just my tinnitus that sets my ears a-tinging,
But from somewhere in the garden I keep thinking I hear singing.

Alcohol has helped a lot to keep things in perspective.
Whilst wine alone is very good, with gin it's more effective.
The economic outlook might be really rather bad
But I'm trying to stay positive, no point in being sad.
The Transatlantic issue, though, that makes me most depressed
Is the constant negativity of Donald's Covid test.

Dick Ockelton 19th June 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 11

Another week in Lockdown and the Boris briefing's stopped.
If things are getting better it seems strange that he should opt
To keep us less informed, to step away from media scrutiny.
Are u-turns made in private less inclined to cause a mutiny?
We'll miss "Pandemic Panto Time" for plans that are (or aren't),
"Oh yes they are!", "(Oh no they're not!)", "You can!", "(Oh no you can't!)"

But meantime, it's been hot down here, in the Covid shelter.
I can open up the door a crack when it starts to swelter.
I've got my booze, my books, the odd electrical appliance
And my wife thinks it's important to be "guided by the science".
She says I shouldn't watch the news; she's right; it does upset me.
And when it's safe to venture out, she says she'll come and get me.

As the weather just got hotter and we all began to roast,
And the British swarmed like lemmings self-destructing at the coast,
Donald Duck'd the issue of his rising Covid tally
By filling up a stadium to hold an Ego-rally.
There's garbage at our beauty spots and garbage on our beaches,
But it's nothing like the garbage that the Coiffured Quackpot preaches.

Dick Ockelton 27th June 2020

Lockdown or Lockup? Episode 12

Another week in Lockdown and a dose of Deja vu,
With another case of "stick to what I say, not what I do".
Whilst crowded pubs and "track and trace" prove difficult to police,
The PM's Dad just dodges through the back door into Greece.
Across the Pond the leader of a Covid-riddled nation
Is unmasked, a sad Narcissus with a craving for ovation.

So I'm happy here beneath the stairs, away from all the fuss.
My wife says looser lockdown rules will not apply to us.
She thinks I will be "shielding" for at least another year
And says I'm just imagining the voices that I hear
When, from somewhere in the garden, there's a sound of distant jollity.
She takes such care maintaining my environmental quality.

I really mustn't grumble, I've a toilet close at hand.
Supplies of food and drugs and wine, meticulously planned.
Repeats of ancient TV shows to keep me entertained.
There's little point in coming out, there's nothing to be gained.
So I think I'll simply hunker down and hope for better times.
At least that bloke's stopped sending those annoying Lockdown rhymes

Dick Ockelton 9th July 2020

Editor's note

It's such a shame but Dick Ockelton has informed me that he has finished penning his lockdown poems. Fortunately, it has inspired a wave of other poets to create their own verse. Even I answered his last email thanking him in verse for his contributions. Here is another admirer.

REPLY TO DICK

Just had to take my pen and send plaudits and praise to Dick
For his extraordinary talent in pulling off the trick
Of writing for our amusement, a compelling, clever ditty,
Telling us his woeful tale but in a style both wry and witty!

On top of that, he's made it scan in every single verse -
(To read a poem with scan all wrong, to me there's nothing worse!)
He's painted vivid images of his sad life in that cellar,
That one cannot help but pity this poor, neglected fella.

But he paused his sorry story when we hadn't got through May,
So, I'm really looking forward to what more he's going to say.
I'm hoping lockdown lasts for longer and doesn't end too soon,
'Cos we need the next instalment - how Dick survives through June!

Lesley Woodfield

Old joke told to the Language & Linguists Group

He points out that the punchline can be adapted to refer to any sportsperson that people are likely to recognise.

There's a lovely old story about a French tourist on the ferry to England for the first time, Having heard that English pronunciation was a nightmare, he was diligently working through the pronunciations in his dictionary to prepare himself.

He did

THOROUGH: pronounced thurrer

THOUGH: pronounced tho

THOUGHT: pronounced thort

THROUGH: pronounced throo

TROUGH: pronounced troff

TOUGH: pronounced tuff

WOMAN : pronounced WUMAN

WOMEN : pronounced WIMIN

YACHT : pronounced YOT

etc,

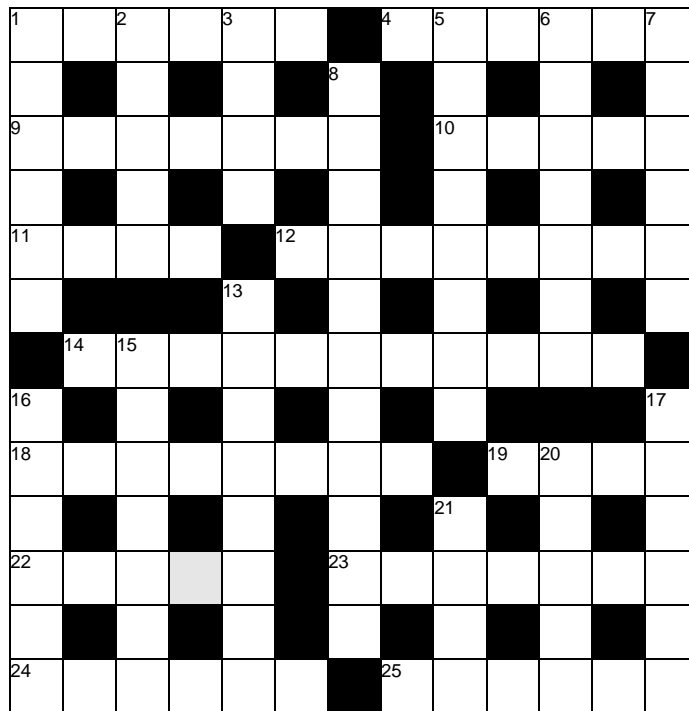
He staggered off the boat in Dover, looked up at a newspaper hoarding, and read

KANE PRONOUNCED FIT

and shot himself

presumably because he thought he'd come to an insane country where pronunciations were changed daily, with random senseless pronunciations being assigned, and the population was informed in this novel manner pending the insertion of the latest imbecility into the paper dictionaries.

Peter Wells



Cryptic Crossword by no 13

ACROSS

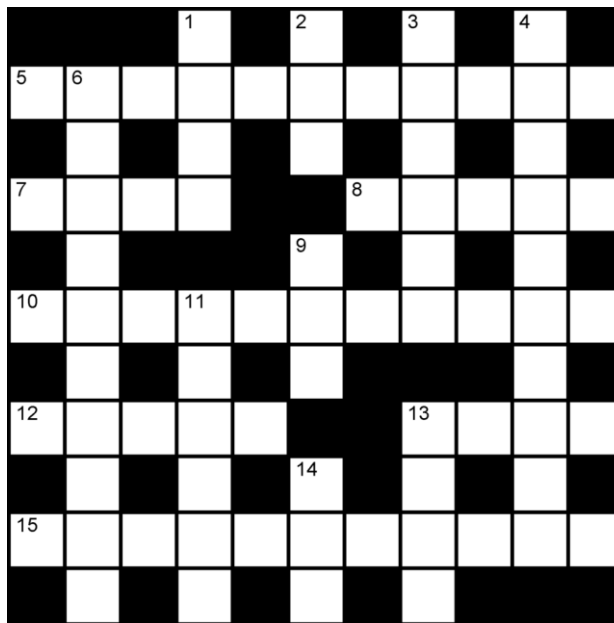
1. Short way umpire returns. It's a small animal (6). 4. Cat and sheep return. It's another. (6) 9. Vi's cousin has sticky moment. (7) 10. He and Ann mix body paint.(5) 11. Awful nasty fall, bone showing. (4).12. Single stone at Stonehenge.(8). 14. Where candles grow on trees.(11) 18. Sentimental item to store alcoholic drink. (8) 19. Plant part of the eye. (4). 22 Is a Trojan. (5) 23. Serious camping? (7). 24. Describes outfits for certain events. (6). 25. Naval rating posted away. (6).

DOWN

1.Help, taste loses an apprentice. (6). 2.Emerged out of 20 down. (5). 3.He borrowed from old York expression. (4). 5.Tree valley in Devon .(8) 6. M'lord, you're French! (7). 7.Rubbishy extremes of 24 across. (6). 8 Preferred play (2,3,4,2). 13. Not even footwear? (3,5). 15. Solvent has expert manner. (7). 16. Performance kept on ice. (6). 17. As money is climbing. (6). 20. Reconstituted resin is a wash out. (5). 21. Bats comeback attempt. (4)

Solution on page 15

French Crossword



Across

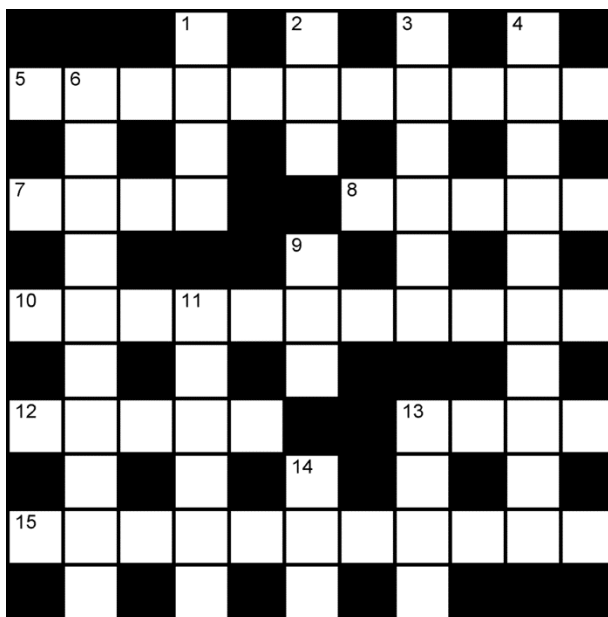
5 Crossword (4,7) 7 Link (4) 8 End (5) 10 Sputtering (11) 12 Foam (5) 13 Volcanic flow (4) 15 Describes blood's lowest pressure

Down

1 Dare (4) 2 Paintings etc. (3) 3 Refers to son (6) 4 Grand-nephew (5,5) 6 Political regime (10) 9 Tree (3) 11 Solvent passage through membrane (6) 13 Milk (4) 14 Good (3)

Solution on page 15

German Crossword



Across

5 Observant (11) 7 In it (4) 8 Veins, Strands (5) 10 Anxiety in the open? (11) 12 Beneath (5) 13 Want (4) 15 Prisons (11)

Down

1 Just (4) 2 Oh (3) 3 Special workshop (6) 4 Weak (10) 6 Exhilarating (10) 9 Grand Father (3) 11 (he or she) Phoned (4,2) 13 Because (4) 14 Self (3)

Solution on page 15

York U3A Committee

*invited on to committee

David Maughan Brown	Chairman
*Mike Barnard	Secretary
Sheila Wilson	Treasurer
*Ren Buss	(Treasurer)
*Brian Frodsham	Regional Representative
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 sent by email. **Currently they should not be left in the Office.**

Please will Group Leaders or other key holders please note that they are not permitted to access the office in Clifford Street for any purpose until further notice. Further information will be provided in due course

chair@yorku3a.com
secretary@yorku3a.com
treasurer@yorku3a.com
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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

Please note that the Kynren trip has been cancelled by our provider and now Jennie Pugsley has been able to process the return of deposits.

Lis Jackson <woollard@iname.com>



This elegant clock is at the end of the pedestrian bridge across the track

Solution To Cryptic Crossword page 12

Across

1 Ferret, 4 Marmot, 9 Viscous, 10 Henna, 11 Ulna, 12 Monolith, 14 Candelabrum, 18 Keepsake, 19 Iris, 22 Troic, 23 Intense, 24 Dressy, 25 Absent

Down

1 Favour, 2 Risen, 3 Ebor, 5 Ashcombe, 6 Mon Dieu, 7 Trashy, 8 As You Like It, 13 Odd Socks, 15 Acetone, 16 Skated, 17 Ascent, 20 Rinse, 21 Stab

Solution to French Crossword page 13

Across

5 Mots Croises, 7 Lier, 8 Finir, 10 Bafouillant, 12 Ecume, 13 Lave, 15 Diastolique.

Down

1 Oser, 2 Art, 3 Filial, 4 Petit-Neveu, 9 Pin, 11 Osmose, 13 Lait. 14 Bon,

Solution to German Crossword page 13

Across

5 Beobachtend, 7 Drin, 8 Adern, 10 Agoraphobie, 12 Unter, 13 Will, 15 Gefangnisse,

Down

1 Eben, 2 Ach, 3 Studio, 4 Energielos, 9 Opa, 11 Rief an, 13 Weil, 14 Ego