

APRIL NEWSLETTER



• CHAIRMAN'S NOTES •

I normally start my chairman's notes halfway through the month, fettling them as deadline day approaches. But the events of the past two weeks have completely changed what I'm writing. The first thing to say is that I hope you are all keeping well. I assume that most if not all are staying at home.

All our gatherings, meetings and outings are cancelled, and we are contacting the venues to request refunds. We have been preparing for the AGM and paperwork will go out. We are obliged to have a quorum at the AGM but obviously this will not happen so we are adjourning it until July. I hope you've all signed up to the Head Office U3A Newsletter as this is probably the best way to get national and general U3A news.

Your committee has managed to have a meeting, by telephone conference, to discuss how we are going to operate while we are in lockdown and how we can ensure everything is in place to restart our Thameside (Wallingford) U3A activities when all returns to something like normality. Your committee will continue by telephone conference so feel free to contact one of your committee members through the usual channels if you need to.

As for what's been happening – since the New Year we have welcomed 22 new Members to our U3A. Since the last speaker meeting the following new members have joined:

David and Hilary Major, Urmila Mistry,
Yvonne Parks, Sue Lovegrove from Wallingford,
Sheila Cordey-Davie from Brightwell-cum-Sotwell,
Susan Ingham from Dorchester-on-Thames,
Val Petch from Ewelme.

We welcome them and hope they can join in the virtual interest groups that we hope will be set up.

Normally April is the month when all members are asked to renew their annual subscription. However, we have decided to postpone payment till July. Do not make any payments until you are asked via the usual renewal letter which will be circulated on or around 1st July unless you are informed otherwise. We do still have financial commitments that must be paid, though we are now ensuring any outgoings are reduced to the minimum.

Take care, stay safe

Malcolm

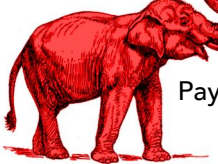
COFFEE MORNINGS

Why not have a coffee at home on first Friday of April – phone a U3A friend and chat along....try out a group chat on Skype, Zoom, or WhyPay

Or just send a smoke signal!



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL



Your U3A Membership normally runs to the end of 31st March 2020

Payment is now postponed to July.

Please do not make any payments until you are asked

The Renewal Letter will be circulated on or around **1st July** unless you are informed otherwise.

• Editorial •

Welcome to the April Newsletter, apologies for it being released later than usual – content has been changing almost daily with many layout revisions.

I present to you the April Elephant that four distant weeks ago was designed to innocently remind you of the start of the U3A year. It now seems to aptly represent the disruption to our lives!

There are many links to useful places on all pages. I shall soon be creating a list of them all on the website so you can refer back. I urge you to go to our website to find the current Newsletter and to make good use of the Useful Links page (which will appear in a days time) which is for everyone to share regardless of which Group they belong to.

Big thank you for the lovely photos from Photography Groups.

Also can I **appeal** for contributions for the next issue, anything you've found useful, quizzes, live streaming, photos, and either let your convener know, or email me.

There are no printed copies available except to the few members who do not have online access. Higgs Printshop is closed so I am printing at home for offline members.

If you are online and like to print and have no printer or it's being non-functional then I recommend online printers on page 6 who you send the Newsletter pdf to and they will print it and post it back to you.

Enjoy!

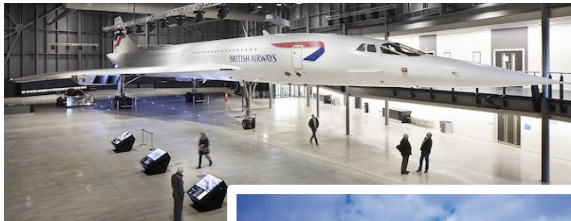
Sarah Boyt Robinson newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org

• SPEAKER MEETINGS •

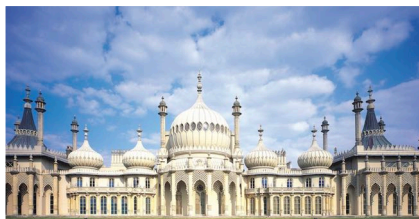
Normally third Wednesday each month at the Baptist Church Thames Street Wallingford OX10 0BH

OUTINGS

All Outings cancelled until further notice. Watch this space.



The Outings Committee will endeavour to keep up with the situation and adapt plans accordingly when all comes well again.



INTEREST GROUPS

All Interest Groups face-to-face contact is cancelled.

However, many groups are keeping in touch with each other by all means electronic.

Below are some useful links and ideas some Group conveners have offered, many thanks to them.

The links should open when you click on them and for all to share regardless of which Group you belong to.

From Malcolm Brooks (Photography 2):

"I have started a **Flickr group** and would like make an open invite to **any member** to upload photos to it (they will have to have a Flickr account). We can then comment on these in a friendly way and you might see something useful as well. It effectively makes us a virtual group, so any number can join. When we become a real group again, it would have to return to normal numbers. Contact me chairman@wallingfordu3a.org"

From Carol Chaplin (iPad2):

"My interest focus is the Arts and there is a mass of stuff online. Theatres are giving free online performances, the Original Theatre Company is one, and the Royal Opera House is doing opera and ballet over the coming weeks, all free... artsandculture.google.com had a huge number of virtual tours of museums and art galleries....what more could we want!"

From Vee Hadley (Scrabble2), Hilly Bailey (Euchre+Canasta) we have card games and a new game <https://cardgames.io/quarantine/> click on 'other games' to see full list

From Sue Taylor (Book1), Helen Futcher (Singing For Fun):

"Singing with Gareth Malone on the **Great British Home Chorus 5:30pm every night** via Youtube. Gareth is live and very funny!"

From Newsletter Editor:

"**Tollington Gospel Choir** via Facebook **every Monday 7pm** – warmup and sing, no songsheets necessary lots of praises and hallelujahs – very uplifting"

From Jane Tuckett (Speaker Meetings):

"You may remember Tom Way as our regular **Wild Life Photographer** Speaker who was due to come to us in July. He sent me a message and a kind offer and asked me to pass it on to you all" See **page 6** for what he says.

From Julia West (Walking):

"What about Covid-19 entertainment? My sister's been writing an amusing ditty a day. They are on YouTube – look for **Tessa Fineman Piano Lady**"

From Paul Booker (Ukulele):

"Members of the brand new Ukulele group are reported to be practising assiduously, naturally in full isolation"

From Philipa Davies (Play Reading):

"**The National Theatre** are showing James Corden in **One Man Two Guv'nors** Thursday evening **2nd April** via YouTube with a play streamed **every Thursday** thereafter. **Royal Opera House** are showing various ballets over the coming weeks, and similarly the **Metropolitan Opera House** is as well. In both these last two cases you contact the Opera Houses, and you have to register, but it's all free of charge"

From Ann Truesdale (MacUsers):

"I should like to suggest a few amazing websites that may be of interest to members.

For **music lovers** www.metopera.org is doing a free opera screening every night.

The **Berlin Philharmoniker** digital concert hall is offering a month of free concerts. www.digitalconcerthall.com

Anyone who has enjoyed **Oxfordshire Art Weeks** can look at www.artweeks.org

www.artuk.org is showcasing the nations oil paintings and sculpture.

www.gresham.ac.uk for a wide variety of lectures.

I have been using this website for several years.

Prof Chris Whitty has given regular lectures including one on pandemics in 2018

There is so much wonderful stuff online, it is easy to get overwhelmed with so much choice"

From Susan Renn (French2):

Age UK home exercises www.generationgames.org.uk

NHS home exercises www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/sitting-exercises/

NHS 10 minute workout www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/10-minute-workouts/

Sport England www.sportengland.org/stayinworkout

This Girl Can www.thisgirlcan.co.uk/activities/home-exercise/

EDITOR'S RECOMMENDATIONS:

For Book readers there's the Book Groups reading lists and general book resources on the next page.

Birdwatching:

The **RSPB** has begun a daily 'lockdown' Breakfast Birdwatch, with everyone welcome to take part. It takes place **daily between 8 am and 9 am**.

Find **#BreakfastBirdwatch** on Facebook.

Also there's a Zooniverse project to take part in – serious research counting **Penguins!**

www.zooniverse.org/projects/penguintom79/penguin-watch/

History:

For history-minded members you might be interested in taking part in valuable and genuine research – **Rainfall Rescue**

www.zooniverse.org/projects/edh/rainfall-rescue

"You will be shown images of rainfall data that have not yet been digitised and asked to transcribe the values and locations. The aim is to better understand wet, dry and normal periods in our history and help water companies plan for every eventuality project is 38% completed so be quick to join in and make a valuable contribution!"

Artists:

There's free **Portrait Drawing** every **Sunday 2-3 pm** at

<https://rawumberstudios.com/online-portrait-drawing/>

and **Artists Network** live streamings

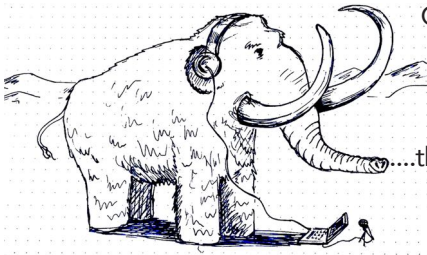
www.artistsnetwork.com/drawing-together-live-video-streams/

For you **Art History** buffs there's **Recreate Famous Paintings At Home**

www.sadanduseless.com/recreated-art/

For **Walkers** there's the **Ordnance Survey** online maps to enjoy and look at your favourite walks or just plan ahead.

Click on OS Maps App tab at www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk



For those living in Wallingford,

twice round the outer edges of the **Bullcroft = 1 mile**

.....that's **20 laps** for the **Longer Walking Group** – go for it!

And special, special event – there's a **QUIZ** by Mike Sedman on page 7. If he gets interest he may well be persuaded to set some more on different topics.

Finally, for cute dog **Social Distancing** moments:

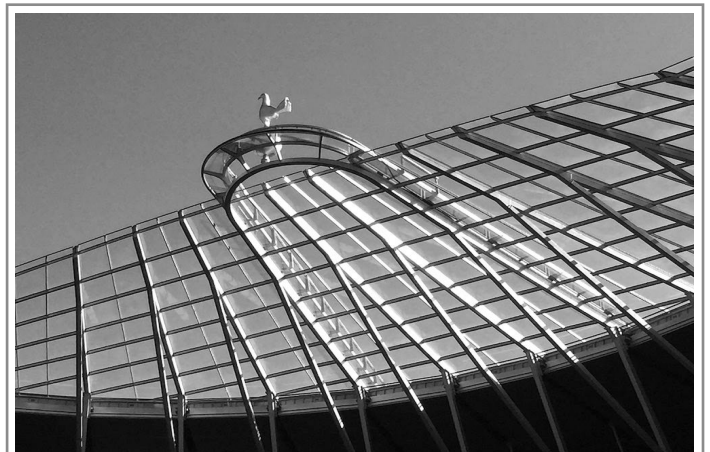
www.instagram.com/caddy.agility.poodle/



Goring Lock

by Linda Booth

Photo group 3



Tottenham Hotspur

by Colin Lovegrove

Photo group 2

BOOK READING LIST

This is some of the Book Groups reading lists drawn together – you are all invited to peruse!
Please do let the Editor know of any recommendations any of you have to go in the next Newsletter

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

RESOURCES:

RNIB Connect Radio is on **Freeview 730** and online at <https://rnibconnectradio.org.uk/>

"Tune in every weekday for a new episode of our unabridged Talking Book, or catch up online.

New episodes **every Monday - Friday at 2pm**, or if you prefer a book at bedtime it's repeated **every night at 10pm"**

Online catchup is at <https://insightradio.co.uk/talking-books.html>

At the moment the Talking Book is **Little Women**. The previous book, **Sleepy Hollow** by Agatha Christie is still available online.

And of course there's

BBC Radio 4 Book of the `Week

Mon-Fri 10:45-11:00 pm

with catchup and past books on **BBC Sounds App** or at

www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qftk/episodes/player

There's an app called **Libby** for **Oxford Libraries** You apply using your library number, and then access their online books and audio books on your tablet, i-Pad or Kindle. Its free.

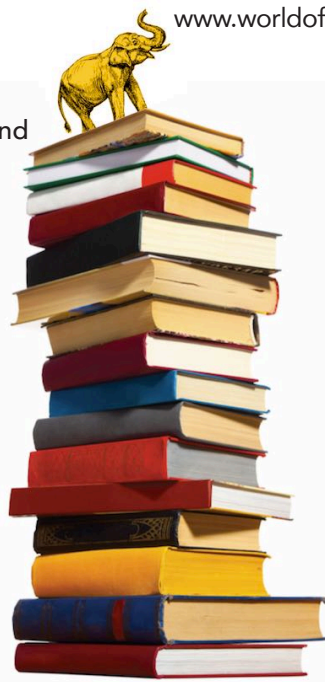
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/libraries

Wallingford Book Shop is taking orders on **01491 834383**

or email books@wallingfordbookshop.com and they will post them out to you.

And **David Walliams** is reading a short story **every day** on

www.worldofdavidwalliams.com/elevenses/



Antiques		second Wed am	Carole Johnson
* Art/Painting	Artists Network & Drawing Portraits	* first Thur 10 am	Angie Thorrington
* Badminton	Online streaming exercises	* each Mon 2-4 pm	Hilly Bailey
Birdwatching 1	Bird themed Quiz	first Thur am/pm	Rosemary Garner
* Birdwatching 2	Looking for unusual garden birds Zooniverse Penguin Watch	* third Thur am/pm	Pam Johnstone
Book Group 1	The Holiday by Tim Logan	second Tue pm	Sue Taylor
Book Group 2	Accidents In The Home by Tessa Hadley	fourth Thur am	Di Young
Book Group 3	Lie Of The Land by Amanda Craig	second Wed	Sheila Findlay
* Book Group 4	Truly, Madly Guilty by Liane Moriarty	* second Thur 2 pm	Dee Clarke
* Book Group 5	The Tattolst of Aushwitz by Heather Morris	* fourth Thur pm	Sue English
* Cards Bridge 1	♠♥♣♦	* 2nd+4th Thur 2:30 pm	Sheila Findlay
Cards Canasta	https://cardgames.io/quarantine/	fourth Tue 2-4 pm	Hilly Bailey
* Cards Cribbage		* 2nd+4th Mon am 10:30 am	Joyce Kent
* Cards Euchre	♠♥♣♦	* second Tue 2-4 pm	Hilly Bailey
Craft		first Mon 2:30 pm	Angie Thorrington
Current Affairs 1	Plenty to discuss in the current situation..	first Thur 2 pm	Trudy Davies
Current Affairs 2	www.gresham.ac.uk	first Mon 2 pm	Val Mowlam
French 1	Amusez-vous bien	second Thur am	Janet Franklin
* French 2		* first Mon+third Tue	Susan Renn
* Garden Visits		* third Mon am+pm	Not confirmed
Genealogy 1		third Mon 10:30 am	Linda Matthews
Genealogy 2		second Tue 10:30 am	Mary Cozens
History 1		first Wed 10:30 am	Ted Nelson
History 2	Zooniverse Rainfall Rescue	third Thur 2:30 pm	Patricia Shields
* History 3		* second Wed am/pm	Colin Clarke
History 4	Recreate Famous Paintings At Home	second Mon pm	Jenny Potter
* History 5		* third Wed 10-12pm	Ray Verral
* iPad Users 1	...browsing!	* fourth Wed	Sheila Findlay
* iPad Users 2		* fourth Mon 10:30 am	Carol Chaplin
* Latin for Pleasure		* third Wed	Roger Morgan
* Lunch Club		* first Wed pm	Rosemary & Tony Hines
Mac Users		first Tue 10:30 am	Ann Truesdale
Music Broader		first Tue 2 pm	Val Wolsey
* Music Classical 1	Cryptic Music Quiz – see page 5	* fourth Tue 2 pm	Mike Sedman
Music Classical 2		second Mon 2:30 pm	John Cozens
* Pétanque	Online streaming exercises	* each Tue 10 am	Loren Butt
Photography 2	Flickr Gallery	second Tue 2:30 pm	Sylvia Harrison
* Photography 3		* second Wed 10 am	Malcolm Brooks
* Play Reading	Thurs 2 nd April One Man Two Guv'nors screening	* first Wed 9:45 am	Philippa Davies
Poetry Reading		second Wed 10:30 am	Jill Cooney
* Science		* third Tue 10 am	Philippa Cullen
* Scrabble 1	https://cardgames.io/quarantine/	* third Mon 2pm	Sarah Masters
* Scrabble 2		* second Thur 2 pm	Vee Hadley
* Seminar	www.gresham.ac.uk	* fourth Mon	Gloria Hamilton-Peach
* Singing for Fun	Great British Home Chorus 5:30pm every night Tollington Gospel Choir 7pm every Monday	* every other Fri 2-3 pm	Helen Futcher
* Spanish Improvers		* first+third Wed 10:30 am	Val Mowlam
Sunday Lunch Club		third Sunday pm	Ken Gough
* Ukulele	...practising assiduously in full isolation	*	Paul Booker (temporarily)
* Writing for Pleasure	Topics: Whales or Research a topic of your choice or An event in April of any year, fact or fiction	* second Mon 10:30 am	Ros Stayne
Writing Life History	Life History stories of members or their families	second Thur 10:30 am	Margaret Pritchard

* Shorter Walking	3-5 miles
Rambling	5-6 miles
Moderate 1	6-7 miles
* Moderate 2	6-7 miles
Longer Walking	8-10 miles

OS Maps App tab at
www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk

Online streaming keep fit

* first Wed	Paul Booker
third Thur	Phil Richardson
second Wed	Julia West
* first Tue	Julia West
fourth Wed	Julia West

Next Newsletter

The **MAY** issue will be released
Tuesday 28th April

It will be emailed to you and also put up
on our website
www.wallingfordu3a.org

**No deadline for contributions,
just send it in!**

newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org

Recommended Printing Services:

www.doxdirect.com
www.pdf-2-print.co.uk
<https://printpond.co.uk>
www.direct2print.net

Message from Tom Way

Hello everyone,

I hope this email finds you well in these uncertain and challenging times we are now facing.

As ... speakers secretaries I wanted to reach out to you as I know that all group activities are now postponed until later in the year. There is no choice in this matter and the priority is that we all stay safe, but I like many people are saddened by this as I know how important the groups are for physical and mental well-being with people gathering together, socialising and catching up on the weeks or months events.

In light of this I have produced a short and very informal video that members of your group can sit and home and watch whilst in self isolation and lockdown hopefully just to provide a small amount of entertainment. I have provided the link to the video here below and so if your members would like to watch you can simply forward this link onto them.

<https://youtu.be/UBbHn6lcYjs>

If you have any questions at all please do let me know.

Kind Regards

Tom

Tom Way Photography

www.tomwayphotography.co.uk

COMMITTEE 2019-20

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
& Communications

COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Paul Booker has stepped up and is now the Committee Secretary. Big thank you Paul, your considerable experience of all things U3A will serve us well.

Many thanks to Yvonne Griffiths for fulfilling the role so admirably these past years. She continues to be Groups Co-ordinator.

NEW MEMBER ENQUIRIES

If someone asks you about becoming a member, please direct them to
Anna Gordon
membership@wallingfordu3a.org

Malcolm Brooks
chairman@wallingfordu3a.org

Hilly Bailey
treasurer@wallingfordu3a.org

Yvonne Griffiths
groups@wallingfordu3a.org

Paul Booker
secretary@wallingfordu3a.org
outings@wallingfordu3a.org

Sarah Boyt Robinson
newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org



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

U3A THAMES VALLEY NETWORK

Thameside (Wallingford) U3A is one of thirty-eight U3As within the Thames Valley Network.
Our representative is Neil Kelly.

FORTHCOMING STUDY DAYS

All events cancelled.

Mike's Music Quiz

I am offering you the quiz I was going to give to my Classical Music Appreciation Group. It is a very gentle cryptic quiz and all the answers are related in some way to classical music. The answers will be in May's Newsletter. It will be interesting to see how many closet classical music fans there are!

If members want to they can send their answers to my email: ptimara@gmail.com. Hope some people will enjoy having a go. No prizes but at least a bit of challenging fun.

All the best
Mike Sedman

1. Sounds a bit like a faulty jump
2. Chuck tin simpleton
3. Reversed atom agreement
4. Hits earth why?
5. In the pub but not on tick
6. Just about a half layer in the sky
7. Low ghastly
8. Absolutely not lent out
9. Smaller second class car gigantic
10. Mess up a motor vehicle
11. Headgear on Mary Queen of Scots servant
12. French Roman Emperor not completely blunt
13. Kind of card with round items
14. English river missing vehicle
15. Lowlander but up there
16. Wall painting with no hair
17. A lake with a pig
18. Sticky substance refusal
19. Sounds like Mary's husband is out of sight
20. Aussie can mate!
21. Down there old chick smiling