

From your Chairman

The very name of our organisation gives us a clue as to the average age of our members. According to my Oxford dictionary 'Third Age' is defined as "The period in life of active retirement following middle age". From this we can deduce that none of us at BU3A are exactly in the first flush of youth, and as such we are in a very vulnerable group of people during the present Corona virus crisis. At the time of writing the Government lockdown has just been extended, and it is difficult to imagine a time when it will be sensible for 200 BU3A members to gather in one room.

Accordingly, I really cannot forecast a date when we are likely to be able to resume our monthly meetings. There will no doubt be a time when the restrictions can be relaxed, but even then we will have to think long and hard as to when it would be safe for our lectures to get back on track. The same applies, of course, to the smaller meetings of Interest Groups.

During the lockdown, the Committee are staying in touch by phone, e-mail etc, and I am sure the Interest Groups are doing the same. When the situation becomes clearer I will be in touch again regarding the possible resumption of BU3A activities following discussions with the Committee. Due to the present situation, this Newsletter is only being distributed electronically, so if you know of any members who are not online perhaps you could give them a call to let them know this latest information.

If I may end by quoting both H.M. The Queen and Dame Vera Lynn, "We will all meet again" – we know the "Where" but the "When" is a bit more problematic. We will of course keep you all informed, and in the meantime Keep Well and Keep Safe.

With very best wishes,

Peter Lester, Chairman, BU3A.

In Appreciation of Spring



IN these times of great difficulty for many people there is time to appreciate many of the things that are so easily taken for granted.

Self isolation means not being able to visit places and people that we did as part of our normal life, even shopping. However this does not mean that we should shut ourselves away but enjoy and appreciate the things that are around us. Fortunately the weather has been very favourable and despite self isolating, it has enabled us to carry on walking in our local area and appreciate what we have close at home.

In the short time that spring has quickly arrived, many trees are full of blossom and the new leaves on the trees give that vivid green we get at this time of year. Once the weather warmed up, the over wintering butterflies awoke from their hibernation and Red Admirals, Peacocks and Brimstone very soon put in an appearance. The birds are now busy seeking out their nest building sites – little do the Blue Tits in our nest box realise that they are being watched! More lately the Orange Tip butterfly has put in an appearance and were my ears deceiving me, did I hear the Cuckoo today near Great Barton? A member in Stanton reported seeing a swallow.

Therefore please get outside, if only in your gardens, look around your local area, keep safe and look forward to when we can all carry on with our U3A activities.

John Light

The Guildhall, Bury St Edmunds

DATING back to 1279, the Guildhall is the oldest continuously used civic building in Britain and our speaker for February, Stuart Lee, one of its volunteers, gave an overview of its history.

Under the control of the Abbey until the dissolution, the building was originally just the one long room. In the late 15th century the impressive entrance was added and in the room above its doorway is a chest to which the keys cannot be found – what does it hold? In the same period a King and Queen post roof of oak and fir was constructed which is now concealed by the ceiling.

Stuart explained that there were several types of Guilds:

Craft Guilds for masters of professions

Religious Guilds doing charitable works as part of their aspiration for time off in purgatory, and

Merchant Guilds bringing together business men to discuss policies to preserve the integrity of local trading practices. They also worked for the town and paid out of their own pockets for example to mend roads. (After the reformation this morphed into the Town Council.)



At the reformation the building was transferred to the Crown. However the Law of Feoffment enabled the feoffees (trustees) to purchase the building during the reign of Elizabeth I and they still own it.

Inside hang various paintings including the Coat of Arms of James I with the royal cypher IR. He was the King that gave Bury St Edmunds its Royal Charter. An attempt was made to amend this to CR later but the original still shows through. There is also the portrait of Jankyn Smyth who headed the Merchants Guild in the 15th century and had clashed with the Abbot resulting in the closure of that Guild and its replacement with the Purification of Our Lady Guild and then the Candlemas Guild.

The building was refurbished in the 18th century with division into two rooms, one a Banqueting Hall and the other a Court House housing various courts. There are other rooms including the Evidence Room where items were stored for the Court, a robing room and a Tudor kitchen. The room that the Royal Observer Corps used during WW2 is still equipped as it was at that time.

In normal times the building is open to the public, free of charge, on Wednesdays and Sundays.

Mary Dunbavin

From Barrow to Baghdad

Philip Caine's lecture in March, could quite easily have been sub-titled "How to Make One Feel Inadequate"!

Philip was a lad from Barrow-in-Furness who, although having left school at 16 without any qualifications, did not want to start an apprenticeship in the shipyards. Instead, against his father's advice, he started his working life in the hotel business, progressing in about five years from chef to management. After that excitement faded (mainly because the unsocial hours did not go down well with his Glaswegian wife, Sandra), his career developed in the oil industry, and 30 years were spent in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia. From 2003, he spent seven years in Baghdad, working with the American coalition (supervising the building and running of military

bases for up to 31,000 troops), then a further three years running oil services companies in Dubai, where the lifestyle was much enjoyed by Sandra. Several of these enterprises were ably facilitated by his KGB/Mafia(!) "friend", Alexei – don't ask.

Although Philip "retired" in 2015, he was not ready for full retirement, so Sandra encouraged him to attend a local writing course, after which he began writing and public speaking. Since then he has spoken at hundreds of venues throughout the country, and written seven fictional adventure thrillers based on his working life's experiences. Amazing what can be done if one is willing to travel anywhere and work extremely hard, although where would he have been without the inimitable Sandra?!

Stella Chamberlin



Throughout the building there are portraits of famous cricketers, past and present, and in the dressing rooms, roles of honour to players who have scored a century or taken five or more wickets in test match innings.

The first educational visit of the year was to Lord's Cricket Ground. Entering through the Grace gates we were divided into two groups for a guided tour of cricket's hallowed ground.

The first stop was in the museum where Our guide described the trophies on display, in particular the story of the Ashes. Only a replica was on view, the original being on loan to Australia.

The main pavilion contains the impressive Long Room through which batsmen walk from the dressing room on their way to the "middle". Here we learnt the history of the ground.

In 1787 land at nearby Dorset Fields was purchased by Thomas Lord and the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) was formed. In 1811 Lord moved the turf and equipment to North Bank, Regents Park but when the path of the Regent's canal was diverted through this ground, Lord opened a third ground and pavilion on the current site in 1814. In 1825 fire destroyed this pavilion but a year later there was a new pavilion which was replaced by the current building in 1890. In 1866 the MCC purchased the freehold and a grandstand was built in 1867. This was rebuilt in 1926 and again in 1998. In 1877 the ground became home to Middlesex C.C.C .

From the Tavern Stand there is a good view of the pitch with the Pavilion to the left and the grandstand opposite. The renowned slope of the pitch is clearly visible and it is hard to picture sheep grazing the turf before the introduction of mechanical mowers in 1864!

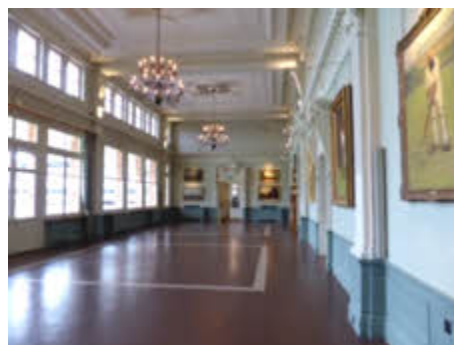


The Pavilion

To the right is the modernistic Media Centre built in 1999. Either side of this the Compton and Edrich stands are being rebuilt. When completed in two year's time the capacity of the ground will be 30,000.

We enjoyed lunch in the Lord's Tavern where we witnessed, live, England winning the series against South Africa – a fitting end to our tour.

Bryann Ward



Left. The gates to the middle and the Media Centre beyond.

Above. The Long Room

Right. Portrait of W.G.Grace



2020 AGM

170 members were present at the AGM held on 2 March. Four apologies were given.

The Chairman summarised the activities for the past year and, in particular, thanked Alan Crouch for his work as lecture secretary and help in setting up the new website.

The treasurer presented the accounts and after a discussion on how they were set out, they were adopted by the meeting.

Three committee members (having completed their three year term) are standing down and the remaining members and officers were re-elected plus one new member.

There was no other business.

Committee

March 2020 – March 2021

Chairman

Peter Lester 01359 241327

Vice Chairman

John Light 01284 723236

Secretary

Helen Taylor 01359 251625

Treasurer

Jane Storey 01284 827124

Interest Groups Co-ordinator

Elizabeth Morgan 01284 749810

Lecture Secretary

Bernadette Pitt 07711 019877

Membership Secretary

Andrew Adams 01359 408151

Names Registrar and

Newsletter Distribution

Lynda Heywood 01359 232139

Other members

Sallie Crouch 01359241835

Maureen Morris 01284 767240

Interest Groups' Exhibition

From the feedback I had this was very successful. There was a steady stream of visitors and I know from going round, that many of you had additional names for your groups.

The coffee and pastries went down well and visitors seemed to appreciate having a bit more room to walk around and the chance to sit and chat so I think we managed the informality well.

I thank the refreshments ladies who did a sterling job keeping everyone supplied with coffee and also the committee members and everyone else who helped with setting up and clearing away. Much appreciated!

Liz Morgan



Art and Mixed Media



Happy Quilters



Mah Jong



Book Group

Book Group

Inger Petersen-Smith is stepping down from co-ordinating the BU3A book group after 14 years in the role. During that time Inger has organised the meetings, collected and distributed the books and liaised with Thurston library to great effect. Inger's ideas and enthusiasm ensured that the book group discussions have always been lively and meaningful. She will be sorely missed. Thank you Inger for your inspiration and friendship.

Website

Our current website was commissioned a year ago following the retirement of Sue Prigg who had looked after it for ten years.

Anne Ling has volunteered to be the new "web coordinator" so convenors can now entrust the updating of their entries to Anne's capable hands.

Her email address is:
webmaster@blackbourne-
u3a.org.uk

The publication date of the next newsletter is, of course, uncertain but if you have any item you would like to share with members please send them to bryann@brysuward.plus.com for inclusion.
Keep your head held high.....at the end of the storm there'll be a golden sky.

Brian Milner's Coronavirus Quiz

On the following pages are questions to keep your brain cells active during the "lockdown"
There are no prizes – this is just for fun – and the answers will be provided in due course, hopefully on
our website.

Please do not contact Brian

FASHION IN THE SWINGING SIXTIES?

- 1 Hippies Elvis, Sonny and Cher wore this style of trouser.....
- 2 Which lamps were all the rage?.....
- 3 Which article of clothing was part of the 1960's Women's Lib. Movement?.....
- 4 Who was the most iconic women's fashion designer?.....
- 5 How could you make your T-shirt more colourful?.....
- 6 Who introduced the most popular dance, and what was its name?.....
- 7 Who were the top two fashion models in Britain?.....
- 8 Which "high-rise" hairstyle was fashionable?
- 9 Who was the top British hairstylist?
- 10 Name the London street famous for its fashion boutiques.....

ANAGRAMS OF FAMOUS WOMEN

- 1 GERMANY.....
- 2 MOANS LYRIC.....
- 3 EMERGE ANGRIER.....
- 4 I LIKE 'EM YOUNG.....
- 5 AN ACE GRANNY.....
- 6 LEAN WAR MISSILE.....
- 7 A POOL SHINER.....
- 8 FINE IN TORN JEANS.....
- 9 ME RADIUM ACE.....
- 10 PRESBYTERIANS.....

MISCELLANY RE THE 1960'S

- 1 Which Alfred Hitchcock one-word titled film contained a horrifying scene in a shower?.....
- 2 Which 1961 film was based on Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"?.....
- 3 Name the title of Marilyn Monroe's last film made 1961?.....
- 4 Who was the first Dr Who in the 1953 BBC TV series?.....
- 5 Which legendary American rock singer got married on 1 July 1967 ?
- 6 Spell the long word associated with the Disney film Mary Poppins
.....
- 7 In the TV series "The Avengers", who first played Mrs Emma Peel?
- 8 In which 1974 James Bond film did he encounter henchman Oddjob?.....
- 9 Which popular doll had a boyfriend called Ken?.....
- 10 Which Simon and Garfunkel song featured on the soundtrack of the 1967 film "The Graduate"?.....

Corrections Question 4. The year should be 1963
 Question 8. The year should be 1964

WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT THE 1960'S?

- 1 1960 Which book was published after an obscenity trial?.....
- 2 1960 Which massacre occurred in South Africa?.....
- 3 1961 Who was aboard the first manned space flight?.....
- 4 1961 Which satellite made live trans-Atlantic television?.....
- 5 1962 Which international crisis involving an island threatened to lead to war?
.....
- 6 1962 In South Africa who was jailed for incitement?.....
- 7 1963 Which Labour Party leader died?.....
- 8 1963 What became available on prescription for women?.....
- 9 1964 Which island needed UN peacekeeping troops stationed on it?.....
- 10 1964 Which huge English robbery caught the headlines?.....
- 11 1965 Which internationally famous and important statesman died?.....
- 12 1965 Which famous tower opened in London?.....
- 13 1966 Who became Prime Minister of India?.....
- 14 1966 Which political party won the General Election?.....
- 15 1967 Who was the new Liberal leader?.....
- 16 1967 What started on BBC 2?.....
- 17 1968 In London, which Tower Block collapsed?.....
- 18 1968 Which country vetoed UK 's EEC membership?.....
- 19 1969 Which criminal penalty was finally abolished?.....
- 20 1969 Which significant thing happened to Prince Charles while he was out of England?
.....

DIAMONDS

- 1 Which singer had a hit with "Cracklin' Rose"?.....
- 2 What is the name of the largest diamond ever found?.....
- 3 Where is the largest stone cut from it?.....
- 4 Which Beatles' song was controversial as it seemed to have drug connotations?.....
- 5 Which jewel/stone was given to Queen Victoria by Dulip Singh?.....
- 6 What is the meaning of its name?.....
- 7 What is given on your 60th Wedding Anniversary?.....
- 8 Which of - carat, cut, colour or clarity gives a diamond its brilliance?.....
- 9 Which coin did the Royal Mint strike for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee?.....
- 10 The Cartier diamond was bought by one filmstar for another and renamed after them. What were their names?.....

ANAGRAMS.

BURY ST EDMUNDS LANDMARKS

1. MO MADE WAR (3,6)
2. BETH HAD NERO (3,8) *-alternative spelling*
3. RAN ROME TOWN (6,5)
4. STREW FONT (4,5)
5. ALL MY SHOES (6,4)
6. HANG C REX ONCE (4,8)
7. THE LONG ALE (5,5)
8. MAC HEARD JETS LAST (2,5,9)
9. CHILL RON (8)
10. BARK MUTT TREE (12)
11. TAUGHT LEE DRILLS (9,6)

Fill in the answers and work out the sum
 To clue you in - each answer is an amount
REMEMBER POUNDS SHILLINGS AND PENCE!

£ s d

- A Singer.....
- Leather worker.....
- Mars, Venus, Jupiter.....
- Sick octopus.....
- Half of lady's underwear.....
- A stone.....
- Mode of transport.....
- Part of Queen's headgear.....
- Go up and down.....
- Type of pig.....

£ 31 15s 2d

LOGOS

1. 	2. 	3. 	4. 
5. 	6. 	7. 	8. 
9. 	10. 	11. 	12. 
13. 	14. 	15. 	16. 
17. 	18. 	19. 	20. 