

u3a

learn, laugh, live

ISE VALLEY NEWS

Kettering, Northants

Charity Number 1179738

February 2021

Who would have thought a year ago that our lives would be restricted so much and for so long as they have been! With the roll out of the vaccines, hopefully the end is in sight & we can perhaps look forward to returning to some of the freedoms we previously took for granted. Sadly it will probably be many months before we can have large meetings again so we have to look at other ways to "meet up " in the meantime. Many U3As have embraced technology and had virtual meetings and presentations from the first lockdown. Response to my questions about having a virtual monthly meeting was small but mostly positive so I've booked a speaker for **Wednesday 10 March** at 2pm. See advert for further details. (Below)

On the same subject, it has been suggested that it would be a good idea for each u3a to have a technology team. Even when we are able to open up again online contact will be very important. A social media presence will help enormously with keeping in touch with existing members as well as recruiting new members. Is there anyone with an interest in, or a background in technology, or anyone who uses social media and would help with this please? Please let us know you're interested. The committee and I would really appreciate input from a technical team and the more people able to help out will make it easier and more interesting for everyone involved. Please contact me at **chairmanisevalleyu3a@gmail.com** if you are interested.

Another idea using the internet is a **virtual coffee morning**. I currently only have the free Zoom account which allows 40 minutes free access. I have booked a meeting for a chat & coffee at 10 am on **Thursday 11**

February and again on **Thursday 25 February**. It would be lovely to chat to as many people as possible. I'll give the Zoom details for anyone who has zoom and would like to join me. (Details further on in the newsletter as well)

Helen Hicks

Chair

MONTHLY MEETING WITH A SPEAKER.

On **Wednesday 10 March** at 2 o'clock We will hold our first Zoom presentation. It would be lovely if we could get as many members as possible online to see and hear it. If you would like to join us please email Helen at chairmanisevalleyu3a@gmail.com and I will send you a link which you click on to take you directly to the meeting. You do not need to have a Zoom account, the app or ever have used Zoom before. If you are at all unsure we can arrange a trial meeting in advance to get you started & try to iron out any problems.

The speaker is Ian Keable. He is highly praised in reviews of presentations to other U3A's. He will talk about THE HISTORY OF CARTOONS from William Hogarth to Private Eye "The first time the word cartoon was used in the sense that we know it today was in 1843 in Punch magazine. But the employment of satire, caricature, speech bubbles and the writing of captions had been around long before then. In this talk Ian tracks the early stages of cartoons (in the form of satirical prints) and how, through the works of Hogarth and James Gillray, they gradually evolved into the familiar format of today's newspapers and magazines. Copious illustrations abound from the masters of their craft."

Book Club

"This is going to Hurt" by Adam Kay

This is a very real account, written in diary form, of one doctor in the NHS. At the start of the book the forthright language took me aback but I gradually tuned in to the Black humour that must be prevalent in the medical profession in order to survive from one day to the next.

He charts his progress from Junior doctor to registrar mainly in obstetrics. The blurb at the start of the book states "97hours work per week, life and death decisions, a constant tsunami of bodily fluids and the hospital parking meters earning more than the doctors" which emphasises the extremely long hours expected of junior doctors.

It is rare to find a book that makes you laugh and cry in equal measures, especially a non-fiction book, but this managed somehow. In light of the coronavirus pandemic, it bought a fresh bout of appreciation for our overworked NHS staff and the necessity to support them.

The last section was a considered and thoughtful description of his reasons for leaving the medical profession after something catastrophic happened to a patient. He misses his colleagues and helping people and feels some guilt because of the amount of money spent on his training. He also has a go at politicians with an open letter to the Secretary of State for Health.

Adam Kay is now a full-time writer and stand-up comedian. His latest book "Dear NHS" comprises of 100 stories from various celebrities and details their experiences with personal stories of how the health service has benefited them.

I look forward to the TV adaptation of the book due out in the New Year with Ben Whishaw in the main role and wonder how they will depict some of the more bizarre cases.

Linda Law

Last month's quiz answers.

- 1 2007
- 2 Dubai (Burj Khalifa)
- 3 Quentin Tarantino
- 4 Museum of Modern Art, New York
- 5 Nine
- 6 Amazon
- 7 James P Sullivan

8	Four – Charles, Anne, Andrew and Edward
9	Lebanon
10	Sarah Jessica Parker
11	13
12	Idina Menzel
13	Pineapple
14	Graphics Interchange Format
15	Hagrid
16	Santa’s Little Helper
17	Supersonic
18	Three
19	Rocky III
20	Noah
21	West Bromwich Albion
22	Suzanne Collins
23	Turkish Lira
24	Ken Barlow
25	Audrey Hepburn
26	Catherine Parr
27	Kanye West
28	Left
29	London Heathrow
30	April 23

Trips

I know it seems a long way away, but when things get back to normal, we do want to have some day trips again. At the moment we are looking at possible destinations as - Nottingham, Coventry, Windsor. If anyone has any ideas, please let me know sylviadale@live.co.uk.

Fancy making your own opera? The Blobs are bass, tenor, mezzo-soprano and soprano and you can by pulling them about make your own opera or by clicking on the Christmas tree listen to some Christmas carols which you can also change - try pulling the soprano or the bass upwards. Good fun.

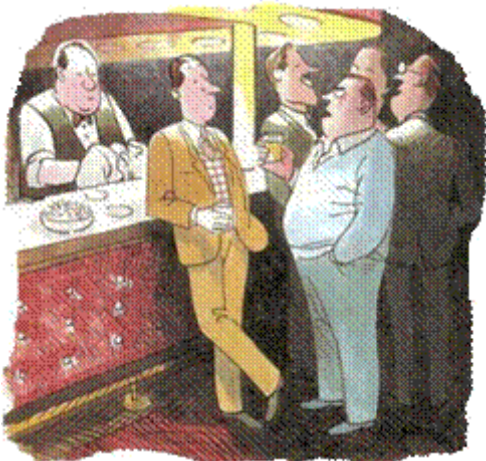
www.snipca.com/37011

February Quiz

The clues all relate to UK seaside towns.

- 1 Fresh Port
 - 2 Sounds like shiny metal with hesitation
 - 3 Opposite north
 - 4 Dark bathing place
 - 5 Sheep's way in
 - 6 Rush before putting food in it
 - 7 Near after short Pentecost
 - 8 Wide way up or down
 - 9 Shiny 20 cwt
 - 10 I put into fine sugar
 - 11 Ha had bites
 - 12 Belonging to me top
 - 13 Worn in cold weather
 - 14 Share out cards
 - 15 Sounds like a royal citrus fruit
 - 16 They eat grass
 - 17 Was a river estuary
 - 18 Bar billiards
 - 19 Judging its value
 - 20 People's pebble
-

We'll begin with a box, and the plural is boxes,
But the plural of ox becomes oxen, not oxes.
One fowl is a goose, but two are called geese,
Yet the plural of moose should never be meese.
You may find a lone mouse or a nest full of mice,
Yet the plural of house is houses, not hice.



If the plural of man is always called men,
Why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen?
If I speak of my foot and show you my feet,
And I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
If one is a tooth and a whole set are teeth,
Why shouldn't the plural of booth be called beeth?



Then one may be that, and three would be those,
Yet hat in the plural would never be hose,
And the plural of cat is cats, not cose.
We speak of a brother and also of brethren,
But though we say mother, we never say methren.
Then the masculine pronouns are he, his and him,
But imagine the feminine: she, shis and shim!



Let's face it - English is a crazy language.
There is no egg in eggplant nor ham in hamburger;
Neither apple nor pine in pineapple.
English muffins weren't invented in England.



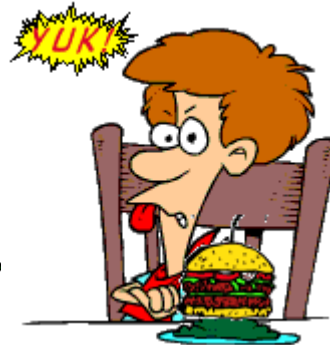
We take English for granted, but if we explore its paradoxes,
We find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square,
And a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.
And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing,
Grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?



Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend?
If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them,
What do you call it?



If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught?
If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?



Sometimes I think all the folks who grew up speaking English should be
committed to an asylum for the verbally insane.
In what other language do people recite at a play and play at a recital?



We ship by truck but send cargo by ship...
We have noses that run and feet that smell.
We park in a driveway and drive in a parkway.
And how can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same,
While a wise man and a wise guy are opposites?



You have to marvel at the unique lunacy of a language
In which your house can burn up as it burns down,
In which you fill in a form by filling it out,
And in which an alarm goes off by going on.
And in closing.....



If Father is Pop, how come Mother's not Mop.???

WHAT WAS THAT AGAIN?

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me.....I know we've been friends for a long? time.....but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally, she said, "How soon do you need to know?"

I'm Not Old ... Just Mature

Today at the drugstore, the clerk was a gent.
From my purchase, this chap took off 10 percent.
I asked for the cause of a lesser amount;
And he answered, "Because of the Seniors Discount."
I went to McDonald's for a burger and fries;
And there, once again, got quite a surprise.
The clerk poured some coffee which he handed to me.
He said, "For you seniors, the coffee is free."
Understand — I'm not old — I'm merely mature;
But some things are changing, temporarily, I'm sure.
The newspaper print gets smaller each day,
And people speak softer — can't hear what they say.
My teeth are my own (I have the receipt),
and my glasses identify people I meet.
Oh, I've slowed down a bit ... not a lot, I am sure.
You see, I'm not old ... I'm only mature.
The gold in my hair has been bleached by the sun.
You should see all the damage that chlorine has done.
Washing my hair has turned it all white,
But don't call it grey ... saying "blonde" is just right.
My car is all paid for ... not a nickel is owed.
Yet a kid yells, "Old duffer ... get off of the road!"
My car has no scratches ... not even a dent.
Still, I get all that guff from a punk who's "Hell bent."
My friends all get older ... much faster than me.
They seem much more wrinkled, from what I can see.
I've got "character lines," not wrinkles ... for sure,
But don't call me old ... just call me mature.
The steps in the houses they're building today
Are so high that they take ... your breath all away;
And the streets are much steeper than 10 years ago.
That should explain why my walking is slow.
But I'm keeping up on what's hip and what's new,
And I think I can still dance a mean boogaloo.
I'm still in the running ... in this I'm secure,
I'm not really old ... I'm only mature.

Did you know? Historical facts.

It's fair to say that Edison was one of the world's most notorious intellectual property thieves.

Of the 1,093 things he smashed a patent on, he stole near enough most of them off real geniuses like [Nikola Tesla](#), Wilhelm Rontgen and Joseph Swan – the latter of whom originally invented the lightbulb

Book Group January 2021

Our choice this month was **The Botanist Daughter** by Kayte Nunn a new author for us and a new medium for the author

This story spans over a hundred and thirty years with two main characters Elizabeth Trebithick daughter of a Victorian Botanist who travels to Chile to find the seeds of a unusual plant called the Devils Trumpet and Ann, a landscaper gardener in Australia who finds a forgotten trunk in her Grandmother Gussie's house in Australia.

We are taken on a journey with the two women, Elizabeth travelling to Chile - no mean feat over hundred years ago, her only companion Daisy her maid; Ann travelling from Australia to Kew Garden in London, finally to Cornwall to meet a relative, Florence, which helps the two women's story tie beautifully together.

If you enjoy gardening, growing of plants and a mystery this book is for you.

We all enjoyed how the book took us from the Victorian era to present day, but she leaves you wanting more, hopefully a follow up to complete our unanswered questions

Margaret Turnbull.

Did you know?

At age 32 when he died, **Alexander the Great** had conquered and created the largest land-based empire the world has ever seen. It stretched from the Balkans to Pakistan. In 323 BC, Alexander fell ill and, after 12 days of excruciating pain, he seemingly passed away. However, his corpse didn't show any signs of rot or decomposition for a whole six days.

Modern-day scientists believe Alexander suffered from the neurological disorder Guillain-Barré Syndrome. They believe that when he "died" he was actually just paralyzed and mentally aware. Basically, he was horrifically buried alive

Grigori Rasputin was a Russian mystic and supposed holy man. He became friends with the last Russian Tsar and Tsarina. Over time, he came to influence the Russian royals much to the displeasure of many members of the Russian nobility. This, combined with his drunkenness and lechery, led to several Russian nobles forming a plot to assassinate the man. They invited him over to one of their houses, gave him cakes and wine laced with cyanide all to no effect, and then shot him in the chest. To their horror, Rasputin started to cough and they realized he was still alive!

How did they fix the problem? The nobles shot Rasputin two more times – once in the head. Finally, they threw his body into the frozen Malaya Nevka River.

!

The winner of last month's poetry competition was· No one! I didn't have a single entry· We won't bother with that again then!

Is it time to put together another Handyman's recommended by members list? This was very popular a couple of years ago and I was happy to use firms/individuals that had been recommended by yourselves. With the lockdown, we have been very restricted trying to get work done. If any of you have used workmen/firms/individuals during the last year and are happy to recommend them, then let me know and we will put together another list. Just email me at sylviadale@live.co.uk with the details.



VIRTUAL COFFEE MORNINGS

10 am **Thursday 11 February**

Zoom code. 757 2440 3485

Password u4wbHh

10 am **Thursday 25 February**

Zoom code 794 6726 5187

Password. ASe716

New home wanted!!



This is Bella, an 8 week-old German Shepherd puppy. I bought her as a surprise for my wife for Christmas - but it turns out that she's allergic to dogs, so I'm now urgently looking to find her a new place. I don't want any money at all; she's free to a good home.

Her name is Tracy, she's 49 years old, a beautiful and caring woman who drives, is a great cook, good with kids and always keeps a clean house.

Please let me know below if you can home her?

How often do you use different strategies to support your memory?

Invitation to take part in a survey about everyday memory strategy use across the life span

- ❖ Have you ever thought about how often, if ever, you use different strategies to help you to remember information from the past or to ensure you remember things in the future?
- ❖ Can you tell us how often you use such strategies to support your memory in everyday life?
- ❖ How often would you expect people of different ages to use same strategies to support their memory?

Research team at the University of Hertfordshire (UK) needs your help in answering these questions.

You are invited to take part in a new online survey that aims to explore how frequently the different types of memory strategies are used in the general population of young, middle-aged and older adults.

This study has been reviewed by The University of Hertfordshire Health, Science, Engineering and Technology Ethics Committee with Delegated Authority. The UH protocol number is aLMS/PGT/UH//04180(1).

The study can be completed from a laptop/tablet or a mobile phone and takes about 10 - 15 minutes to complete.

The link to the Survey can be accessed below:

https://herts.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_81hWm44nFOFJiJv

Thank you.