

DORCHESTER and DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER



This beautiful picture of Durdle Door was painted by Tony Prior,
Group Contact for the Dorchester u3a Art Group.

The University of the Third Age

www.dorchesteru3a.org.uk

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Next Newsletter

We plan to produce the next Newsletter at the end of March/start of April. The deadline date for articles will be Wednesday March 31st. Group Leaders will be reminded nearer the time. Any contributions from Group Leaders or u3a Members will be gratefully received. Thank you.

Editor's Chat

*Happy New Year to all our u3a members and readers. Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2021. This is a little different to our usual one as, due to Covid, there are no 'real' meetings at the moment. There are therefore no timetables for Group meetings. We hope that you enjoy reading this Newsletter. Any queries or comments, please email me. **Jane Huff, Editor** We are still looking for a new Chairman/Chairperson for our Committee. We have a very experienced Committee who will give their full support to anyone who volunteers. In the meantime, the Committee will share the duties. When I asked Ian Blaby, our past Chairman for some wise words, this is what he sent me!!:*

A man went into Harrods pet department.

Man: I am a very successful businessman but a workaholic, single and looking for a pet.

Assistant: Well sir we have some pedigree dogs and cats here.

Man: No I am looking for more of a companion, money is no object.

Assistant: Well sir this red parrot would be a good companion. She speaks several languages, and has a degree in Politics, Philosophy and Economics. You could have some interesting discussions with her.

Man: That's more like it, what about that blue parrot.

Assistant: He is more numerate sir. He has a degree in mathematics and is a qualified chartered accountant, he could help you with your business.

Man: What about that white parrot over there?

Assistant: He is a bit more of a mystery sir. He doesn't say much - but the others call him Mr Chairman!

For a more serious answer/guide to the role of Chairman/Chairperson, please look at page 21.

Group Leaders

We plan to have a Group Leaders' meeting soon (via Zoom). Group Leaders will be contacted when the date has been agreed.

Dates For Your Diary

First Monday Speakers - 2021

After the success of our first Zoom FMM on Monday 1st February, we have arranged three more speakers to talk to us on Zoom.

Monday 1st March - Dr Roderic Ashton - Historian –
“What happens to History when our leaders are mad or ill?”

Monday 5th April (Easter Monday) - Bernard Lockett - Author
“The Heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan”

Monday 3rd May - David Ramsden, MBE - Environmentalist -
“The Climate and Ecological Crisis – What’s all the fuss about?”

Please note that the First Monday Meetings on Zoom start at 10.30 am and will last about 1 hour.

The Zoom “door” will open at 10.15 am - to allow people in to the “room”. You will be muted when the talk starts - but there will be time for members to ask questions at the end.

Look out for the Zoom invitation for these meetings in the monthly **Members’ Update** (the email sent to you from the Membership Secretary).

We hope to resume “normal” FMM for June and July - fingers crossed! Watch this space in the next Newsletter for further details and names of speakers.

Group news

We hope to start a **Backgammon Group** soon - 7 people have already shown interest in this. We already have a volunteer for a Group Leader.

We need Group Leaders for:

- a new **Italian Beginners** Group - 8 people interested
- the **Computer Club**
- the **Bridge** Group

For any further information, or if you would like to join one of these groups, then please contact me. **Peter Scaife, Group Co-ordinator**

Membership

Membership Details

Please be reassured that your details that are held on our database are not shared with any outside organisations. All I ask is that you keep me up-dated with any changes, especially address, telephone number and email address. Our new Membership Form includes Terms and Conditions of Membership and a Privacy Statement.

As you know, I send out our Members' Update (formerly Chairman's Notes) once a month with up to date news after each First Monday Committee meeting. These are normally sent out by email, so please ensure that the Membership Secretary has your **current** email address as some of the emails bounce back to me. It is also useful to know if you are planning **not** to renew your membership for any reason.

Membership

If you have any query on your membership please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the other Committee Members.

If you stop attending a group for any reason, it is important that you let the Group Leader know as there may be other members on the Waiting List wanting to attend. Likewise, do contact the Group Leader if you are interested in joining a group.

Gift Aid

For those of us that pay the equivalent amount of our subscription in tax, this is a good way of giving and supporting our u3a indirectly at **no cost** to ourselves. To register, please complete the form available from the Membership Secretary. Dorchester & District u3a manage to bring in more income this way via HMRC which keeps our costs (and therefore our Membership fees) down.

Do please consider Gift Aid if you are able to, as it helps our funds.

Subscriptions

I would like to remind you that all **Subscriptions** should have been renewed on **1st April 2020**. For those that already pay by Standing Order, many grateful thanks. However, please could you check that your renewal standing order is with the correct date i.e. paying on **1st April** annually? Some member's Standing Orders are still set up for 1st January. The payment choices for renewal are:

(continued on next page)

Membership (continued)

Cheque - if you are paying by cheque could I remind you that a stamp would be appreciated to enable me to send out your membership card.

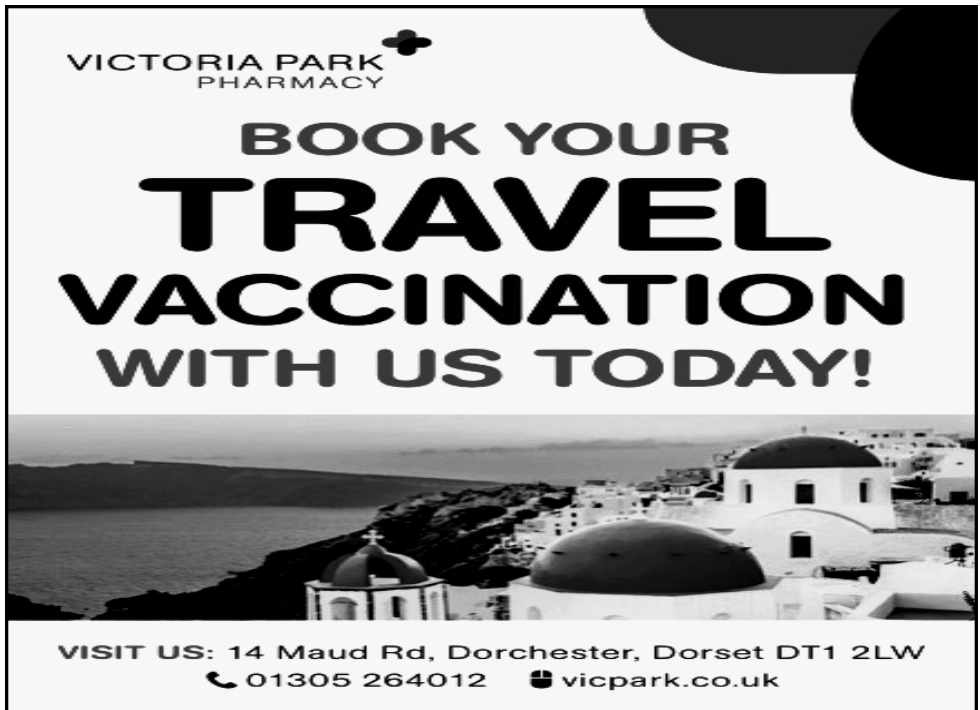
Standing Order - which is set up via a form, saves the u3a time and money as well as being an easy option for our members – once set up, the Standing Order will continue to make an annual payment, until it is cancelled. I would be very grateful therefore, if those of you who do not currently pay this way would consider doing so.

BACS (Bankers Automated Clearing Services) -the monies are transferred from your bank account to Dorchester & District u3a bank account.

Our **bank account details** are: Lloyds Bank plc, Dorchester branch, sort code 30-92-69 and our account number is: 01221849

Our **preferred option is by Standing Order** as it makes our records and our accounting planning simpler. As our membership now stands at **666+** you can see how this payment method helps. Forms are available from the Membership Secretary or on the web site. Any questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Janet Kennewell, Membership Secretary



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The advertisement features a black and white photograph of a coastal town with white buildings and domes, likely a Greek island, set against a backdrop of the sea and hills. The text is bold and clear, with the main message in large, black, sans-serif font. The pharmacy's name is at the top left, and contact information is at the bottom.

Ode to the Spell Checker (Anon)

Eye halve a spelling chequer
It came with my pea sea
It plainly marques four my revue
Miss steaks eye kin knot sea

Eye strike a key and type a word
And weight four it two say
Weather eye am wrong oar write
It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid
It nose bee fore two long
And eye can put the error rite
Its rare lea ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it
I am shore your pleased two no
Its letter perfect awl the weigh
My chequer tolled me sew.

Hopefully, you won't find any mistakes like this in this newsletter!! Ed.

Contributed by
Jeane Holmes, u3a
Member

Philosophy

Over the Covid period from March 2020, the Philosophy Group has kept in impromptu touch with a number of rather large topics emailed to members for **discussion**.

They have included the following:-

- ⇒ Aspects of the Philosophy of Religion - Parts 1 to 5
- ⇒ The Theory of Knowledge - Parts 1 to 6
- ⇒ The Logic of Key Phrases in The Theory of Knowledge
- ⇒ The Origin and History of Western Religion from the Middle Palaeolithic period to the start of Christianity. Parts 1 to 5, in progress.

If any member of the group has not been receiving these discussion documents, then please get in touch.

Clive Topper, Group Co-Leader

Birdwatching

Prior to Lockdown in March 2020 we visited Lodmoor and then managed to have another visit in the brief respite of Lockdown in October before we were sent into full lockdown again. We had a good turnout on each of those days which just showed how good it was for us all to get out in the fresh air and watch birds.

As we have been unable to go out on Field Trips as a group, we have shared our sightings from home in our blog and shared photos from our sightings. We have also been following on Facebook 'The Self-Isolating Bird Club' which Chris Packham started up with a couple of others including his step daughter Megan (and which has subsequently won an award). The photographs which SIBC members had shared have been stunning. We have also followed the Dorset Bird Club and Birds of Poole Harbour blogs on daily sightings. I have shared information that I received periodically from BTO with the Group. In some respect the Lockdown has given us all time to be still and observe the birds within our garden and it has been amazing the variety that visit when food is put out. The BTO also shared on You Tube 'How to Identify Birds from their calls' which I found fascinating.

It will be good to get out as a group again, but meanwhile we will appreciate what we have seen and share our joy with others.

Janet Kennewell, Group Leader



Starlings on bird feeder, no social distancing here!

- Sheila Davis

Topical Issues

Like other group leaders, I hoped that Covid-9 restrictions last year would be lifted by summer to allow us to restart at the HTPC classroom. As summer changed to autumn, it became clear we would have to think again. I started to use Zoom with a few friends in Probus and tried it for Topical Issues. It was basically fine - but the time limit of 40 minutes was nowhere near enough for our vociferous members.

I decided to upgrade to the "standard" Zoom licence which removed the time limit and had other functions such as polling and screen sharing. Zoom has helped Topical Issues group develop beyond our old monthly meeting in person.

We now meet weekly by Zoom at the same regular time: 9.30 am every Thursday. I send out invitations the day before with some suggestions for topics and attach any documents or links for discussion. Zoom allows us to take topics from members during the meeting and share documents or web pages as well as have impromptu polls with various questions. The number of people attending has grown and added to the experience we share.

I hope that when HTPC reopens to still have our monthly meeting in person for those who do not like Zoom, but continue the weekly sessions for those that do. At least some good has come out of lockdown!

Recent topics have included:

- The Scottish referendum: should voters outside Scotland have a say?
- Dorset Council survey on Climate Change Emergency Response: do we agree or not?
- Covid vaccinations : what should priorities be?
- Brexit: will there ever be a deal?
- Donald Trump: is it happening here? (concentration of power in one person and their unelected advisors)
- Climate change: is it real?

We always have a lively discussion, partly because some may take an opposite view just to test your resolve.

Ian Blaby, Group Leader

Holiday Bookings with Riviera Travel and Ramblers

If using Riviera Travel for your next holiday, please mention your Dorchester u3a membership at the time of booking in order for our u3a to receive 10% of the final cost of your trip. Bookings need to be made directly with Riviera Travel and not via a third party.

In addition to Riviera Travel, Dorchester & District u3a can now receive commission from Ramblers Walking Holidays for anyone booking a Ramblers Holiday. This is £10 per person for UK holidays, £20 for short-haul holidays and £30 for long-haul bookings. Again, please mention your u3a when making the initial booking. Thank you.

Holidaying with Riviera Travel and Ramblers helps your u3a!

National u3a News

As part of your u3a Membership, Members receive the national magazine Third Age Matters (TAM) automatically. It is mailed 5 times a year - in January, April, June, September and November. If you do **not** wish to receive this publication, please notify the Membership Secretary, (details are on page 2 in this Newsletter). Likewise, if you don't receive these please notify me as soon as possible. Please bear with us if you have indicated that you do not wish to receive the magazines as it does take a little time for the information to filter through!

Details of national u3a activities and much useful information is also available at: www.u3a.org.uk. You can also subscribe to the u3a National Newsletter. **Janet Kennewell, Membership Secretary**

Membership and membership cards

Please ensure that you have renewed your membership before joining a group - including those on Zoom. When we get back to 'real' group meetings, please have your membership card to hand. This is to avoid any awkwardness about proving that you are a current member. All Group Leaders have lists of current members—and are asked to check them. Please note that the Membership Card changes colour each year.

Janet Kennewell, Membership Secretary

History

This History Group started in 2011 and has grown in popularity and is still growing. This is despite the Covid Pandemic and we still have many people asking to join.

I refer them to the History page on the website and to look at past subjects on the Blog - that gives them some idea of our activities and hopefully encourages them to join!! The November and December blogs included: King Athelstan, Martha Brown and Amelia Stewart Knight .

Because of the pandemic, we are a divided group – those who wish to access Zoom and those who can be part of the group via the website. Everyone is kept informed by email – we can then remain a “group” until we are able to meet in person – whenever!

Originally, democratically, we chose for each year, a subject (i.e. India, France, Russia, the Tudors, Stuarts etc.) and each person decided the topic for their research. Last year we changed the format and gave everyone a choice – any era, dynasty, situation that appeals to them – we have had a great selection already and many more for the coming year.

Recent subjects included: The Anglo Saxon Period – Brunel – Napoleon – History of Sardinia –Women in WW1 – Medical Renaissance.

Future subjects include: Captain Cook – Charles 1st – Lives and Castles of Tudor Courtiers – Crazy Horse and General Custer.

We meet on Zoom, on the first Wednesday in the month at 10 am. If you wish to join us, or want further information, please contact me.

Not everyone wants to research so just come and listen and enjoy!

Margaret Pearce, Group Leader



Charles 1st
Image in Public Domain

Country Walks

Picnics beside the sea, fine walks undertaken in shorts and sun hats, followed by group lunches in a country pub; what a great few months' walking we have enjoyed.....and then my alarm went off! "To dream, perchance to dream" as someone once wrote. If only.

Yes, "Lockdown 3" is getting to me.

I'm sure we are all yearning for some group walks and group banter, but at the moment it is indeed only a dream, although since the last Newsletter (November 2020) the "A" and "C" Groups did manage to sneak in one walk each. The "C"s in November to West Bay and Burton Bradstock, avoiding the crumbling cliff edge on a slippery day by detouring through the middle of a busy golf course! I don't know which route was more hazardous! The "A"s enjoyed a "local" walk from Martinstown, well it was local for me, taking in Maiden Castle and the countryside northwest of McDonald's - risking life and limb with 2 crossings of the A35. Mince Pies were de rigueur in the car park afterwards, until the second hailstorm struck.

I have met up with some of you whilst out on my recent circuits. It is good to see you keeping your hand (feet?) in. Some of January's frosty days have made for glorious walking.

Keep fit, keep well and I hope we can all meet up soon.

Nick Priddle, Group Leader



The SW Coast Path,
looking back to West
Bay - Nick Priddle

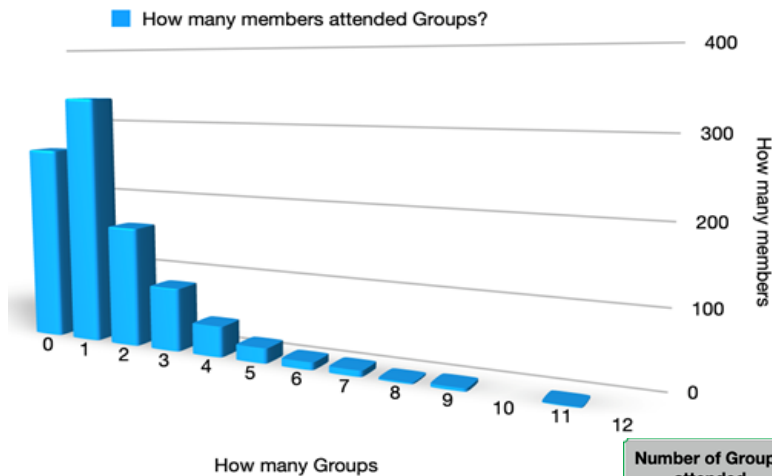
Member Participation Survey

The committee wanted to understand how members make use of Dorchester u3a in order to make better decisions.

The analysis is based on the 2019-20 members list, monthly meeting records and group attendance sheets. The results below are for Dorchester members only. At the time of the survey, we had 926 members and usable information for 59 groups.

Group Membership Analysis

Here, membership of a group is taken to be having attended once or more. No distinction is made on how often a member attends.



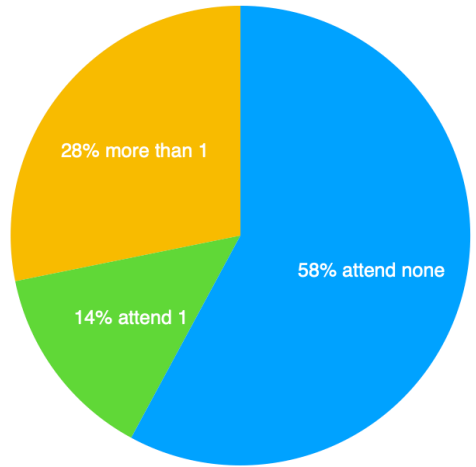
Number of Groups attended	Members attending groups
0	261
1	333
2	161
3	85
4	41
5	20
6	10
7	8
8	2
9	4
10	0
11	1
12	0
	926

Both the table (right) and the chart (above) show how many Dorchester u3a members are active in how many groups.

For example 261 members did not attend any groups, while 1 person attended 11 groups.

Monthly Meeting Analysis

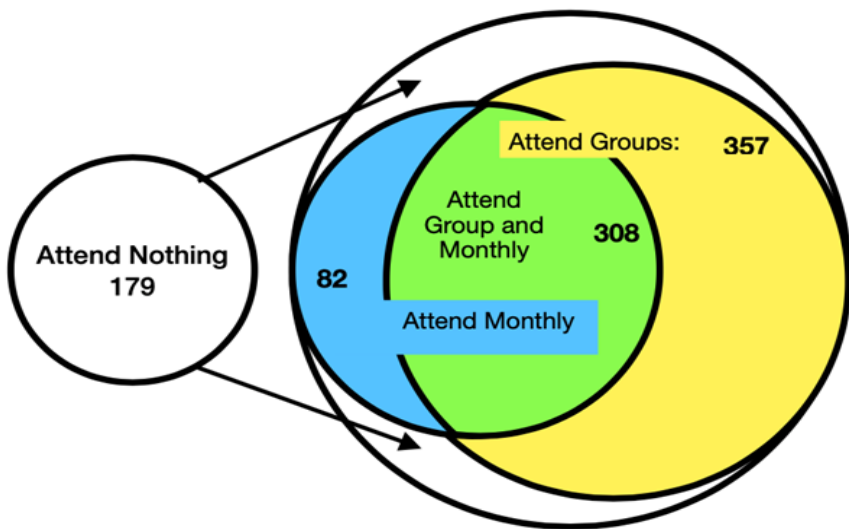
537 members did not attend any monthly meeting. 130 attended one and 259 attended more than one (pie chart right).



Combined Monthly and Group Meeting Analysis

This diagram (below) shows the degree to which members attended only groups, only Monthly meetings or both (or none at all). One person managed to attend most monthly meetings as well as being a regular attendee of 11 groups.

Jane Hopwood, Committee Member



I think you will agree with me that these results are very interesting to read. As Jane says, it really helps in our planning for the future. Ed.

Quiz

Sadly, our Quiz Group Leader, Ken Knight passed away at the start of January. We are very grateful for his contribution to the u3a and we send our condolences to his wife, Pat, and their family and friends.

Ray Dickerson was a regular at the Quiz Group and we are pleased that he has agreed to take on the role as Group Leader. Here is his quiz on Film Trivia. Good luck - I think it is hard!! Ed.

FILM TRIVIA

- Q1. Which famous actor said 'here's looking at you kid'?
- Q2. 'Don't rain on my parade' is a song by Barbra Streisand from which play and film?
- Q3. What is Indiana Jones' first name?
- Q4. In the 'Wizard of Oz' what was used to simulate snow in the poppy scene?
- Q5. What is the name of James Bond's ancestral home?
- Q6. In 'Citizen Kane', who or what is 'Rosebud'?
- Q7. What is the name of Holly Golightly's cat in 'Breakfast at Tiffanys'?
- Q8. Which famous film character quipped 'frankly my dear, I don't give a damn'?
- Q9. Olivia de Havilland died in 2020 – who was her famous actor sister?
- Q10. In which 1959 comedy are the closing lines, 'Osgood, I'm a man'. 'Well nobody's perfect'?

Ray Dickerson, Group Leader

[Answers on page 33]

You The Jury (hosted by Diane Janes)

So far, we have had three all-day seminars entitled "You The Jury". Diane has written several books and appeared on TV following the substantial research on criminal murder and attempted murder cases from around 1900 to the 1960s. The two sessions planned for October 2020 had to be cancelled. I will re-arrange these, when Government guidelines permit. If you would like to book (or require further details) please contact me.

Peter Scaife, Group Co-ordinator

Trips and Outings

Crossways Travel will be sending out their new leaflet for day trips for the first half of 2021 within the next 2 weeks.

If you are on their mailing list, you will receive one by post. If you do not receive the leaflet or are not on their mailing list and would like to receive one, please telephone them and they will be pleased to send one to you.

There are some really lovely trips planned and I am sure we are all in desperate need for a good day out. So, do have a good read of the leaflet and plan some interesting trips.

Crossways have agreed that ANY of the day trips listed will have a 10% discount for any u3a member – just choose the trips you would like to take, phone Crossways Travel direct, quote your u3a number and the discount will automatically be taken.

Crossways Travel are fully Covid secure and all the rules are followed. They would be happy to send you their Covid regulations. Should plans change – yet again(!) – full refunds are guaranteed.

Crossways Travel holiday brochure will also be available very shortly. u3a members are entitled to a £15 discount off any holiday – just follow the above instructions.

Any queries whatsoever, please don't hesitate to telephone Crossways Travel on **01305 851697**. They will be pleased to help in any way. Please support this lovely local company who have been great friends to u3a for many years but who are having to work very hard to survive in these difficult times.

ADVERTISERS

*Thank you to our five local advertisers for supporting this Newsletter.
This helps us keep the costs down for our u3a group. Ed.*

TRAVEL TALES

In "normal" times, the u3a Travel Tales group meets at HTPC classroom on the fourth Monday of each month at 3pm (downstairs).

However, we are living in a very different world at the moment and the delights of travel have been put on hold.

Not all is lost though, as our u3a has caught up with the technological wizardry of the modern world, via Zoom! Finally, our thriving Travel Tales Group is about to embark on a new venture - having had a lull during lockdown.

I am delighted to share with you that **three** volunteers have offered to give a presentation this term via Zoom.

Our first talk was on Monday 25th January. Ian Blaby (our ex-Chairman) presented a talk called Deep Freezing your Wife! This was a fascinating talk which was about the holidays that he and Penny have been on - to cold places (where Penny prefers to go on holiday!) such as Hokkaido, in Japan.

Our second talk will be given by Chris Knight - a newly-elected Committee Member. She will be talking about a trip she experienced to Bhutan.



Ian & Penny on a sled - in Canmore (The Rockies)



The presentation is entitled Bhutan coming into the world of the 21st century. Her talk will be delivered on Monday 22nd February at 3pm.

Dechencholing Palace, Thimphu, Bhutan. Photo Chris Knight

Our third volunteer is Jane Huff, who will give a presentation on Iceland (the country not the supermarket!) on Monday 22nd March.

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MEMORIAL MASONRY

TRAVEL TALES (continued)

I will send links to you all nearer the time. If you have partners/friends/acquaintances who are also currently paid-up members of the u3a, and not currently a member of my Travel Tales Group, they are welcome to join the audience - please ask them to email me. Our Zoom meeting will be socially-distanced with no fire restrictions - so numbers are not a problem!

For those unfamiliar with Zoom, all you need to do is to go to your Google/Apple App Store and download the app. There are many YouTube videos which will support you if you are unsure and you are welcome to phone me for advice on how to connect.

Please support our Speakers - it is very demotivating to prepare a talk and only have a minimal number of people as an audience.

We are always looking for new volunteers, so please contact me if you would like to present your travel memories (anywhere in the world, including Dorset, is of interest).

Jackie Cape, Group Leader

Creative Writing

The Creative Writing Group has continued online, some members being more active than others. One of the activities was to write something about the Lockdown. One member, Beryl Ungate, wrote a piece - which I hope will amuse. It is part of a longer piece. **Gill Michell, Group Leader**

One day when I get time Beryl's Diary in Coronavirus Days 2020

Looking through my diary for the last two months makes pathetic reading: Got up, went to bed. What to do in the meantime? Lockdown has grounded us, no visitors, no outings, social spacing if you venture to Waitrose – or chance to queue for a disabled parking bay at Lidl. That last was an experience. Having affixed the mandatory Blue Badge, I picked my way through the puddles to haul out a trolley and made my way to the entrance. Have I got everything? Shopping bags, purse, stick, list. Fine – off you go!

“There’s a queue!” boomed a voice from nowhere. I couldn’t see one.

“Back here!” they chorused.

Anyone knowing the layout of Lidl would be sympathetic – the queue trailed to the car showroom next door. Necks craned – was she going to try to push in?

The two-metre spacing was somewhat condensed by umbrellas but represented a task beyond me. Nothing for it. Return to the car.

“Can I take your trolley back?” enquired a security person who had suddenly emerged, all polished up, clean and dry, from inside the store.

“I haven’t shopped yet”, was my weak reply.

“Should you be out? No one to help you?”

Wide-eyed - you go all weak, don’t you? Lank hair flying in the wind, rain-splashed glasses.

Poor old soul.

“What do you need?” he asked. There’s the crunch – cheap wine headed the shopping list. Instead I said, “milk, vegetables, flour”.

With a wave of his hand he faced the baying mob and escorted me through the doors. Once inside, I gathered pace, grabbed what was left on the shelves – hardly anything I needed – paid and crept out. But Security was still there, left his post and insisted on escorting me back to the car, depositing clanking bottles in the boot and closing the lid. I told him to keep the one pound coin from the trolley but he brought it back.

“Have a good day!” he retorted but I read his thoughts – “Not much wrong with her”.

I’ve not been back. **Beryl Ungate, Member of Creative Writing Group**

Being Chairman

During my time as Chairman of Dorchester and District u3a, I found that there were only a few things which a Chairman **must** do, some things which a Chairman **must not** do, and plenty which they **can do** if they so wish!

The Chairman **must not** interfere with the jobs given to others. Members of the Committee, Group Leaders and helpers are all volunteers who have their own way of getting results. They should be allowed to get on with it unless there is a problem or they ask for help.

The Chairman **must** chair the monthly Committee Meeting which takes place after the First Monthly Meeting. They **must** write the Chairman's Notes to go out after the FMM, and the Chairman's Reports for the Newsletter and AGM. The Chairman is also the link between our u3a and regional or national U3A representatives. For instance, by attending West Dorset Network u3a meetings to find out what is going on in other u3as and pick up ideas for best practice. But most of all, they **must** be the team leader and figurehead for our u3a. They need to keep in touch with members, Group Leaders, and helpers to ensure that things run smoothly and continually look for ways to improve the service to our members.

This still leaves plenty of time for the Chairman to do things where they think they can contribute. The Chairman does not have to lead the Monthly Meeting, but I found it useful to keep in touch with members and for them to know that I would be there if they want to contact me. I also enjoyed the New Members Meetings, Xmas lunch and Group Leaders lunch - which give a chance to meet people and hear new ideas and get feedback on what works and doesn't work. Most of all, there is one task which a Chairman **must** do - and that is succession planning or find their own replacement. My one regret is that I was not able to find a Vice Chairman to take over after I completed my time in office. I tried, as any member of the Committee will tell you. But the current Committee works extremely well and following the motto - if it ain't broke don't fix it, I see no point in forcing someone out of a job they do well into something they do not want to do. So, there is a vacancy on the Committee. If you think you can help, then please approach any member of the Committee. They are doing a great job and deserve all our support.

Ian Blaby, Chairman 2017-2020

Family History

We have not been meeting physically since last March, instead we have been maintaining contact by email. Each month, I send out a project for the Group to complete. This includes deciphering documents, answering questions about the documents and some sleuthing to find out more details on people in these documents. Then, approximately 2/3 weeks later, I will send out the answers for members to see how well they have done. This has proved quite a task

sometimes as the project has given very limited detail. Topics we have looked at include:- 17th/18th Century documents, Death and Burial Records, Electoral Registers and Poll books, Emigration and Immigration, Maps and Land Ownership to name a few. The latest has been finding out the history of people named on gravestones in Dorchester Cemetery. We will carry on, hoping things will improve soon.

Les Mould, Group Leader



Family photo - Les Mould

I am sure many more of our members are continuing to research (or have started researching) their Family History during the Lockdowns. I certainly have been doing just that. I took up a good offer with Ancestry and have discovered many more ancestors! One of the great things about Family History is that there are always leads to follow - and you never know what you are going to find out! Ed.

Get Vaccinated!

How exciting is it? Have you had your vaccine yet? Some people are taking selfies of themselves being vaccinated! Don't we long for this pandemic to be over? Don't we want to be able to hug our friends and loved ones? Or go to the pub when we want to and enjoy all the freedoms that we took for granted in the past? In order to beat the various Covid-19 strains, we all need to get the protection of a vaccination so that we can not only be protected from the virus but also protect others from being ill. It's only numbers that will achieve what has been referred to as "herd immunity". I don't know about you but I've felt frustrated in not being able to do anything to help out. Now, I'm looking forward to grasping the opportunity to "do my bit" by getting the vaccine. See you in the queue!

Chris Knight, Committee Member



Photo from Public Domain

News about Members

We would like to congratulate some of our members on their recent achievements. A milestone birthday was celebrated by Colin Hunt (80) and I am sure there are others - who we don't know about!

Our thoughts and sympathies are with those of our members who are unwell at this time.

Finally, we would like to offer our condolences to all the bereaved in these sad times - for Kay Ennals (see page 25), Brian Tait and Bernard Aaron.

For further information on any of the above and/or ex-members, please contact the Welfare Secretary, Vivienne Allan. Good news on events such as anniversaries are also welcome. Ed.

ZOOM - How to Join a Zoom Class

Please note: If you wish to use Zoom with a phone or tablet you need to download the Zoom App from the Play Store or App Store.

Your Group Leader or whoever is hosting the meeting will send you a message about the meeting.

It will look something like this:

Kelvin Huff is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Kelvin Huff's Zoom Meeting

Time: Jan 18, 2021 10:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86132453519?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86132453519?pwd=WFsyRVlxZWNSaTdCeXlEU2k3ZDhUQT09)

pwd=WFsyRVlxZWNSaTdCeXlEU2k3ZDhUQT09

Meeting ID: 861 3245 3519

Passcode: 060379

The easiest way to join is to click on the web link you have been sent. This will take you straight to the meeting.

You'll then get a message 'your host will start the meeting soon' or 'your host will let you in soon'.

You will then get a message 'join with audio'. Click the box.

You may get a message 'join with video'. Click the box.

You should now be able to see other people in the meeting.

Your host may want to share their screen with you. You don't need to do anything to make this happen.

If your host is giving a presentation, please mute yourself by clicking the mute button.

When the meeting ends or if you need to leave earlier, click on the red 'Leave meeting' button. Alternatively, your host may end the meeting for all.

There is a menu bar at the bottom of your screen. If you can't see it, hover the mouse over it and it will reappear.

I hope this helps!

Kelvin Huff, Web Team member

Groups Using Zoom *There are currently 13 Groups who are using Zoom for their group meetings —see list below. This list is constantly expanding. For up to date information and times/dates—please look at the Website.*

Booktalk	Italian Level 3
Digital Photography	Italian Post-Beginners
Family History	Spanish Improvers
French Conversation	Topical Issues
Geology	Travel Tales
History	Wine Appreciation
Italian Improvers	

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Springtime Poem

How welcome is the glorious Spring
When everything is new
The first blush of the morning
First blooms in every hue

Bright sunshine spreads and warms the earth
There's a new vitality
This spirit of Spring awakes our dreams
To re-build with tenacity

Cherry blossom flowers cascade
From bushes hanging high
Woodland bluebells fill the glades
For bees and the butterfly

Little streams now glitter
Rivers ebb and flow
A sense of joy is everywhere
In Spring's most beautiful show

This lovely poem was written by Kay last year. Kay was a long term member of u3a and used to run the Music and Movement Group. Sadly, she passed away at the end of last year.

Kay Ennals MBE (RIP)

Geology

Our meetings have continued using Zoom and have been well-attended. We closed out the year with a talk called 'Dorset Ripples'. This is a reference to the folding and faulting which took place about 25 million years ago. Europe got the Alps, while the rocks in Dorset were mostly folded more gently. In the Dorchester area we sit in a gentle downfold, the Frome syncline. In other areas, the rocks formed tight folds, as seen in the picture of the 'Lulworth Crumple'.

Moving forward in geological time, the January meeting looked at what we call the Quaternary, or 'Ice Age'. In fact, there were 20 cold and warm cycles over a 2-million-year period. Remains of hippos found in gravels below Trafalgar Square reflect the warmer interglacials, one of which we are still in.



The Lulworth Crumple - photo Kelvin Huff

The next few meetings will cover some of the large mammals or 'megabeasts' which were around during the 'Ice Age', such as woolly mammoths and sabre-tooth cats. Most of these became extinct with the arrival of *Homo sapiens* in their habitats and as the ice melted. We'll also be looking at how glaciations affected the landscape of the British Isles including how Dorset was affected. Being further south, Dorset escaped any actual ice sheets but had a climate in the cold cycles similar to that of Siberia today. Sea levels went up and down too, with these climatic fluctuations.

I can still fit a few more on Zoom (!) so if you want to join the group do let me know.

Kelvin Huff, Group Leader

Art

Despite the many challenges facing us in 2020 we have, as an Art Group, managed to keep ticking over by keeping in touch and meeting up when possible.

Borough Gardens provided us with an ideal location to 'put to the test' our "en plein air" skills throughout the glorious summer months. With the onset of winter and the uncertainty of returning to our usual classroom at the Holy Trinity Centre, we went ahead and hired the Brownsword Hall for two afternoons in October. Following November's lockdown, we returned in December and enjoyed some festive spirit with our Art! Such occasions enabled us to get back down to painting and drawing together in a creative atmosphere as well as to have a much-needed catch-up with the group.

What we will manage to achieve and when we can meet in 2021 remains to be seen. However, we hopefully envisage to hold our annual exhibition at the gallery in Frank Herring & Sons shop in August.

Tony Prior, Group Leader



Ape by Pauline Mann



Vase of Flowers by Nikki Pook

Newsletter Delivery

Whenever possible, our members deliver your newsletter by hand. We are very grateful for this - as it keeps our postage costs down (and therefore our Membership Subscription down). Anyone wishing to help would be more than welcome. If you are unsure, please contact the Membership Secretary to check whether someone delivers in your area. At present we have 39 delivery areas! Many hands make light work! Please contact the Membership Secretary if you are interested in helping out. Thank you.

Janet Kennewell, Membership Secretary

National u3a Day: Wednesday 2nd June 2021

The Committee has decided to join in the National u3a Day on 2nd June which looks to celebrate all things u3a. This will take the form of some form of publicity event in the town. Watch this space for more detail nearer the time!

Chris Knight, Committee Member



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Poetry Appreciation

During the first lockdown we started an email group discussion, taking it in turns to share a favourite poem. We always learn so much from each other and this opportunity to communicate via email was no exception. In the autumn we were lucky enough to have two actual meetings, albeit with reduced numbers as we had to comply with the rule of 6. In May's session, we had been due to study the poetry of the Second World War but Covid restrictions had put paid to that, as it did the planned national commemoration of VE Day. So instead, we used one of our physical meetings to explore poems written by those who had experienced the Second World War, either as soldiers or members of resistance groups. We normally read work by poets from the UK so it was really interesting to read poetry from a range of different nationalities, including Polish, German and Japanese. One of the poems we studied, 'Metamorphosis', appeared to have no link to war at all; it was written as a recruitment poem for the French resistance - legally published (written on a blackboard outside an art gallery) but cryptically subversive. We are now looking at one poem, once a month.

One of the poems that the group admired is called High Flight. It was written by John Gillespie Magee (an Anglo-American aviator and poet).

Oh! I have slipped the surly bonds of Earth
And danced the skies on laughter-silvered wings;
Sunward I've climbed, and joined the tumbling mirth
Of sun-split clouds, – and done a hundred things
You have not dreamed of – wheeled and soared and swung
High in the sunlit silence. Hov'ring there,
I've chased the shouting wind along, and flung
My eager craft through footless halls of air...

Up, up the long, delirious burning blue
I've topped the wind-swept heights with easy grace
Where never lark, or ever eagle flew –
And, while with silent, lifting mind I've trod
The high untrespassed sanctity of space,
Put out my hand, and touched the face of God.

Liz Baume, Group Leader

Reading Groups

We are lucky to have three different reading groups in our u3a - Booktalk, Reading For Pleasure and Reading For Pleasure 3. All three groups are thriving and their members are enjoying reading and discussing the books that their groups have chosen. I am sure that we have all been doing more reading during Lockdown. I was therefore keen to include the reports from these three groups - hopefully to give you some ideas on what books to read next. Ed.

Booktalk

Booktalk usually meets once a month on a Tuesday afternoon - but we stopped meeting in February 2020. When the Library started making books available again, we restarted using Zoom in September. We had a list of books for 2020, of which we had only read two books, so the library agreed to continue the list from where we left off.

In September, we all talked about books we had been looking at during the pandemic and there was a great variety. In November, we started with Salt Path by Raynor Winn, which is an inspiring story of a couple's journey along the coastal path from near Taunton round the whole South West Path over several months, sleeping in tents, in fields, with little money.

In December, we looked at Hilary Mantel's Bring up the Bodies in the Wolf Hall Trilogy, gruesome. In January, we read Room with a View by E.M.Foster, romantic. In February, we will be looking at David Copperfield, incredible characters. The Library chooses the order of books on the list so we have had some of the classics first but there is a real mixture of old and new for the rest of the Spring and Summer.

John Calvert, Group Contact

Reading for Pleasure

I'm pleased to say that some of the group have continued to meet via Zoom during the last year.

Our normal block loans from the library have not been available until recently so we have made our individual choices and recommended them to the rest of the group – or not, depending on our experience. These are the titles we read as a group during 2020:

Coffin Road by Peter May - a thriller set on the Isle of Lewis.

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens - much enjoyed by everyone.

The Grave Tattoo by Val McDermid - an interesting & intriguing thriller.

We are currently reading The Architect's Apprentice by Elif Shafak, which we will discuss in February – thanks to the Duchess of Cornwall for her recommendation!

Depending on lockdown restrictions, we hope to get these titles from the library over the next few months:

The Spy and the Traitor by Ben Macintyre March/April 2021

Educated by Tara Westover April/May 2021

The Librarian by Sally Vickers May/June 2021

Stopping Places by Damian le Bas June/July 2021

Julia Denham, Group Contact

Reading for Pleasure 3

Since March last year a group of us have been meeting virtually, on both our scheduled meeting dates and also half way through the month in order to keep in touch.

Books that we have read include the following:

Mrs Palfrey at the Claremont by Elizabeth Taylor (not the actress!)

This Boy by Alan Johnson

The Darling Buds of May (1) by H. E. Bates

The Road to Little Dribbling by Bill Bryson

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

The Growing Pains of Jennifer Ebert, aged 19 Going on 91 by David M. Barnett

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

Elizabeth Martin, Group Contact

Digital Photography

We have been busy during lockdown taking plenty of photos. Each month on the 2nd Monday, I email a theme and the Group have to take a minimum of 5 photos and email them to me for the following 2nd Monday and I share them with the rest of the group. Some of the themes have been quite challenging. Who would have thought that 'self portraits - no selfies' would ensure that we had to use parts of the camera that hadn't been used in ages. Other themes we have used include:- Christmas Food, Gravestones, Rows of things, Bad weather, Kitchen, Living Room and Metallic. It is now more challenging to get out and about with the new Covid restrictions so have to be more creative with the themes. We will carry on regardless and look forward to getting together for 'normal' meetings.

Les Mould, Group Leader

u3a Website News and Updates

Dorchester and District Website (www.dorchesteru3a.org.uk) The Web Team are currently improving this website - to make it more user-friendly and look better. You will notice that some colours and the logo have changed, some layouts are different but the main areas will stay the same with maybe 1 or 2 small tweaks. So, take a look now and again to see what changes have been made. The Web Team would like to know what you think of any changes that have been made.

u3a National Website (www.u3a.org.uk) During lockdown and since the National AGM last year there has been a lot more information added to the National website. There are lots of ideas to keep learning, including free online resources, online Sources Magazine, online u3a shop, u3a News and a sign up to receive the National Newsletter. There are also media platforms on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram. You might have to subscribe to access all the site but this only needs your email and a password.

u3a South West Region Website (u3asites.org.uk/south-west/welcome) This covers a large area - Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Isles of Scilly and the Channel Islands. It is the largest geographical u3a Region in England. More information is available here including information about other u3as in the South West.

Les Mould, Secretary

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Answers to Film Trivia Quiz (from page 16)

- A1. Humphrey Bogart (in Casablanca)
- A2. Funny Girl
- A3. Henry
- A4. White asbestos fibres
- A5. Skyfall Lodge
- A6. A sled/sledge
- A7. Ca
- A8. Rhett Butler (in Gone With The Wind)
- A9. Joan Fontaine
- A10. Some Like It Hot

Ray Dickerson, Quiz Group Leader

Christmas Lunch 2021!

*Yes, you read that correctly!!
I know that we have just had
Christmas but we thought that you
might like to have something to
look forward to!
We have booked The New Inn at
West Knighton for our usual
Christmas Lunch event. It will be
on Tuesday 7th December.
Tickets/more details will be
available in September/October.
Disappointingly, we had to cancel
this event last year - due to Covid.
Ed.*



Left - You don't need to go far to do birdwatching - here is a male Gadwall -taken at the Dorchester water meadows by Allan Reese (member of Birdwatching group)



Above, Rows of Things theme by Meg Rolfe (member of Digital Photography group)



Above, Christmas Food theme by Pete Mason (member of Digital Photography group)



Above, Liners at Anchor—view from Ringstead by Tony Prior