

WEST WOLDS

u3a

"Learn, Laugh and Live"

Website: www.westwoldsu3a.org

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

We will have had the opportunity to meet up with a few people outside by the time you read this so I hope the weather is kind to us and we can spend some time sitting in our gardens. A friend and I celebrated her birthday by sitting either end of the playing field bench having coffee and cake after she had opened her card and present in a car parking area. As she said, it was the first time she had opened birthday presents in a car park. I am sure many of you have been inventive in similar situations over the last year. We are gradually looking forward to the simplest of pleasures, spending time with our friends whilst sitting down!

I hope you are beginning to feel you can contemplate resuming some u3a activities which you have not been able to do on Zoom for instance. We have to be careful but we also need to live our lives doing the things which bring us pleasure. For me one of the things will be being able to go into a shop and buy presents for friends and family which do not revolve around food or me making something.

I hope to see more of you actually face-to-face in the not too distant future.

Best wishes

Gail Dennis, Chairman

Committee Comments

We are hoping to hold a July tea and chat type meeting in the Festival Hall if the virus data lets us, and then have speakers in from August onwards, we will update you in the next newsletter. We would also like to remind you that membership falls due in August/September and we are thinking of ways to make that process as easy as possible so no queues occur and we can still socially distance as much as we need to.

Terry Francis, Treasurer

April 2021 Newsletter

Issue 92

Thanks for all contributions, these are very well received, I will endeavour to get them in within the limited space available. *Terry Francis (Editor)*

newsletter@westwoldsu3a.org

Changes of Circumstance

If you have any changes of circumstance, e.g. change of address, telephone or email, or a death of a member, please let the Groups Co-ordinator and Membership Secretary know by phone or email.

Our next Online Speaker - Thursday 13th May at 10.30am

DRIVING POST LOCKDOWN by Institute of Advanced Motoring

Getting back behind the wheel with heavier traffic will require a bit more caution not least because the majority of drivers will be out of practice. IAM RoadSmart's 40 minute presentation will focus on the following key issues.

- Are you ready for the return to the road?
- Is your car ready for the return to the road?
- Are other drivers, cyclists or pedestrians ready for the heavier traffic?
- Observer, Anticipate and Plan, the key to safe motoring.
- Hints and Tips

There will be time for questions at the end and U3A members will be offered free one hour drives with one of our qualified observers. This drive will take place locally, in the member's own car, at a convenient time in the future and subject to government guidelines.

This month the talk will be given via Zoom and a link will be sent nearer the time - check your inbox.

Sharon Rupp

Three Tree Fellers

I like trees. These majestic, ancient, living plants maintain our planet, however, like all things they do reach the end of their life. My house has a number of mature trees around it and I wouldn't do without them although I do curse the leaves in autumn and the incessant rain of twigs during high winds. This season I have an ash tree that was diseased by bracket fungus at the base. It had weakened the tree to the point where it was too risky to leave it standing. All my trees have Tree Preservation Orders on them so I needed to get planning consent to have it removed. That done I called in the tree fellers.

This is a top down project because there are houses and bungalows either side of the tree. Not as simple as a few cuts at the base and the whole thing comes crashing down. No, this has to be carefully managed.

The three tree fellers brought in this special hoist to get them up into the crown of the tree.



Getting it close to the tree inevitably led to some damage in the garden. The hoist would only reach so far up the tree and they cut as much as they could from the platform but eventually someone had to go out on a limb.

Although the tree surgeon is attached to the tree by a strong rope it is a very precarious activity especially as he is carrying a chainsaw.

At each stage the cut branches are tied off against the main trunk and slowly lowered to the ground. They may look small from the ground but trust me they are very heavy once they are down on the ground.

After two days of carefully working their way down the tree there was just the last 2 metres to be cut down and pushed over before cutting into slices.

There's enough firewood to last me for several years and the pile of chippings have been used to line the paths around the garden.



Hopefully I won't need to have another tree felled for several years but they're all approaching end of life. When a tree comes down I need to plant a replacement, however getting hold of a good sized tree at this time is proving difficult. Trees are an investment in our future.

Steve McCarthy

Calling all Refreshments Volunteers

The monthly u3a meetings will be re-starting in July and I would be grateful if you could contact me if you are able to help with the serving of hot drinks or washing/drying the pots.

Rachel. 01673 844244

Or email. racheltelfer1@hotmail.co.uk

A follow up from last month, now a much happier Google Meet user

NO MORE A PURPLE CIRCLE

No more a purple circle, no longer just a blob,
 You now can see my features
 So you know I'm on the job -
 It really is my face, not a voice in a fog!
 Young Terry got me sorted, he tamed my bad pc,
 And yes, it's now the real old me,
 On the screen that you see; sober or p*****d,
 I hope I was truly missed!
 I'm so pleased to be back amongst my friends,
 Telling all their news and views; the story ends.
 It just remains for me to say:
 Good on you, U3A!

Brian Ward

THE CAMEL'S WORDS

The camel stood on the shifting sands,
 And said: 'Is this the basis -
 Fresh green leaves and water cool,
 To make a good oasis?'
 The Arab said, 'Indeed it is,
 You really are so clever.
 Just one thought though - to make it home
 I want a seat of leather.'
 The camel thought, then turned and spat,
 'You'll not get that from me.
 I know your game, it is a shame.
 The leather's made from me.'

Abdul the Camel Herder (aka Brian Ward)

**Why not enter a poem for the next Newsletter,
 we are always looking for entries?**

Proposed Speaker Program 2021

12th August - Nigel MacKnight 'Being an Author'

Nigel takes us through his interesting life as an author on everything that moves - cars, boats, planes etc. including experiences with the Red Arrows, and brings us up to date on his 20 year project to build and pilot the boat to beat **Donald Campbell's Water Speed Record**.

9th September - John Nowell 'A day Above Lincolnshire'

John spent 19 years in the RAF and a further 25 flying in the Middle East. He and a friend entered the 'Dawn To Dusk' flying competition and flew 8 hours in a Cessna 150 all over Lincolnshire taking photographs between dawn and dusk to form a new book, 'A Day Above Lincolnshire'. They won an award from the patron of the competition, HRH The Prince Phillip who they were invited down to the Palace to meet.

14th October - Staying Safe Online - Lincs Police Cybercrime Unit

Cyber crime is an 'umbrella' term for lots of different types of crimes which either take place online or where technology is a means and/or target for the attack. It is one of the fastest growing criminal activities across the world, and can affect both individuals and businesses. PC Harry Lancaster will show us how to spot it and how to keep safe.

11th November - AGM

Performances by two of our Groups: The Turkish Delight Desert Dancers combining dance with some fun appearances from Abdul the Slave with his camels, and the Sultan; and The Warblers who will sing a selection of songs from the 40s, 50s and 60s and invite you to join in.

9th December - Mark Walsh 'Here's a Funny Thing'

A return visit from Mark Walsh and his ukulele giving a talk on the history of Music Hall and Variety. Music Hall started in London in the late 1830's and evolved into Variety in the 1920's. Variety continued as a main form of entertainment until the early 1960's. Mark is very proud to have been one of the 'Chairman' at the World Famous City Varieties Music Hall in Leeds. Home of 'The Good Old Days'.

Sharon Rupp – Speaker Finder

Groups report

The drama group has been meeting online since May last year. The majority of the members were keen to do so. We read plays as we would have done in my living room but have to read off a screen instead and choral speaking is not possible and sometimes poor connections cause us some trouble but we have enjoyed a variety of plays. This is due to the efforts of two members, one who sources the plays and one who administers Zoom for us. I am not sure when we will be able to actually meet together again but at least we see each other on screen and enjoy ourselves and often have a good laugh.

The upholstery group has not met for over a year now but we may well get together in a garden as a group of six when we are allowed to. Our first priority is to actually see each other and have a good chat. Then we can think about organising how we actually manage to do some upholstery and where that might take place.

Gail Dennis

GARDENING.

It's that time again! Everywhere I look in my garden there is something to do but I really like the sun on my back to awaken me from the long winter. So what shall I do first? Prune the roses, tie them up more securely, remove some overgrown plants and cut them up to make more, cut the grass, take some cuttings, pull out some weeds, power-wash the pathways, paint the fence, plant some seeds, tidy the shed, sharpen my tools, or maybe just sit and listen to the lovely bird song? The latter is the most appealing. However, I mustn't let this moment be unproductive or I will regret it later in the year when I will want to sit and enjoy my labours.

I am looking forward to getting back to the gardening group meetings and seeing the many friends I have made there. Can we perhaps do a small plant fair in one of our gardens? I certainly will have lots to give away or exchange come May time. I always grow lots of seeds and should have cosmos, zinnias, dahlias, lupins, tomatoes, larkspur, etc. If there is to be no plant fair give me a call and I will leave them on my doorstep for you.

My whole body now feels as if it has been stretched like a bit of new elastic but of course it is rather inflexible these days. I am going to have a long soak in the bath, and hopefully not fall asleep.

Jane Guy

THE CENSUS IN 1674

The Holy Roman Emperor Leopold the First was also King of Hungary, Bohemia and Moravia. He reigned wisely from 1658 until 1705. In 1674 he ordered a Census and a Land Registry for the whole of his empire. He wanted to assess the extent of the damage caused by the religious 30-years war, lasting from 1618 to 1648.

Census documents covering the village of Partschendorf in Moravia, (my birth place) were found in the archives in today's capital city of BRNO in the Czech Republic and recorded the following as residents:
A Yeoman MICHAEL WILLISCH (my ancestor), a tenant farmer called FRANZ WILLISCH and a Master Carpenter WENZEL WILLISCH.

My Father's title of Yeoman was obliterated from the Royal Charter in 1946 by the then Soviet Socialist government.

Joe Willisch.

Feeling Bored

When you are bored just think about a few things that don't make sense ...like;

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
4. Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?
5. Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.
6. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
7. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
8. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.

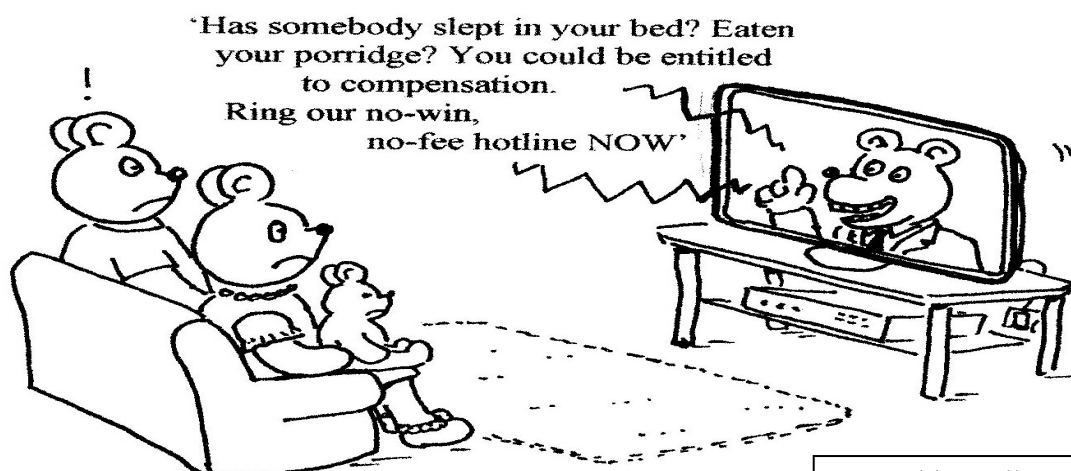
Anon

QUIZ

1. Maximus and Revenge are varieties of what?
2. What type of plant is a "harts tongue"?
3. Who was the first British monarch to deliver a Christmas speech on the radio?
4. Who was the first Prime Minister of Great Britain?
5. In which year did Heinz beans come on to the market?
6. What is the most popular colour of toilet paper sold in France?
7. What is the longest river in Cornwall?
8. How far is it from John o' Groats to Lands End?
9. In 2001 a 95 mile stretch of coastline became the 1st Nature World Heritage Site in the U.K. what is it called?
10. What is the longest bone in the human body called?
11. Arthralgia is a pain where?
12. What navy tradition ended on 31st July 1970?
13. When was the battle of Trafalgar?
14. The Simpsons is the longest running family cartoon. What did it supersede?
15. How many James Bond films featured Sean Connery in the lead role?
16. The bird known as a Merle, Woofell and Bowler Hat is more commonly called a what?
17. Liechtenstein is the world's leading manufacturer of what?
18. Which Briton has won the largest total of Olympic medals?
19. In which country are there 6 villages called Silly, 12 called Billy and 2 called Pratt?
20. Who entered a contest to find his own look-a-like and finished 3rd?

Submitted by Paul Ettridge

Answers to be shown on West Wolds website



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