



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



• NOTES FROM THE CHAIR •

Lockdown 2 is ended today 2nd December and the new tier restrictions are now in place. Oxfordshire is in Tier 2. Please keep an eye on our website for what meetings might restart. Also on website are useful links regarding Covid-19 advice.

We had our third Zoom Speaker meeting in November. Sophie Matthews gave a talk about musical instruments in art, illustrating with paintings which have musical instruments and playing said instruments - including some which she made herself. Her playing was excellent, her knowledge extensive. We gave her mute applause after each

instrument and unmuted to give her real applause afterwards. We shall be booking her again next year.

About 80 people were listening. If you haven't attended one of the Zoom Speaker Meetings why not give it a try, you might be pleasantly surprised.

December's is Tim Barron on London in the Time of Shakespeare.

We still have Coffee Morning Zoom meetings on the first Friday of the month at 10:30. The link is on the website's Calendar & Coffee pages.

Take care, stay safe *Malcolm*

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Celebration of Volunteers

Normally the Committee host an annual Thank You wine & cheese for all our 83 volunteers who so ably keep our u3a



running smoothly in both normal and Covid times.

This year we thanked them with a delightful animated e-card that featured

April showers, umbrellas, welly boots, flowers, birds and a shining rainbow at the end!

DECEMBER EVENTS

These are all online via Zoom

Fri 4th Dec Coffee Morning

Wed 16th Dec Speaker Meeting

Thur 17th Dec Christmas Concert
Need to book

Fri 18th Dec TVN Xmas Quiz
booking closing date 14th Dec

•EDITORIAL•

Welcome!

This is the bumper seasonal edition - plenty of quizzes (see Ken's letter on p10), photos, story & articles, and the Groups Roundup. Lovely to hear what everyone's got up to.

Book Group 5 have kindly given us their 2021 reading list - see p5.

Thank you to contributors of this issue - I had more than could fit in, so some contributions will go into the fresh start January issue.

Sarah Boyt Robinson
newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org



Layout using Serif Affinity Publisher

USEFUL WEBSITES:

Go look on our [website](#) for useful weblinks regarding Covid-19 advice, u3a National news, & our Spam advice page.

Clicking on **bright blue text** will take you somewhere, & clicking on the blue arrows will bring you back to the Contents list



SPEAKER MEETINGS

Organised by Jane Tuckett & the Speaker Meetings Committee:

Our virtual speaker for this month's Speaker Meeting is Tim Barron. Tim has been a London Blue Badge Guide for five years before which he had a very eclectic career: art college, environmental sciences at university heavily laced with drama, rock musician. He worked for a while in Eastenders followed by various period TV dramas, travelled the world with the English Teaching Theatre and played Captain Tempest in the West End production of 'Return to the Forbidden Plant' which he calls 'Shakespeare's forgotten rock'n roll masterpiece'. Nothing if not wide-ranging and interesting as careers go!



He will take us on a virtual tour of some of the London sites which Shakespeare would have known, including The Globe and Mermaid Theatres, Southwark Cathedral, The George, a historic coaching inn, and Shakespeare's house. Tim even promises us some added seasonal Shakespeare sparkle.

Sadly, we can't promise our usual home-made mince pies with your cup of tea after the talk, but hope that you will join us for what promises to be an interesting, informative and entertaining afternoon.

Do bring your own seasonal tippie and festive snack to enjoy while you listen.

You get into the ZoomPro Speaker Meeting from the comfort of your home by clicking on the link on the [Speaker](#) website page.

Sept Tom Way Wildlife on Your Doorstep

Oct John Ericson Art Inspired by Wine

Nov Sophie Matthews Music in Art

Sophie Matthews gave a talk about musical instruments in art, illustrating with paintings which have musical instruments and playing said instruments - including some which she made herself. Her playing was excellent, her



knowledge extensive. We shall be booking her again next year.

Here are some links to more of what she does:

[Xmas Tour](#)

[Sophie's shop](#)

[Keep It Local](#) this is the tour around the 13 spaces in Sophie's house.

16th December

Tim Barron London in the Time of Shakespeare

Tim Barron is an actor musician who, in more normal times, works as a London Blue Badge Guide. He offers a wide portfolio of tours including London's theatre land and Shakespeare's Southwark so he should be on home territory for this talk about London at the time of Shakespeare. He promises additional Christmas cheer to take account of the season.

20th January 2021

Dr Paul Roberts Last Supper at Pompeii

Paul Roberts is a classical archaeologist who holds the title of Sackler Keeper of the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum. He was the Curator of last year's excellent exhibition 'Last Supper at Pompeii' and will talk to us about the catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius in AD79. So this is a chance to revisit this memorable exhibition, but also to travel to sunny Italy at a time when our travel opportunities are rather curtailed.

17th February 2021

David Barber Swan Upping

David Barber is the Queens Swan Marker, a role which dates back to the 12th century but he is undertaking to return to the 21st century this month to give us his scheduled talk by Zoom. I imagine that many of us have heard of the ancient custom of Swan Upping on the River Thames and have little concept of what it involves. He is responsible for organizing it and will tell us all about it as well as describing his many other duties. A rare opportunity to find out about a fascinating local custom.

17th March 2021

Don Brown Ancient Treasures of the British Museum

Don Brown is a London Blue Badge Guide and Director of the London Society. His usual work sees him guiding tourists around London and other interesting sites which may be further afield. In these unusual times he is undertaking to show virtual tourists some of his favourite spots, including the British Museum where he will talk to us about some of the most outstanding ancient treasures of that amazing treasure house.

OUTINGS

From the Outings Committee:

Usually we go by coach this time of year to sing alongside other u3as in London.

Here is this year's version.



The Brandenburg Traditional Christmas Concert

Thu 17th December 2020 2:00 pm

The pre-recorded musical content will include familiar audience carols singing along with the Brandenburg Camino choir as well as Christmas-related music and a few more unusual carol settings by the professional choir of St Bartholomew the Great. Instrumental support will include the organ, piano, harp and trumpet. The programme will be interspersed with readings.

Delivery will be via Zoom (no technical knowledge required – make your **BOOKING** here

The January 2021 Celebration Lunch is now cancelled, but re-booked for January 2022.

The provisional **2021** outings are looking like this:

Feb	Wallingford Treasure Hunt & visit to the Mary Rose
March	Brighton
April	Concord Aerospace museum
May	Watercress Line
June	Northumbria 6-day trip
July	Isle of Wight cruise
Aug	Butser Park Iron Age village
Sept	Frogmore Mill
Oct	Salisbury (Cathedral and town)
Nov	Concert



INTEREST GROUPS

No face to face meetings at the moment. Please check website for latest updates.

Many Groups are keeping in touch with each other by all means electronic. Our ZoomPro (with unlimited time) is proving popular – ten Groups are using it every month.

Bookings are made via **Contact** website page.

Big thanks to Group conveners for keeping things going.

You can apply to join an Interest Group even now to be ready for fresh times

Contact Yvonne Griffiths **via our website**



Antiques	Carole Johnson
Art/Painting	Angie Thorington
Craft	Angie Thorington
Photography 3	Malcolm Brooks
Music Broader	Val Wolsey
Music Classical 1	Mike Sedman
Music Classical 2	John Cozens
Singing for Fun	Helen Fitcher
Ukulele	Paul Booker (temp)
Book Group 1	Sue Taylor
Book Group 2	Di Young
Book Group 3	Sheila Findlay
Book Group 4	Dee Clarke
Book Group 5	Sue English
Play Reading	Philippa Davies
Poetry Reading	Jill Cooney
Writing for Pleasure	Carolyn Newbert

French Conversation 1	Janet Franklin
French Conversation 2	Susan Renn
Latin for Pleasure	Roger Morgan
Spanish Improvers	Val Mowlam
Science	Anna Harvey
Seminar	Gloria Hamilton-Peach
Current Affairs 1	Trudy Davies
Current Affairs 2	Val Mowlam
Genealogy 1	Linda Matthews
Genealogy 2	Mary Cozens
History 1	Ted Nelson
History 2	Patricia Shields
History 3	Colin Clarke
History 4	Jenny Potter
History 5	Ray Verrall
Writing Life History	Margaret Pritchard
iPad Users 1	Sheila Findlay
iPad Users 2	tba
Mac Users	Ann Truesdale

Cards Bridge	Sheila Findlay
Cards Canasta	Hilly Bailey
Cards Cribbage	Joyce Kent
Cards Euchre	Hilly Bailey
Scrabble 1	Sarah Masters
Scrabble 2	Vee Hadley
Badminton	Hilly Bailey
Pétanque	Loren Butt
Birdwatching 1	Rosemary Garner
Birdwatching 2	Pam Johnstone
Shorter Walking	Paul Booker
Rambling	Phil Richardson
Moderate Walk 1	Julia West
Moderate Walk 2	Julia West
Longer Walking	Julia West
Garden Visits	Dinah Perkins & Hilary Taylor
Lunch Club	Rosemary & Tony Hines
Sunday Lunch Club	Ken Gough

INTEREST GROUPS ROUND-UP



From Angie Thorrington – Art/Painting & Craft:



Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Better Healthier New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you sometime in 2021, stay safe.

From Carolyn Newbert – Writing for Pleasure:

Continue sharing our work & keeping in touch by email.

From Philippa Davies – Playreading:

Meeting monthly via ZoomPro. We might read a whole play in one sitting, the duration of a session could take as long as 2 ½ hours.

From Jennifer Potter – History 4:

Meeting monthly via Zoom Pro. In November our topic was American Presidents and with 45 Presidents in all we are continuing this topic for our December meeting.

From Patricia Shields – History 2:

Still meeting fortnightly on Zoom. We enjoyed an excellent talk on Basing House from Sue, to include a one woman reenactment of a battle between Oliver Cromwell and the Paulet Family and supporters of King Charles 1. Our next meeting on Zoom will involve each of us talking briefly on a Christmas Tradition accompanied by a glass and a mince pie as we toast one another remotely.

From Ray Verrall – History 5:

No Dec meeting due to the Christmas break. Despite the lockdown our group has managed to continue with talks during this period and this was either held outside in the gardens or by Zoom. The subjects have varied from Stoke Mandeville Hospital, Joe Lyons, Vasco da Gama and Inventions. We are all looking forward to resumption of talks in January.

From Sue Taylor – Book 1:

We will be having a ZoomPro Christmas party, complete with prosecco and mince pies! We have each chosen a Christmas-themed reading which we will perform, ranging from Dr. Seuss through to a Christmas ghost via Larkrise and the Yorkshire Dales with a bit of Pam Ayres thrown in for good measure.

Our 2021 reading programme is almost complete.

From Diana Young – Book 2:

We are having a Zoom Christmas Meeting on Thursday 3rd Dec. Each member is reading a Christmas poem or piece of prose. This will be followed by a discussion to decide our Reading List for 2021.

We will conclude by toasting each other Happy Christmas with a mince pie and drink.

From Dee Clarke – Book 4:

Are holding Zoom meetings once a month and our next meeting will be to discuss "The Body" by Bill Bryson. That will be on Thursday, 12th Dec at 2:00.

From Sue English – Book 5:

We will be reading The Art of Hearing Heartbeats by Jan-Philipp Sendker during December but there will be no meeting as our meeting date falls on Christmas Eve. Our book for January is Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell and we will meet to discuss both books on ZoomPro on 28th Jan. We have chosen our 2021 Book list. Many of us have read and discussed informally The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman. Full of characters you feel you know.....

From Carole Johnson – Antiques:

We maintain contact via e-mail, and e-mail Quizzes each month. I shall be sending out another Quiz in December, possibly with a Christmas theme.

It is with great sadness that the Antiques Group has to record the loss of John Roddan, who died at the end of October. He was a much-loved and respected member of the Group, who was always kind, supportive and interested in our activities - one of life's true Gentlemen. We extend our love and sympathy to Valerie.

From Jill Cooney – Poetry:

continues to meet each week on Zoom and enjoy a little escapism from this strange world we find ourselves in. We send good wishes for Christmas and a better and healthy New Year to all U3A members.

From Pam Johnstone – Birdwatching 2:

Due to the guidelines in place at present, Birding 2 did not meet in November and has no plans to meet up till into the new year, all depending of course on the situation by then !

From Janet Franklin – French 1:

We had hoped to be able to meet face to face but will zoom into Christmas instead. We will meet on 19th December at 10:30 as Zoom-usual.

We wish everyone Joyeux Noël et Bonne Année.

From Helen Fatcher – Singing for Fun:

Happy Christmas to all Singing for Fun members. At this time of year we would normally be practicing our lovely carols to sing to the residents of the Close Care Home in Burcot. Ah well, here's to next year,

From Loren Butt – Petanque:

Petanque has been shut down completely again., but we are hope for better news during the coming week.

From Joyce Kent – Cribbage:

Our meetings in the New Year will be first & third Mondays of the month beginning January. That is hoping we ever get back to that sort of normal. Have a fun Christmas.

From Malcolm Brooks – Photography:

We are showing about 15 photos in PowerPoint, using the PowerPoint presenting facilities.

From Val Mowlam – Spanish:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

From Linda Matthews – Genealogy 1:

We have a monthly topic which we submit by group email, however we are all looking forward to face to face meeting hopefully shortly!

From Trudy Davies – Current Affairs 1:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

From Val Mowlam – Current Affairs 2:

Meeting monthly via ZoomPro.

From Phil Richardson – Rambling:

will meet again on 17th Dec following Ramblers guidelines

From Julia West – Walking:

Group members to be informed.



BOOK READING LISTS

Here are the Book Groups' Reading lists drawn together – you are all invited to peruse!
Please do let the Editor know of your recommendations.

Book Group 1:

A Spark of Light by Jodie Picoult
Bettany's Book by Thomas Kineally
Clock Dance by Anne Tyler
Educated by Tara Westover
Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie
Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams
The Child by Fiona Barton
The Force of Nature by Jane Harper
The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyd
The Holiday by Tim Logan
The Testaments by Margaret Atwood

Book Group 2:

A Life of my Own by Claire Tomalin
Accidents in the Home by Tessa Hadley
Pompeii by Robert Harris
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
The Dangerous Edge of Things
by Candida Lycett Green
The Hidden Village by Imogen Matthews
The Music Shop by Rachel Joyce
The Prince of the West End by Alan Isler
The Salt Path by Raynor Winn
Wilding by Isabella Tree

Book Group 3:

Conclave by Robert Harris
Dangerous Crossing by Rachel Rhys
Erubus by Michael Palin
Lie of The Land by Amanda Craig
Once upon a River by Diane Setterfield
Pomfret Towers by Angela Thirkell
Sapiens by Yuval Noah Harari
The Curious Heart of Ailsa Rae by Stephanie Butland
The Great Alone by Kristina Hannah
The Reason to be Cheerful by Nina Stibbe

From Philip Burton:

Centuries of Change by Ian Mortimer Which century saw the most change and why it matters to us.
The New Dark Ages by James Bridle - Technology and the End of the Future.

Book Group 4:

Janice Hadlow, **The Other Bennett Sister**, Pan Macmillan, 2020, (£11.04 at Book Depository)
Peter Frankopan, **The Silk Road : A New History of the World**, Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2016
Bernardine Evaristo, **Girl, Woman, Other**, now in paperback
Tracy Chevalier, **A Single Thread**, The Borough Press
Donna Leon, **Trace Elements**, in pbk from September 2020
Marlon James, **The Book of Night Women**, One world Publications, 2014
Madeleine Miller, **Circe**, Bloomsbury
Elizabeth Strout, **Olive Again**, pbk in Nov.
Salley Vickers, **Grandmothers**, Viking
Rose Tremain short stories – **The American Lover**, Vintage
Emily Ruskovich – **Idaho**, Vintage
Elizabeth Macneal, **The Doll Factory**, Picador
Linda Grant, **A Stranger City**, Virago pb in June 2020
Nina George, **The Little Paris Bookshop**, Little, Brown
Claire Fuller, **Our Endless Numbered Days**, Penguin
Lindsey Davies, **2 series of Classical Roman Crime novels**.
Simon Barnes, **On the Marsh**, Simon & Schuster Ltd
Deirdre Madden, **Mollie Fox's Birthday**, faber & faber
Hilary Mantel, **The Mirror & the Light**, Fourth Estate
A book for dipping into:
Helen Dunmore: **'Counting Backwards'**
Poems 1975-2017



Book Group 5 - 2021 Reading List:

In Extremis by Maria Colvin
Fingers in the Sparkle Jar by Chris Packham
The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton
The Cyprus Tree by Kamin Mohammadi
My Name is Why by Lemn Sissay
How Not To Be A Boy by Robert Webb
The Easternmost House by Juliet Blaxland
The Thursday Murder Club by Ricard Osman

MUSICAL NOTES

Christmas Music Events

It has been particularly difficult to compile a list of suggestions for Christmas events due to the effects of coronavirus making everything uncertain at the time of writing – but here goes!

Firstly **London**: there will be a number of virtual concerts from places like the Barbican, St Pauls, St Martin in the Fields and Cadogan Hall and live carol concerts from the Royal Albert Hall.

A possibility is an outdoor concert in the courtyard of Fulham Palace or a “starry nights” event at Lambeth Palace.

If you fancy a night in Bournemouth you could go to the Pavilion to the “that’ll be the day” Christmas show or in Poole there is a programme of Christmas Crackers at the Lighthouse.

I think maybe it might be better to stay indoors this year because there are a lots of exciting media events on TV and radio.



On **BBC Radio 3** there is a competition to compose a tune for a carol written by Paul Dunbar from which the best six will be featured, whereas on **BBC 1** there will be a performance of the best voted carols on **Songs of Praise** in December.

Again, on **Radio 3** the ten most essential Christmas classics will be played in full.

On Christmas Eve the **choir of Kings College Cambridge** will be performing the service of nine lesson and carols on **Radio 3** and the same choir will sing carols from Kings on **BBC2**.

Finally, I would like to point out two recordings available on the internet that I think are little gems. They are “**A little love**” from an advert from John Lewis and Waitrose and “**Stop crying your heart out**” for Children in Need.

At this stage there is little reliable information about Christmas events in Oxfordshire, but I hope there will be something locally for you to enjoy.

Please remember to continue to check before you leave home and don't let Coronavirus ruin a wonderful musical Christmas.

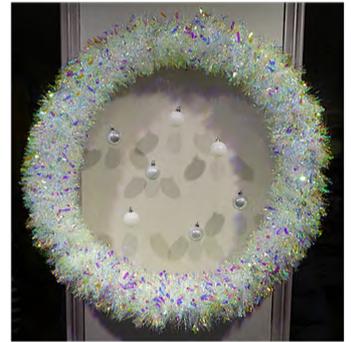


Mike Sedman, Classical Music Group 1

Editor note: here's the YouTube recordings of
[Stop Crying your Heart Out](#) [A Little Love](#)

10 EARLY SIGNS OF CHRISTMAS IN WALLINGFORD SHOP WINDOWS

BY MARK ROBINSON
One of our roving photographers



PHOTOS BY RAY VERRALL

Another of our roving photographers



WAITING FOR LOCKDOWN TO FINISH



A LOCAL TRIBUTE



LEST WE FORGET



REALLY?

TREVOR THE TURKEY

by Oxyfauna

(who also penned last month's "Just a Bit Batty!")



Hello, I am Meleagris Gallopavo or you may prefer to call me Trevor. It won't matter that much because I will not last long. I will really be enjoyed on Christmas Day but after a week of cold meat, turkey soup, risotto, curry, stew, parson's nose and leftovers you will be thoroughly fed up with me; but don't forget to keep the stock!

At the moment I am very happy in my barn with all my friends and nice ladies to whom I can display my impressive parts unaware of my impending doom! (sorry Frazer) I bet you don't know that I have a, a snood, caruncle and a wattle, all useful tools for flirting!

My ancestors were native to North America but how they got their name is unclear. One theory is that when guinea fowl were being imported to America from Turkey via Istanbul they were incorrectly identified and called Turkey coques – and somehow the name has stuck.

Forty five million years ago we split up from our cousins the chickens and ever since have been rivals for the dining table. Not so long ago in 1843 Dickens wrote that Scrooge sent the Cratchit family a turkey for Christmas and then the Americans took over to celebrate Thanksgiving with turkey. Again, in the nineteen hundreds the western world went mad with the Turkey trot which developed in to the more sedate foxtrot in 1914.



By the way turkeys can fly but I have no need to because anyway I am now too fat and the farmer's wife gives me a nice stroke and cuddle every day, which I love. I don't "talk turkey" but I do love music and cluck along with the tunes.

Towards the end of this month you will "gobble" me up.

Do enjoy me because there are a lot of hatchlings waiting in the "wings" and we all must make way for the next generation.

Must we??

Have a very happy and full Christmas!!

Oxyfauna



Dear Quizzers and all Thameside u3a Members

Did you notice the deliberate mistake in Novembers Newsletter? That's rightNO QUIZ.

Now you may think that this was an age thing and I had forgotten! But there is a valid explanation.

In an effort to keep fit(!) I have started playing walking football and in September, I trod on the ball, fell over..... and chipped a bone in my right wrist which prevented me from using the keyboard and mouse.

I sent a picture to my Grandchildren who found it very amusing!!!!

So, sorry if you missed the Quiz but normal service is now resumed and this month there is the normal quiz plus two extras.

I hope you enjoy them.

And just to wish everyone a very happy Christmas & hope the New Year sees us all get back to some sort of normality!

Ken



KEN'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

1. In what year were Christmas cards first sent?
2. When was Charles Dickens book 'A Christmas Carol' first published and what is its full title?
(Give yourself an extra point if you get the exact date!)
3. Where does the Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square come from and why and since when?
4. In what year was a famous football match played in No Man's Land? And who won!!!?
5. Of the two Christmas pop songs
'Merry Christmas Everybody' by Slade
'I wish it could be Christmas Everyday' by Wizzard,
which got to number 1 first and in what year?
6. According to the Christmas carol, did the Shepherd's
'Watch their flocks by night' or 'Wash their socks by night' !?

MARK & MARY ROBINSON'S PHOTO QUIZ



LOCAL GRAVES & MEMORIALS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE ENTERTAINED US

1. Dusty Springfield (1939 – 1999)

Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien, professionally known as Dusty Springfield, was a British pop singer whose career extended from the late 1950s to the 1990s. She first came to fame in the group, The Springfields, and in her later solo career she had a string of hits such as *Son of a Preacher Man*, *You Don't Have to Say You Love Me*, and *I Only Want to Be with You*. She is seen by many as the leading British soul singer of the twentieth century. It was Dusty rather than the Beatles who first led British music's success in the USA.

Where is she buried?



2. Robert Morley (1980 – 1992)

Robert Adolph Wilton Morley was English actor who was usually cast as a pompous English gentleman representing the Establishment, often in supporting roles. His family planned for him to go into the diplomatic service but he liked the idea of acting more. He was renowned as an entertaining wit and a witty raconteur and for being an eloquent conversationalist. He married Joan Buckmaster, daughter of the actress Dame Gladys Cooper. Morley appeared in more than 60 films, but his distinctive physical appearance, a rotund body and fleshy jowls, limited the characters he could portray, and his best roles tended to be a mixture of the serious and the comic.

Where is he buried?



3. David Frost (1939 – 2013)

David Paradine Frost was a renowned journalist, writer, media personality and television host, best remembered for his famous introductory catchphrase 'Hello, good evening and welcome'. Whilst at Cambridge University he edited the university arts magazine, *Granta* and was secretary of the Footlights revue. His break into British television came as the presenter of the satirical television comedy programme *That Was the Week That Was*, referring to news in the previous week. This lampooned the British Establishment at a time of changing public perceptions of politicians following the Profumo scandal. He went on to host several interview-formatted program series with political figures, celebrities and royalty including several world leaders, most notably incisive interviews with then prime minister Margaret Thatcher and the former US President Richard Nixon over his role in the Watergate affair. A service in his honour was held at Westminster Abbey, and a memorial stone was unveiled in the Abbey's Poets' Corner.

Where is he buried?



4. Robin Gibb (1949 – 2012)

Robin Hugh Gibb was a member of the seminal music trio the Bee Gees. With his twin brother Maurice and their older brother Barry, they called themselves the B.G.s (Brothers Gibb) later to be renamed the Bee Gees. The brothers rocketed to fame with hit songs such as *How Deep Is Your Love*, *Stayin' Alive*, *Jive Talkin* and *How Deep Is Your Love*. Their Saturday Night Fever soundtrack has been credited with the revival of disco music.

Where is he buried?



KEN'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

More challenge from our Ken! Answers on page xx



1. Samuel Beckett's play, *Waiting for Godot*, was originally written in which language?
2. The father of Hollywood star Cuba Gooding Jr was the lead singer of which 70's soul group?
3. In which country would you find Salar de Uyuni, the world's largest salt flat?
4. Which radio and TV comedy character is the creation of actor and scriptwriter Steve Delaney?
5. Which protected, blue-veined sheep's cheese is matured in the Combalou Caves in France?
6. In astronomy, Perseids, Leonids and Draconids are what?
7. Which flowering plant is often used as a remedy to treat mild and moderate depression?
8. A member of Neville Chamberlain's cabinet gave his name to an air raid shelter given to members of the public before and after the start of the Second World War. What was it called?
9. The story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego features in which book of the Bible?
10. The Battle Royale mode of which online game attracted more than 125 million players in less than a year?
11. What editorial position is held by BBC journalist Jeremy Bowen?
12. Which Scottish rock band claim their name derives from a spoonerism linking Cliff Richard with a type of pen?
13. What name is given to the raised tiered rows of benches found at sports fields in the US?
14. Legally, what, apart from gold, draught beer and cider, is the only item that can be sold in the UK without using metric measurements?
15. Which Graham Greene novel tells the story of a renegade Roman Catholic priest living in Mexico in the 1930's?
16. Eighty per cent of all almonds are grown in which US state?
17. "First they came for the Communists, and I did not speak out" is the opening line of a confessional poem by which German theologian?
18. According to the saying, "a nod is as good as wink" to what?
19. In the Hanna-Barbera cartoon, what is the secret identity of police janitor Penrod "Penry" Pooch?
20. And lastly, what anthropoid name is *Araucaria Araucana*, the national tree of Chile, better known?

KEN'S BLETCHLEY PARK PUZZLE



Think you could get into Bletchley Park? Then try these, just for fun, you understand!!!!!! And these are the easy ones!!!!!!

1. Linked Anagrams

Each of the following anagrams has something in common.

Unscramble the anagrams, then find the theme that connects them all. There may be more than one possible anagram of some of the words, but only one of these will fit with the common theme.

BROAD	FACE	DEN	DIMN	DRAC
FIAR	GIB	HEYROT	LNAP	YOB

2. Newly Named Novels

The following well-known novels have each been renamed in order to make their titles more alliterative.

What was the original name of each book? For example, Boastfulness and Bigotry could be the new name of Pride and Prejudice, were that title not alliterative already!

Away with the Air	The Berries of Bitterness	Combat and Calm
Courageous Contemporary Cosmos		Creature Croft
The Crimson Character	Delinquency and Discipline	The Fielder in the Field
A Goodbye to Guns	Huge Hopes	Milky Molars

3. Movie Match-Up

Can you match up the two halves of these movie titles, each of which have an 'and' in between them?

An Officer	A Funeral
Antony	A Gentleman
Beauty	Automobiles
Bonnie	Cleopatra
Butch Cassidy	Clyde
Dazed	Confused
Dumb	Dolls
Four Weddings	Dumber
Guys	Guildenstern are Dead
Hannah	Her Sisters
Harold	I
Monty Python	Louise
Planes, Trains	Maude
Rosencrantz	Sensibility
Sense	The Beast
Sex, Lies	The Butterfly
The Diving Bell	The Holy Grail
The Good, the bad	The Sundance Kid
Thelma	The Ugly
Withnail	Videotape

4. Presidential Mix-Up

The following are anagrams of the surnames of US presidents, with an extra letter added to each. Can you unscramble the anagrams and then anagram the extra letters to find an eleventh president?

WINLOSE	=	+
MADASH	=	+
SCANJOKE	=	+
CLEANLIVED	=	+
HYENAS	=	+
GLADFIRES	=	+
FLOORMILE	=	+
DOCILEEGO	=	+
HOTWARNINGS	=	+
VOTESLOWER	=	+

QUIZ ANSWERS



MARK & MARY ROBINSON'S PHOTO QUIZ LOCAL GRAVES & MEMORIALS FOR PEOPLE WHO HAVE ENTERTAINED US

1. Dusty Springfield – St Mary the Virgin in Henley-on-Thames.
She was cremated and some of her ashes were buried at Henley, while the rest were scattered at the Cliffs of Moher in County Clare, W Ireland.
2. Robert Morley – He was cremated and his ashes scattered at St. Mary's Churchyard, Wargrave.
3. David Frost – Holy Trinity Churchyard, Nuffield
4. Robin Gibb – Saint Mary the Virgin Churchyard, Thame

Ken's General Knowledge QUIZ Answers



1. French
2. The Main Ingredient
3. Bolivia
4. Count Arthur Strong
5. Roquefort
6. Meteor showers
7. St. John's wort
8. Anderson shelter
9. Daniel
10. Fortnite
11. Middle East editor
12. Biffy Clyro (from Clifty Biro)
13. Bleachers
14. Milk
15. The Power and the Glory
16. California
17. Martin Niemoller
18. A blind horse
19. Hong Kong Phooey
20. Monkey puzzle tree

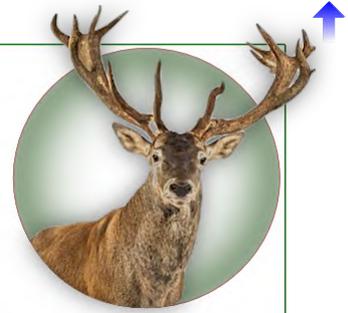


Ken's CHRISTMAS QUIZ Answers

1. 1843 by Sir Henry Cole, founding director of London's Victoria and Albert Museum
2. 19th December 1843.
'A Christmas Carol. In Prose Being a Ghost Story for Christmas'
3. Norway. This started in 1947 as a token of gratitude for British support for Norway during World War II.
4. 1914. Germany won 3-2 and only one game was recorded in letters home from the front from soldiers of both sides
5. 'Merry Christmas Everybody' in 1973
6. **SILLY!!!!** They didn't wear socks then!!!!!!

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
EVERYBODY**

Ken's Bletchley Park PUZZLE Answers



1. Linked Anagrams

The words are:

BOARD FACE END MIND CARD
FAIR BIG THEORY PLAN BOY

The common theme is 'GAME' since this can be prefixed either before or after each word to make either a new word or a phrase.

2. Newly Named Novels

Gone with the Wind	The Grapes of Wrath	War and Peace
Brave New World		Animal Farm
The Scarlet Letter	Crime and Punishment	The Catcher in the Rye
A Farewell to Arms	Great Expectations	White Teeth

3. Movie Match-Up

An Officer and A Gentleman
Antony and Cleopatra
Beauty and The Beast
Bonnie and Clyde
Butch Cassidy and The Sundance Kid
Dazed and Confused
Dumb and Dumber
Four Weddings and a Funeral
Guys and Dolls
Hannah and Her Sisters
Harold and Maude
Monty Python and The Holy Grail
Planes, Trains and Automobiles
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
Sense and Sensibility
Sex, Lies and Videotape
The Diving Bell and The Butterfly
The Good, the bad and The Ugly
Thelma and Louise
Withnail and I

4. Presidential Mix-Up

The anagrams are:

WILSON + E
ADAMS + H
JACKSON + E
CLEVELAND + I
HAYES + N
GARFIELD + S
FILLMORE + O
COOLIDGE + E
WASHINGTON + R
ROOSEVELT + W

The extra letters are an anagram of
EISENHOWER

Next Newsletter

The **JANUARY** issue will be released on **Monday 4th January 2021**

It will be put up on our website
www.thamesidewallingfordu3a.org

A notification email is also sent to you.

NO DEADLINE FOR COPY

Send it in by midnight two days before
and it'll probably get in!

newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org



Phone contact for offline members

Those members without computer access
have been given Yvonne Griffiths's phone
number.

COMMITTEE 2020-21

- Malcolm Brooks Chairman
Ken Johnstone Deputy Chairman
Hilly Bailey Treasurer
Paul Booker Secretary
& Outings Co-ordinator
Yvonne Griffiths Groups Co-ordinator
Anna Gordon Membership Secretary
Jane Milne Minutes Secretary
Neil Kelly TVN Representative
Sarah Boyt Robinson Newsletter, Website
& Communications

Recommended Printing Services

Higgs on Castle Street is
OPEN



Contact the Committee

via the secure Contact
page on the new website



THE THIRD AGE TRUST is the national representative body for U3As in the UK
Information on its activities can be found at www.u3a.org.uk & on **FaceBook**



U3A Thames Valley Network

We are one of thirty-eight U3As within the Thames Valley Network.
The TVN website is <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk>

VIRTUAL STUDY DAYS:

If you are interested in any of these events below go to **TVN Study Days**
for full information & application forms, and planned 2021 events .

Thurs 3rd Dec **Ukulele Day (Full)**

Wed 16th Dec **Art vs Photography (Full)**

Fri 18th Dec **Christmas Quiz** **book before 14th Dec**

Thur 7th Jan **Charge of the Light Brigade**
book before 30th Dec