

Let's have a Meeting!

Have a meeting? Nothing is impossible but you should try a walk and see what's happening around the pond on Yateley Green. From an e-mail received from our Chairman David you'll probably run into some like-minded souls who meet when the weather's good and form a discussion circle.

Now there's an imaginative idea and those of you with enough G's on their devices could show off when they join the rest of us Zooming in to the BVU3A AGM on 20th August. [Details on page 5].



We look forward to seeing you.

Cuba and not a mushroom in sight

Our favourite fungi correspondent and man-about-the-world Tony Buckle writes:

Martin Brooks persuaded me to share a poem I wrote when on holiday in Cuba during March, just as the Covid 19 Pandemic was getting underway.

We stayed in a very comfortable hotel by the coast which was full on arrival but as guests departed there were no incoming replacements.

The hotel was going to close the week after we made it home on a Virgin Atlantic flight as scheduled, so we enjoyed our stay to the full even though it became a rather surreal experience which I have written about in the poem.



Purgatory or Paradise?

Ad-lib drinks come chilled with ice,
Yet gloomy news from CNN
Of sickly folk who know not when
They might resume their lives again.

In Paradise we are immune
Not knowing if our fate is soon.
Just chill out, hear the palm trees rustle,
No panic here, let others bustle

For hand gel, pasta and loo rolls,
We are blessed immortal souls
In Paradise where all is well,
Until tomorrow when we bid farewell

And some holiday pics . . .



Old American cars go forever in Cuba.



Drones are forbidden in the Plaza de la Revolution, Havana



A portrait of revolutionary Camilo Cienfuegos adorns a building in the Plaza de la Revolution



Rustling palm trees fringe the beaches



A steam train graveyard at a former sugar cane processing factory, now a museum



Fancy a carriage ride in Cardenas?

A bit of a gaffe in the gîte

My husband and I, together with my sister and brother-in-law, went on holiday to Brittany to stay in a gîte.

As we were going to be very late getting there “Madame Monet” asked us to let her know when we would be arriving, which we did updating her as the journey progressed.

We finally arrived at the gîte at midnight. My brother-in-law recognised it from photos in the brochure.

The keys were in the front door and there was food in the fridge (my sister said they always leave you a welcome pack). We just had a drink of milk, made the beds up and went to bed.

Next morning my husband and I awoke to shrieks of laughter, and you’ve guessed it , we were in the wrong gîte, which was all ready and waiting for Madame Monet’s family.

Our accommodation was a slightly less appealing gîte, behind the Manor House where we had spent our first night.

Nevertheless, all was forgiven and we had a great holiday.

CHRISTINE PIBWORTH



From a grateful Editor.



Many thanks to our contributors who have taken the trouble to send in items for publication.

Answers to July's Quiz

General knowledge

- 180
- Zara
- Honey
- Julius Caesar
- Germany
- Leprosy
- Kneecaps
- Elephant
- Deliverance
- Soy
- Fishing
- Australia
- Paresthesia
- Five
- Crocus

Can you identify these birds

- Blackcap
- Snipe
- Sparrow
- Crossbill
- Waxwing
- Reed Bunting
- Osprey
- Merlin
- Stonechat
- Dipper
- Gold crest
- Field fare
- Bittern
- Razor bill
- Oyster Catcher

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers

Blackwater Valley U3A AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Blackwater Valley U3A will be held as an online Zoom meeting on 20th August 2020 at 04.30 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Acceptance and approval of accounts
2. Acceptance of existing Committee standing for re-election
3. Request for two new members of committee
4. Any other business

Marilynne Gardiner is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Blackwater Valley U3A AGM

Time: Jun 20, 2020 04:30 PM London

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/71163766348?pwd=ZEIWaFVHNVZHL2RSU0ViT044Y2NYQT09>

Meeting ID: **711 6376 6348**

Password: **5yYh4Q**

Members can either click the link or paste it on their search engine to take them directly to the meeting, or they can open Zoom, click on JOIN A MEETING and enter the Meeting ID and Password as shown.

Chairman's Annual Report Reprise

I would take this opportunity to reflect on the past year and the events and speakers that made 2019 so enjoy-able. Once again we enjoyed a brilliant and varied range of speakers and our special thanks goes to Jackie Barkaway as she handed over the baton to Margaret Robinson our new Speakers' Secretary.



Last year, starting on a high note at Highclere our speaker was their Head Guide Diana Mitchell talking about the Castle and the Downton Effect—an effect that attracted many more members than usual post Christmas.

Then who should come along again but our friend Mel Reece from the Hogs Back Brewery also trying to affect a large audience with an intoxicating subject.

Through the year we had visits by Graham O'Connell of the National Garden Scheme talking about Garden visits. Whilst, getting a lot of attention from our ladies, the photographer Tom Way came along with some wonderful close ups of South African wild life.

David Allen, full of drama, came to speak on two occasions latterly talking about Blood, Guts and Gore. He is, as I said, a dramatic speaker and had Nic Harvey playing the part of a corpse so realistically that many in the audience started to worry about her safety.

Our Visits and Outings often take inspiration from the visiting speakers so following the talk by Mel Rees fifteen of our members went to the Hogs Back Brewery for guided tour of the brewery.

Likewise after Graham O'Connell's talk two visits have been arranged to take place in June although last year other gardens proved to be the attraction when some of our members visited West Dean Gardens on one of the hottest days of the year.

Not the hottest but a warm and enjoyable day in July allowed us to get outside again for our Summer Party on the green opposite the Memorial Hall. We had the usual excellent time with food, fun and games and were pleased to be joined by some of Yateley U3A's Boules/Petanque Players.

At the end of the year the Christmas Party was also a great success thanks to the visiting saxophone group *Four in a Bar* who got everyone involved, a great way to start the Christmas holiday. Our new Singing Group also joined in the fun and I must say that Barbara Brooks has done a fantastic job getting the Group up-and-running.

It is time to express thanks once again to Meg for keeping our financial affairs in such good order, including other administrative duties that she undertakes so ably, it is very much appreciated.

Special thanks are also due to Phil who produces our monthly Newsletter, keeping the members informed of the events and activities, in a manner that is both informative and humorous.

I must also express thanks to Sue and Gill who allow us to gather once a month in their home and hold our committee meetings. Where Sue somehow manages to keep track of the salient points discussed and presents us with meaningful minutes.

Let us also recognise the considerable contribution that is made by our Committee members and Group Leaders, without whom many of our activities would not be possible.

Can I also say a special thank you to those who always help provide the Tea and set up the seating for our meetings and events like the Summer and Christmas parties – your help and assistance is always appreciated!

DAVID DICKINSON

Blackwater Valley



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
THE THIRD AGE TRUST

Review of Accounts 2019

Dear Member,

Once again we need to thank Meg Thomson for her management of the accounts and membership matters as well as the other administration she takes on so ably.

I personally have examined the accounts for 2019. I have been through all the financial transactions for the year and I am happy to say that in my opinion they represent a true record of how the monies were collected and spent.

In 2018, after consultation with the members, we took the decision to increase the meeting fee to £2 and the membership fee to £12.00 for 2019.

My examination of the account shows that we are maintaining a stable position and no further increase will be required in 2020.

Min Gardiner
BVU3A Committee

Blackwater Valley U3A Accounts 2019

	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
MAIN INCOME						
Membership Renewal	1,788.00	1530.00	1650.00	1820.00	1805.00	1840.00
Monthly Meetings	936.00	786.00	525.50	630.90	609.90	600.80
Raffle	439.00	451.00	478.10	542.00	570.80	664.05
Monthly Prize Draw	400.00	420.00	350.00	320.00	330.00	320.00
Diaries	19.25	27.00	27.50	10.00	26.00	10.00
Donations	17.21	13.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	65.00
Reserves Transfer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Photography club	179.20	12.60	75.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3778.66	3239.60	3106.70	3332.90	3351.70	3499.85
MAIN EXPENDITURE						
U3A Capitation Fee	539.00	574.00	647.50	623.00	640.50	703.50
Speaker Fees	841.00	966.00	956.80	876.00	900.00	656.00
Hall hire, Storage	504.00	509.00	504.00	504.00	504.00	504.00
Equipment	124.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	198.48
Miscellaneous	140.55	66.09	209.65	315.45	183.01	446.37
Refreshments	199.62	43.49	289.63	203.03	80.30	222.17
Raffle	276.78	300.38	326.00	330.10	336.74	467.27
Monthly Prize Draw	416.00	397.00	314.39	327.00	321.00	408.00
Donations to Charity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.00
Photocopying, Postage & Stationery	72.00	325.48	265.30	268.94	218.19	157.05
Photography club	110.80	154.08	75.60	0.00	0.00	0.00
	3224.72	3335.52	3588.87	3447.52	3183.74	3802.84
Profit/Loss	553.94	(95.92)	(482.17)	(114.62)	167.96	(302.99)
	1072.98	519.04	614.96	1097.13	1211.75	1043.79
OUTINGS INCOME						
Outings	1502.00	683.50	2526.05	2716.00	2128.00	1317.85
OUTINGS EXPENDITURE						
Outings	1497.60	683.50	2511.16	2881.88	2135.44	1306.11
Profit/Loss	4.40	0.00	14.89	34.12	(7.44)	11.74
	780.82	776.42	776.42	761.53	727.41	734.85

Meg Thomson
TREASURER

How about a Quiz?

This was written way back then.
We're hoping things are better when
You do this quiz to entertain
And to exercise the brain.

General knowledge

- 1) What revolution was not set during George III's Reign - American, Russian or French?
- 2) How many 'Q' tiles are there in a game of Scrabble?
- 3) Which animal feigns death when threatened?
- 4) What is the minimum time a whiskey must be distilled before it can be called "Scotch"?
- 5) How much liquid does a 10 gallon hat hold?
- 6) Which of these musicals does not end with a '!'? (On the Town, Oliver, or Oklahoma).
- 7) In the ear, the anvil, the hammer and the stirrup are jointly called by what name?
- 8) Which year did Arkwright's shop on TV open?
- 9) When did the Channel Tunnel open?
- 10) Who is buried in the Cenotaph?
- 11) What is the world's smallest horse breed?
- 12) Which P.M. said "You've never had it so good"?
- 13) In the Lone Ranger what was Tonto's horse called?
- 14) Which city was once called Old Sarum?
- 15) The ship called the Pelican was renamed what?

Can you identify these birds?

- 1) When a cat gets up
- 2) Brightly coloured tool
- 3) Royal Angler
- 4) Watch out, low flying mollusc
- 5) Act of Theft
- 6) Smile you get from fermented pears
- 7) Bevy before bedtime
- 8) Who built the house and how did he get in
- 9) Timber Rooster
- 10) Brag about
- 11) Lady Sailor
- 12) Extra fowl
- 13) Black and white dog shows pleasure
- 14) Scottish musician in the Sahara
- 15) Selection of a hill top

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers

That reminds me

Reading Martin Brooks' story about their first house move reminded me of the problem that I experienced shortly after Pat and I moved into our house in Aylesham Way.

One afternoon Pat came to me complaining that the Garage Door (up-and-over type) had just fallen on her head.

I duly inspected the scene of the crime and deduced that the door pivoted on something resembling a large rivet, the head of which had sheared off, allowing the door to drop lop sided. I thought there was little point in trying to fix the damaged part as doubtless the other side would soon fail. So I duly ordered a replacement door having carefully measured the Height and Width required.

Within days the new door arrived complete with fitting instruction which seemed quite straightforward so the next morning I proceeded to remove the old door and during the afternoon proceeded to install the replacement door. By late afternoon the new door was installed and it only remained to check that it opened and closed correctly, unfortunately when I tried to lift the door I found that the top of the door fouled one of the joists in the ceiling of the garage. This was because the new door mechanism pivoted slightly differently to the original. I could see I just needed to cut about one inch off the bottom of the rafter to provide the clearance needed.

So I immediately got the circular saw attachment fitted to my hand drill, drew a guideline and started cutting. The rafter seemed to be made of some very hard wood and the Saw was making smoke and very slow progress. It is extremely difficult to operate a circular saw



whilst holding it above your head, but eventually the task was finished as darkness was falling. So I rapidly cleared up and piled everything into the garage, knowing that I just had to tidy things in the morning.

Next day I went out to the Garage and unlocked the new door but when I turned the handle there was no resistance and the latch inside was not moving.

Originally the garage had a another entrance but this was lost when we had an extension added to the rear of the garage. With all my tools now being inside the garage I had to ask my next door neighbour if I could borrow a hammer and cold chisel so that I could make a hole in the sidewall of the garage to crawl through and open the door from inside. I had always planned to get a door cut into the side of the garage so this just brought forward the need to get on with it.

So I nipped down to D&D and hired an angle grinder to cut a door sized hole in the side of the garage, and found that the reason the door handle was ineffective was that I had forgotten to tighten the locking nut on the cable that operated the latch.

So next I went to Arborfield Joinery to purchase a door and door frame which I managed to fit without further incident.

Who would have thought such a small job could become so complicated, but these are the facts and only the facts. What a farce !

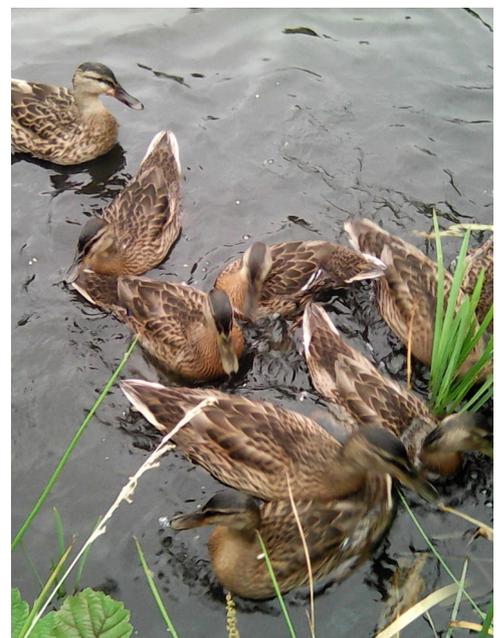
Perhaps we could invite other members to tell us about their own misadventures.

Cheers for now, Dave.

PICTURES FROM OUR MOBILES

Second clutch of ducklings survive at Yateley Green Pond

The second family of ducks born during the lockdown on the pond near the Tythings are doing very well thank you. Mallard ducks take between 50-60 days to fledge so we shall expect them to fly off soon. There has also been three separate clutches of Moorhen born this year on this relatively small water.



Eating in the 50's

Curry was a surname.

A Takeaway was a mathematical problem.

A Pizza was something to do with an Italian leaning tower.

Crisps were all plain with a blue twist of optional salt.

A Chinese chippie was a foreign carpenter.

Rice was a milk pudding, and was never ever part of dinner.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it rained.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot with tea leaves and was not green.

Coffee was Camp and came in a bottle. Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Only Heinz made baked beans.

Fish didn't have fingers. Eating raw fish was called poverty not Sushi.

Nobody had heard of Yoghurt.

Indian restaurants were only found in India.

Cooking outdoors was called camping. Seaweed was not a recognised food.

Kebab was not even a word, let alone a food. Prunes were medicinal.

Muesli was readily available but called cattle feed.

Pineapples only came in tins in chunks.

Water came from the tap - if someone suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol, they would have become a laughing stock.

This poetry game is just a lark,
Something to do after dark,
Something I hated whilst at school
Now at 70 I can play the fool.

A line 'pops up' here and there.
No need for 'daffodils', or to 'stand and stare',
A simple ditty just comes to mind,
A bit of nonsense you may find.

I know not where these odes they come
My brain it was never one
For rhymes and rhythms or higher arts,
So let's just assume they're just
sparrow farts.