



February Newsletter

A LETTER FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear All,

At last, a little better news to review! The long heralded 'roadmap' has appeared and gives a timescale to aim for, although with the proviso for delay should circumstances dictate. However, present indications are that the vaccine programme has been a resounding success and is having a considerable effect on both contracting the disease and its severity if it is caught. I think, if these effects continue to reduce the pressure on hospitals, we may just have to accept Covid as another illness that we have to live with, a relatively minor inconvenience for most but still with the potential to be devastating in a few unfortunate cases.

So, where does that leave Ashby U3A? It would be premature for me to set out any clear intentions at this stage. Your Committee will meet to discuss what is permitted and when, what we feel is wise to undertake and what may be acceptable to the members as a whole. We have to bear in mind that most of our activities are in fairly close proximity indoors, involve sometimes crowded locations and the use of members' cars and houses, so we may need to proceed with caution.

However, if all goes according to plan, we may be able to restart the walking groups and any other outdoor activity after May and all activities by July. I certainly hope so, as it has already been a year since our organisation could function normally and it will be at least another four months before we can do so again. I have greatly missed our regular activities and very much look forward to being able to meet you all again. By that time, my two year period as Chairman will be coming to an end - I am so very sorry that, for the most part, it has been characterised by masterly inactivity and telling you all what we are unable to do!

One positive note is that we have entered into a reciprocal agreement with Derby U3A. This means that members of either U3A are able to attend up to 3 of the other U3A's group meetings without payment of an annual subscription. You will still have to complete a membership form but should only be charged the same fees to attend as apply to the home U3A members. If you wish to see what is on offer, just search Derby U3A.

However, things do now look much brighter for the summer. The weather has turned much milder and the spring flowers are appearing. Let us hope that is a portent for the future and that irritating voice on the satnav (surely not yours Prime Minister?) will not be telling us to turn round yet again! I still rely on the Ordnance Survey to be more accurate and less likely to answer back.

We will keep you informed of developments as soon as we are able. In the meantime, I hope you all remain well and manage to cope with what I trust will be the last few months of restrictions.

With all good wishes,

Colin

FROM THE EDITOR

The newsletter seems to be getting thinner as even the virtual groups are struggling to keep up interest at the moment. It seems to be very difficult to maintain things without face to face contact. I don't know why this should be, but I find it equally difficult to stay focused on many things without seeing and talking to others. The Victorians managed to keep in touch via letter around the world even if it took months to get a reply. Perhaps the instant communication of email and text is not the answer we thought it would be and we still crave personal contact.

But on a brighter note, as Colin says above, we can now see a way out of this isolation and hopefully we will all be back together soon.

Mike Stow

HELP & WELFARE

If you know of any member who is unwell or shielding or has a family member who is unwell, please contact Estelle or any other committee member and we can see if there is anything we can do to help, whether it is collecting shopping or prescriptions, having a chat or just sending a card.

If at any time you would like or need someone to talk to, the following people are always ready to chat:

Our Chairman, Colin Ellis 01530 272592

Colin Woodland 01530 413867

Ann Donegan 01283 760348

Tony Smith 01530 831822

Our Welfare Officer, Estelle Sandles 01530 459858, 07919 986456 or email welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk.

Estelle can also offer support and welfare information. Any chats will of course be confidential.

ZOE COVID-19 Symptom Tracker

If you wish to help Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals to track the spread of Covid-19 across the country and find out what type of person is getting infected, you can sign up to the Covid-19 Symptom Tracker here at <https://covid/joinzoe.com> You need a smartphone to which an app is installed.

It asks you for some personal details of age, height, weight etc. and general health and medication. This can all be anonymous if you wish.

You can then report each day how you feel even if you are well, it takes seconds. You can see how Covid 19 is spreading or retreating and you will be helping research into how and why it spreads, and who is most vulnerable. Over 4.5 million people are already signed up and contributing.

AgeUK - www.ageuk.org.uk has lots of information and advice on all matters regarding coronavirus including matters financial or health.

The u3a National Office has an email Newsletter which you can sign up for at <https://u3a.org.uk/email> It has the latest advice on the virus and also lots of information and advice on how to keep safe and occupied.

NHS Covid-19 Test and Trace

If you have a smartphone, we would encourage you to download the NHS app. It tracks whether you have been in close proximity to someone who subsequently tests positive for Covid-19 and allows Test and Trace to contact you and ask you to isolate for a number of days. Remember this app only works if you carry your phone with you when you go out!

POSSIBLE MONTHLY MEETINGS ON ZOOM

The Committee are still considering trying Zoom talks to replace the usual monthly meetings but hopefully real meetings will be possible in the not too distant future. Science & Technology group have been conducting meetings via Zoom and last month had an external speaker giving a talk via Zoom. (See below). That went very well.

Many speakers such as those we normally book are now offering online talks but we would like to know if there will be sufficient interest from the membership before booking someone. To make it work we would need a reasonable number of people to look in to make it worthwhile. How many that is will likely depend on the speaker. These talks would be free to members, just as it is for the usual in-person talks at the church.

I asked last month for members to drop me a line if they would be interested to look in on a free Zoom meeting, but I only had 4 replies, so if any more of you are interested perhaps you can you drop me a line at webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk so that we can get an idea of numbers. Then we can maybe try to book some speakers.

INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTERS

If you have anything that you would like to see in these newsletters, whether it is a report of something you or a Group have managed to organise despite all the difficulties or you have some information on safety, health, scams or anything similar please contact me, Mike Stow at webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk or 01530 469152.

A QUIZ ON SINGLE NAMES

Quiz devised by Walsall U3A

Many famous people, both real and fictional, are known by one name. What is their other?

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Baden - Powell | 17. Sir Elgar |
| 2. Beethoven | 18. Ferrari |
| 3. Beyonce | 19. Dr. Frankenstein |
| 4. Bismarck | 20. Galileo |
| 5. "Capability" Brown | 21. Gauguin |
| 6. Brunel | 22. Dr. Goebbels |
| 7. Casanova | 23. van Gogh |
| 8. Chaucer | 24. Gulliver |
| 9. Chippendale | 25. Holst |
| 10. Chopin | 26. Khrushchev |
| 11. Constable | 27. Lenin |
| 12. Copernicus | 28. Lloyd George |
| 13. Disraeli | 29. Machiavelli |
| 14. Edison | 30. Madonna |
| 15. Einstein | 31. Maradona |
| 16. Eisenhower | 32. Marconi |

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 33. Monet | 45. Rembrandt |
| 34. Mozart | 46. Rolls |
| 35. Mussolini | 47. Sir Royce |
| 36. Napoleon | 48. Scrooge |
| 37. Nelson | 49. Stalin |
| 38. Sir Newton | 50. Stradivarius |
| 39. Pepys | 51. Tchaikovsky |
| 40. Picasso | 52. Tennyson |
| 41. Porsche | 53. da Vinci |
| 42. Puskas | 54. Wagner |
| 43. Putin | 55. Wedgwood |
| 44. Don Quixote | |

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Answers on the last page

GROUPS MEETING REMOTELY OR VIRTUALLY

Science & Technology

Our next Zoom talk will be by Rosemary Marsden of Burton u3a Science Group on **Friday March 19th at 10am to 12 noon. The title is "Science – what's in a word"**

If you would like to watch and listen-in contact Paul McKay on science@ashbyu3a.co.uk and he will add you to his list. Zoom invites will be sent out the week before with a reminder on the day.

Last month's talk on 8th February was by Dave Hollis on Garden Wildlife

Dave Hollis, our first professional speaker, treated us to a grand tour of the fascinating wildlife to be found in our own gardens. He introduced himself as a lifelong lover of wildlife. As a three year old, he was amazed at the colourful beauty of a chaffinch and later used primitive recording equipment to capture bird-song. Descriptions and stunning photographs followed of mammals, birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles, fish and wildflowers. We learned that grey squirrels are more closely related to rats than its cuter and more colourful cousin, the red squirrel. He explained that frogs are wet and hop, while toads are dry and walk. If you want to attract diverse wildlife quickly, a pond is the way to do it; frogs, newts, dragonflies, snails and water spiders all use water as their habitat, and birds drink from it. Even the lowly slug was included, but it was a 12 inches long black slug, from northern Spain. The Q & A session included the introduction of beavers at Willington, how best to engage young people with nature, the making and positioning of bat boxes and hedgehog houses and the red kites over the M40 motorway. For 2 hours Dave captivated us with his knowledge and superb photographs. I hope everyone has been inspired to observe wildlife and create wildlife habitats in their own garden. Approximately 46 people from the Ashby and Burton U3As attended the talk via Zoom.

The Science and Technology Group are keen to encourage members to share their interests, hobbies or career experiences by giving a talk to the group using Zoom. Any science, technology, engineering or maths subjects are welcomed and it can be of any duration. The virtual meeting format can be off-putting but it is not complicated. Many of you may have used it to stay in touch with family and friends during lockdowns.

To contact the Group leaders, Tanya, Paul and Bill please email science@ashbyu3a.co.uk

Computer Group

The Computer Group is still able to help people with their computer, tablet or smartphone problems. Obviously we can't do repairs, but if you have software problems or other difficulties email help.computer@ashbyu3a.co.uk or phone John Howlett on 01530 461774 and someone will have a look at your problem and get back to you. Subject to the social distancing regulations in force at the time, we may even be able to do house calls.

We've been answering queries from members about anti-virus software, Windows updates, online banking and choosing a new PC amongst other things.

It seems to have been all quiet on the computer-problems front this month although I do know of at least one person having a new computer built by Phil ex of PC Clinic shop. He seems very popular.

Drawing and painting

it seems that six members worked from home this month on the theme of Valentine. This one was done by Christine. All the other paintings are viewable on the Drawing and Painting Gallery page of our website.



Literature Group

The group appear to be continuing with their WhatsApp group so that they can read at home and then discuss the books they are reading.

Family History

All in all we had seven participants today. Excellent!

John H has unearthed some interesting photos and other information from his mother-s side. He has found a possible marriage for an uncle via the free Irish State websites. There is one for censuses and one for Births, Deaths and Marriages.

John D has identified the father of his great grandmother's mother, using his new subscription to FMP. He has eluded us for over twenty years!

Shirley (via email) she is having some difficulty with villages missing from the 1861 and 1871 censuses. This can be a darn nuisance! However, she has clues in her grandmother's and her mother's maiden names. There may even be links to 1066 and all that!

Carolyn is still working on her filing (I know, but so necessary!) She hasn't yet found a good discount offer from Ancestry. Eileen sent her a link to the Ancestry site for offers. And she will rejoin. She wants to look at Australia or Ireland, if possible on free sites, and the naval records for WWII for her grandfather. Both John H and I made suggestions: John for Ireland and me for the M.O.D. records. Sadly it may take some time to get the latter at the present. Shirley suggests Find My Past for Irish records. A very good tip, although not free. She needs tips on how to research the Australian records. More work need to help out here as most of us have no real expertise in this.

Dora (via email) is chasing her grandmother's siblings. Via a nice bit of detective work round the use of alternative names in the family she thinks there is a very good link via a cousin who may have emigrated to New Zealand.

Sylvia (via email) She has had a DNA test done and already has an encouraging contact. This contact does not seem to have any common surnames but is posted as a likely 1st or 2nd cousin, so there just has to be a link somewhere close by.

Eileen was delayed, but is now finding hints for her elusive Kenfield line.

Libby gave her apologies as she is currently hors de combat: get well soon!

Well done everybody! We next meet on Wednesday March 10th

Music Appreciation

We had 4 contributors this month with the usual variety that can be expected from the group, from Country to Classical via pop, rock, blues and the Great American Songbook.

I've worked out at last how to put all the tracks into a playlist, so that if anyone else wants to listen to our music choices then clicking here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvSVh5ju5IE&list=PLdjMqEt4gpepOSt-vz41QuNifj12MZKSA> should take you through to YouTube to watch and listen to all the music in one go.

Neil started us off with this:

"I go through periods of listening to Country Music, and a series of programmes on BBC 4 recently started me up again. Over the years there have been a few Brits who have tried their hand at it, and some have done a pretty good job at it.

Kirsty MacColl had a hit with "There's a Guy works down the Chip Shop swears he's Elvis", and at a time when I bought very few singles, I bought it. It was a Rock song with a Country feel. However, on the B side was a purely Country version of it, and I found myself listening to this version more often than the hit one. See what you think.

Elvis Presley made a few good Country songs himself, but it's the other Elvis I've chosen for my next song. Elvis Costello has tried his hand at lots of different types of music, and decided to go to Nashville to record an album. Although he's a talented songwriter, he made an album of cover versions. " Good Year for the Roses " was released as a single and did well. This prompted me to buy the album which I still play every now and then.

Jimmy Nail played Oz in Auf Wiedersehen Pet, and in one episode got up on stage to sing, and he sang a Country song, which went down well. Here is a clip of it.

As a result of it he made a few records, mostly with a Country feel. Opinions of his efforts were mixed, but the Music Press gave him a panning. I thought they a bit unfair, a quite liked some of them, so here is one – 'Cowboy Dreams '."

From Mike:

"Following in our tradition of honouring those who have recently passed away, you may have heard that Hilton Valentine of The Animals died last month. The riff in House of the Rising Sun is mostly heard on the organ played by Alan Price and he craftily got his name on the record as the arranger (it's a

traditional song) and so got all the royalties from it. That is one reason why the band broke up. However if you listen, the song starts with that riff played by guitarist Hilton and he apparently was the one who came up with it but got no credit (or royalties!)

I watched a program about Cilla Black the other night and remembered that she was a pretty good singer often overshadowed by Dusty, Sandie Shaw et al. Possibly her best song was Alfie but I've played that before, here she is singing the Beatles "Norwegian Wood" but accompanied by Hank and Bruce of the Shadows!

I found out by chance that throughout lockdown Gary Barlow has been hosting The Crooner Sessions from his home studio singing along with many others in their own homes. How they manage to synchronise I don't know, but they are mostly good fun and there are many famous names duetting with Mr Barlow from Cliff Richard or Rod Stewart to Katherine Jenkins and a lot of young singers I've frankly never heard of. There are nearly 70 songs out there now. I particularly liked this duet with Beverly Knight covering the Aretha Franklyn – George Michael song "I knew you were waiting". Beverly Knight is another vastly underrated British singer."

Nev said:

"Well, February is the month of St Valentine so I thought I'd choose some love songs. There are millions of them of course but I've chosen a select few.

Many love songs are not what they may first appear. My first choice is one of those. It is a Rodgers and Hart song "Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered" from the show "Pal Joey". Many versions of the song feature only the first three verses which give the impression of a straight forward love song. However, the full version tells quite a different story. In the show it is sung by Vera, a wealthy but bored society matron, who uses her husband's money to spice up her life. She becomes attracted to Joey, a young entertainer, to the extent that she finances a new night club for him. Inevitably the romance sours and the later verses describe her feelings. The lyrics are somewhat risqué for 1940. I have chosen Ella Fitzgerald's version. Be sure to listen to the lyrics and the lovely piano.

My second choice is also a song that isn't the straight forward love song it appears to be. It is Dolly Parton's "I Will Always Love You". The song was written and recorded by Dolly in 1973 as a farewell to her former partner and mentor, Porter Wagoner, following her decision to leave the "Porter Wagoner Show" and pursue a solo career. The song was a big hit in 1974 and a re-recording in 1982 for the film "The best Little Whorehouse in Texas" also topped the charts. Whitney Houston recorded the song for the film "The Bodyguard", a version which topped the charts for 14 weeks. The version I have chosen is a live performance by Dolly Parton in the early 2000s.

My third choice is the Lennon/McCartney composition "And I Love Her" by the Beatles recorded in 1964 for the film "A Hard Days Night". This is a straight forward love song written by McCartney about Jane Asher.

Finally I'd like to add two very short tracks. The first one is another Rodgers and Hart song "Wait 'til You See Her" published in 1942 and introduced in the musical play "By Jupiter". Ella sings "Wait 'til You See Him" of course.

The second short one is another Lennon/McCartney song by the Beatles. "I Will" is another McCartney composition recorded in 1968 and featured on the album "The Beatles" (better known as "The White Album")."

Sallie has rejoined the contributors this month and she sent us this:

"Gabriel Faure ---- Dolly Suite played by Lucas and Arthur Jussen. Maybe it will bring back memories !!!

Shostakovich ---- Tahiti Trot op 16. With Daniel Barenboim. 'Tea for Two' is all we can manage at the moment and some of us not even that! I think this rendition is really fun."

Walking

Walk leaders are obviously not currently organising walks as we can only walk in twos unless everyone is from one household.

OTHER THINGS TO DO

Visit the **U3A National website** at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>

There is information about COVID-19, but also lots of more interesting stuff such as what other U3As are doing around the country, bird migration tracking for the British Trust of Ornithology, photography challenges, ideas to keep learning and there are quizzes and maths puzzles to occupy a few minutes or hours!

Google Arts & Culture – <https://artsandculture.google.com> has high resolution photos of many of the world's great paintings and other artworks from 2000 museums round the world, plus you can explore the most famous places in the world such as Eiffel Tower, Angkor Wat, Sydney Opera House plus loads more. Somewhere to get lost for a few hours.

THE COMMITTEE

If you want to get in touch, our current committee are:

Colin Ellis	Chairman	chairman@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 272592
Anne Donegan	Business Secretary	secretary@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01283 760348
Val Reed	Treasurer	treasurer@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 564279
Iain Banns	Membership Secretary	members@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 416697
Colin Woodland	Groups Co-ordinator	interestg@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413867
Peter Clement	Minutes Secretary	minutes@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 560894
Estelle Sandles	Welfare	welfare@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 459858
Bill Wilson	Speaker seeker	speakers@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182
Mike Stow	Communications	webmaster@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 469152
Avril Wilson	Social Secretary	socials@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 413182
Tony Smith	Member	tony@ashbyu3a.co.uk	01530 831822

Quiz Answers

1. Robert Baden - Powell
2. Ludwig von Beethoven
3. Beyonce Knowles (now Knowles-Carter)
4. Otto von Bismarck
5. Lancelot "Capability" Brown
6. Isambard Brunel
7. Giacomo Casanova
8. Geoffrey Chaucer
9. Thomas Chippendale
10. Frederic Chopin
11. John Constable
12. Nicolaus Copernicus
13. Benjamin Disraeli
14. Thomas Edison
15. Albert Einstein
16. Dwight Eisenhower
17. Sir Edward Elgar
18. Enzo Ferrari
19. Dr. Victor Frankenstein
20. Galileo Galilei
21. Paul Gauguin
22. Dr. Joseph Goebbels
23. Vincent van Gogh
24. Lemuel Gulliver
25. Gustav Holst
26. Nikita Khrushchev
27. Vladimir Lenin
28. David Lloyd George
29. Niccolo Machiavelli
30. Madonna Ciccone
31. Diego Maradona
32. Guglielmo Marconi
33. Claude Monet
34. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
35. Benito Mussolini
36. Napoleon Bonaparte
37. Horatio Nelson
38. Sir Isaac Newton
39. Samuel Pepys
40. Pablo Picasso
41. Ferdinand Porsche
42. Ferenc Puskas
43. Vladimir Putin
44. Don Alonso Quixote
45. Rembrandt van Rijn
46. Charles Rolls
47. Sir Henry Royce
48. Ebenezer Scrooge
49. Joseph Stalin
50. Antonius Stradivarius
51. Pyotr Tchaikovsky
52. Alfred Lord Tennyson
53. Leonardo da Vinci
54. Richard Wagner
55. Josiah Wedgwood