



Blackwater Valley U3A Hoover Times

Episode 8

NOVEMBER 2020

Ready for the Future

It may be an uncertain future but to be able to meet whatever unfolds over the next few months the Club must be ready. Communications are important and the Club's first line of information the Webpage needed to be fit for purpose. So, we now have a new Webpage pictured below in all its glory. Accessible and easy to use it will be a boon to existing members but perhaps more importantly will provide the necessary information for anyone wishing to join a U3A club.

Welcome to the Blackwater Valley U3A

A learning and social organisation for the Retired and Semi Retired living in the Blackwater Valley area of Northeast Hampshire including the districts of Yateley, Blackwater, Hawley and Frogmore. U3A membership is not related to a specific age but to a period in one's life (the third age) after the second age of full-time employment and parental responsibility. Anybody in their third age can join U3A and this includes people who are working part time. There is no lower age for membership.

[Find out more](#)

[Membership](#)



[About Us](#) [Groups](#) [Events](#) [Meetings](#) [Contacts](#) [Newsletters](#) [Gallery](#) [Links](#) [Membership](#)

All our groups will make you welcome whether you're an expert or a complete novice. Just contact our Membership Secretary or come along to one of our general meetings.

[View groups](#)



Lest We Forget

I write as Remembrance Day is fast approaching and it struck me that this year that there will be no large scale public services held to remember those who died in foreign fields.



So I wanted to share some memories of a trip that we made in August 2018 when we visited the battlefields of Flanders, Arras, the Somme, Vimy Ridge and Ypres, to mark the Centenary of the end of World War 1, in 1918. We visited several military cemeteries where thousands of young men were buried and we were really saddened to see so many Head Stones relating to an Unknown Soldier. The War Graves Commission maintain the sites but the local people and their children still tend the graves and place flowers on them. The Menin Gate is the most famous Commonwealth war memorial in Flanders and each evening at 8pm four uniformed buglers play the Last Post in a ceremony that first took place on 1st July 1928. This gate displays the names of 54,896 soldiers missing in the Ypres Salient between the outbreak of the war and 15th August 1917.



On our arrival in Ypres we were exploring the town and noticed there was a rather loud buzz of conversation coming from what appeared to be a bus station, When we looked inside we were amazed to see thousands of British Legion members carrying banners showing which branch they were from in the UK. We learnt that they were assembling to march through the streets very shortly so we took up a vantage point along the main road to watch the parade as shown in this picture.



*When you go home, tell them of us and say:
For your tomorrow, we gave our today.*

RAY FORD

We have also had the sad news from Barbara Ford that her husband Ray has died.

Ray was a popular member of the Club and a regular at Bowls, 10-pin Bowling and the Friday Sports' Group.

We offer our condolences to Barbara, their family and friends.



Interesting Quotes

and from across the pond . . .

Question; “If you could live forever, would you and why?”

Answer; “I would not live forever, because if we were supposed to live forever then we would live forever but we can’t which is why I would not live forever.”

Miss Alabama 1994

“Whenever I watch TV and see the starving kids all over the world I can’t help but cry. I mean I’d love to be skinny like that but not with all those flies and death and stuff.”

Mariah Carey – Singer-Songwriter

“Smoking Kills. If you are killed you have lost a very important part of your life.”

Brooke Shields - Actress

“I have never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body.”

Winston Bennett – Kentucky Basketball Player

“Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country.”

Marion Barr– Former Mayor of Washington DC

“That lowdown scoundrel deserves to be kicked to death by a Jackass, and I’m just the one to do it!”

Congressional candidate in Texas

“Half this game is ninety percent mental.”

Danny Ozark –Baseball Coach and Manager of the Philadelphia Phillies

“It isn’t pollution that’s harming the environment. It’s the impurities in our air and water that are doing it.”

Al Gore when Vice President of the United States

“I love California. I practically grew up in Phoenix.”

Dan Quayle – Former United States Vice President

“We have got to pause and ask ourselves; How much clean air do we need?”

Lee Iacocca – Automobile Executive

“The word Genius isn’t applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.”

Joe Theismann – Football Player

[Selected by Martin Brooks]

How about a Quiz?

"Not another quiz?" you ask
Don't worry - it's a simple task .

General knowledge

- 1) How many players in a baseball team?
- 2) Bermuda is a colony of which country?
- 3) What was the capitol of the USA in 1799?
- 4) What is the name for the wearing away of land by water, wind, frost and weather?
- 5) What is cirrocumulus?
- 6) What are ceramics
- 7) What is the highest mountain in Africa?
- 8) Where does oxygen in the air come from?
- 9) What is a Gila monster?
- 10) Where will you find birdies, eagles and chips?
- 11) Gandhi was given the name Mahatma. What does Mahatma mean?
- 12) Who flew a kite in a thunder storm to prove lightning was electricity?
- 13) What creature can turn its head nearly 360 degrees?
- 14) What planet is nearest to our sun?
- 15) What planet is furthest from our sun?

Answers to October's Quiz

Answers yet again are here
A Shorter quiz last month
Cos we're running out of stuff!
We are thinking,
"Have you had enough?"

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| 1) No one | 9) Fedora |
| 2) Char | 10) J R Rowling |
| 3) Frog | 11) 1989 |
| 4) Great Barrier Reef | 12) Epilepsy |
| 5) All You Need Is Love | 13) Rubber band |
| 6) 100 million | 14) Best |
| 7) India | 15) Laughter |
| 8) 100th of a second | |

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers

Out and About

On October 1st the Walking Group followed one of Betty Barton's favourite routes from Sandhurst Council Offices, looping down to the Blackwater River before heading up through Snaprails Park and onto Wildmoor Heath. Six ladies and a dog enjoyed a lovely walk, including a chance encounter with David and June Turner. I only wish we had thought to take a photo when we were with Dave and June. We stood around in a big circle for a while, it would have made a good shot. Considering the frequency with which June and I have sent photos in to the magazine, its a failure on our part!



Romy's Walking Too gang took another walk on the wild side on Thursday 15th October. Last month we hunted the army in Minley Manor, this month the Police Dog Handlers of Hampshire were training in the woods at the back of Blackbushe Airport. Sadly once again our targets proved elusive so we had to settle for some fungus spotting instead.

MIN



Out with the mobile



Super snapper June has been off to the Meadows again catching sight of an early morning fisher and an “is it a dog or is it a lion?” apparition.

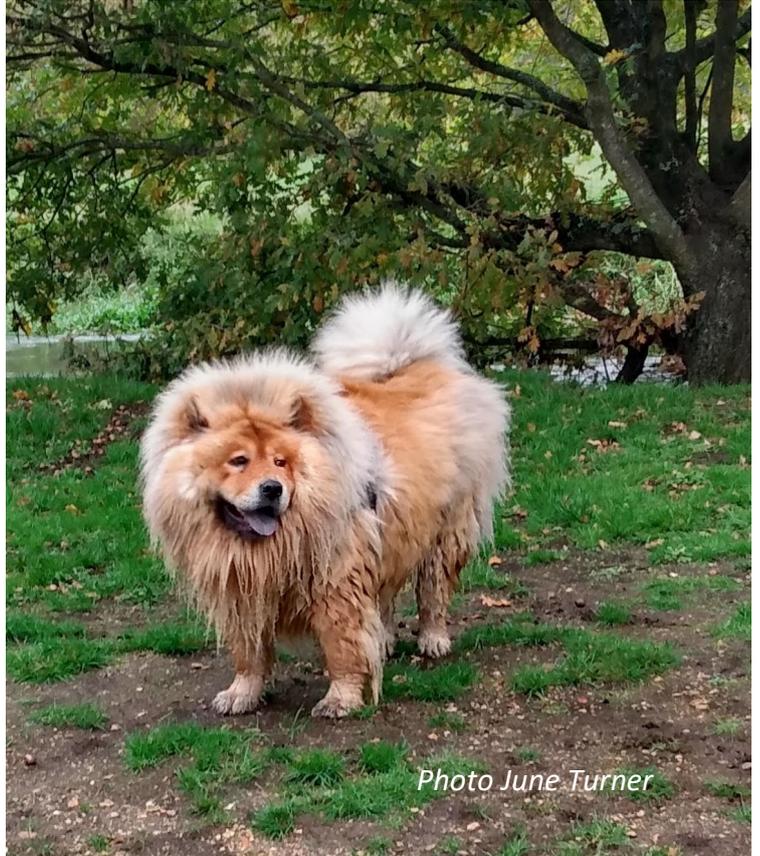


Photo June Turner

Membership Fees

A gentle reminder from Treasurer Meg that the membership fees are due by 1st January.

Please pay by BACS if at all possible or by cheque to Blackwater Valley U3A.

Your renewal will be extended up to the end of March 2021, in recognition of the fact that Covid 19 restrictions have impacted on our normal activities during this year, but these will be resumed as soon as circumstances allow.

Fees are again £12 for the year

Barb's Geep

I know some of us ladies seem to have a penchant for impulse buying, but girls beat this!

In 1992 we were at a Kit Car show at Sandown Park – not being deeply interested in cars generally, as long as the seats are comfortable, has a bit of leg room and it goes, I'm not fussed! I'd wandered off from Martin and, leaning on a barrier looking at a Jago Sandero, a Jeep replica, I just happened to say to the chap standing next to me, "there's not many bits under the bonnet, I reckon I could build one"....



I got a bit carried away with the chat and next thing I found I had signed myself up with Jago's to build one! (When Martin found out he *was* a little surprised)...

The chap standing next to me turned out to be the Jago Sales Director and "apparently" they were looking for a lady to build one... I was then told that being a glass fibre based kit car, I would need a donor vehicle for parts, i.e. an old Ford Escort and that the fibre glass body and other parts would be arriving in five weeks!

Luckily our friend Stan had a rusty Escort MOT failure to get rid of. In no time and wearing some grubby orange overalls, I was soon having to take it apart and do a lot of "gunking". As Martin was not allowed to help me I had to study the Manual that turned up with the body and bits like an A level exam. I didn't know what it meant, but soon had to find out! The only help allowed was for Martin to lift the wheels and pull on the pulley to lift and lower the heavy engine type bits in.

Oh, I forgot to tell you that Martin had started to build a Marlin Berlinetta Kit Car the year before we went to the fatal 1992 Show.

Four and a half weeks later a telephone call said the massive boxes and fibre glass body were on their way the following morning, so we had to hastily re-organise the garage the night before to make space.....

I had many laughs and a few tears building it, but in the end and after quite a few months, it passed all the official roadworthiness tests and raised a few pounds for Parkinson's and The Guide Dogs. We have enjoyed many trips plus an adventure to Venice, South of France, on an official painting holiday and, of

course, many days out meeting with friends. Barb's Geep (spelt thus to avoid copyright issues) is still going strong. Happy Days!

A short note about Martin's Berlinetta....due to work commitments etc. it took quite a few years to finish but with the help from a couple of great pals, it was finally done. Came the day to sit in it properly.....oh no! Since it took some years from start to complete, Martin and I had put on so much weight (rotund is the word that springs to mind) we couldn't fit in it!

Along with this embarrassment, we found out the rules and regulations on design had changed during this time in the UK which made M's kit car un-road-worthy.

In the end, we sold it back to Marlin's – later we heard it was in a container going round Cape Horn on its way to Australia. Apparently they had been contacted by a chap who was after a Marlin. On arrival, we received a smashing picture of Jack with the Berlinetta standing with the car in NSW!

Over time, we received many photos and much news about his trips in the Berlinetta. Jack, since then, has become a wonderful friend over the years, has stayed with us a quite a few times and we have met up with him and his family in Venice. As Jack says "the friendship started with a kit car".

Happy Days!

BARBARA

Answers for the different kind of Quiz?

Philip Martin provided these answers for his quiz in the last edition

- Q1. A: **Four seconds.**
- Q2. A: **It took place in the daytime.**
- Q3. A: **There are no stairs, it's a bungalow.**
- Q4. A: **S (The initial letters of the question)**
- Q5. A: **Once. After that, it's not 39.**
- Q6. A: **Improbable, because it will be midnight again.**
- Q7. A: **Coincidentally, both born at midday on a Tuesday. First born in January, second conceived in February and born in November.**
- Q8. A: **It wasn't raining.**
- Q9. A: **The man has a horse called Friday.**
- Q10. A: **Yes. Jane's grandmother is younger than Jane's grandmother's mother.**
- Q11. A: **The person who took the last egg took it away in the carton.**
- Q12. A: **The house is at the South Pole.**

You've Got Mail 

“I love the inclusion”

Hi Phil,

Brilliant! I love the inclusion of our exchange of emails. Shame there was not room for the shuttlecock net, but I suppose had there been some action in it then it would have been squeezed in!

Perhaps it could be published in a follow-up edition “in response to your readers’ curiosity”. Just to prove you were not being smutty with the reference to playing shuttlecock.

Tony

Hi Tony,

Until you mentioned it the *double entendre* of a shuttlecock had not occurred to me. It must be the large font that you use in your e-mails that makes the difference. After all size, especially font, makes all the difference - and as we say in the Gallic quarter of Yateley especially on the left bank of the Blackwater: *Vive la difference*.

Glad you like it [another DE?].

Best wishes, Phil



Hi Phil

As an afterthought readers may wonder what birds I saw. So in case you receive any enquiries you can reveal that I saw a lot of tits. I suspect the great tits were German migrants that had grabbed the warmest and most sheltered spots on the dunes whilst marginalising the blue tits to the colder and windy areas. Curiously all the bearded tits appeared to be males.

I think that covers it.

Tony

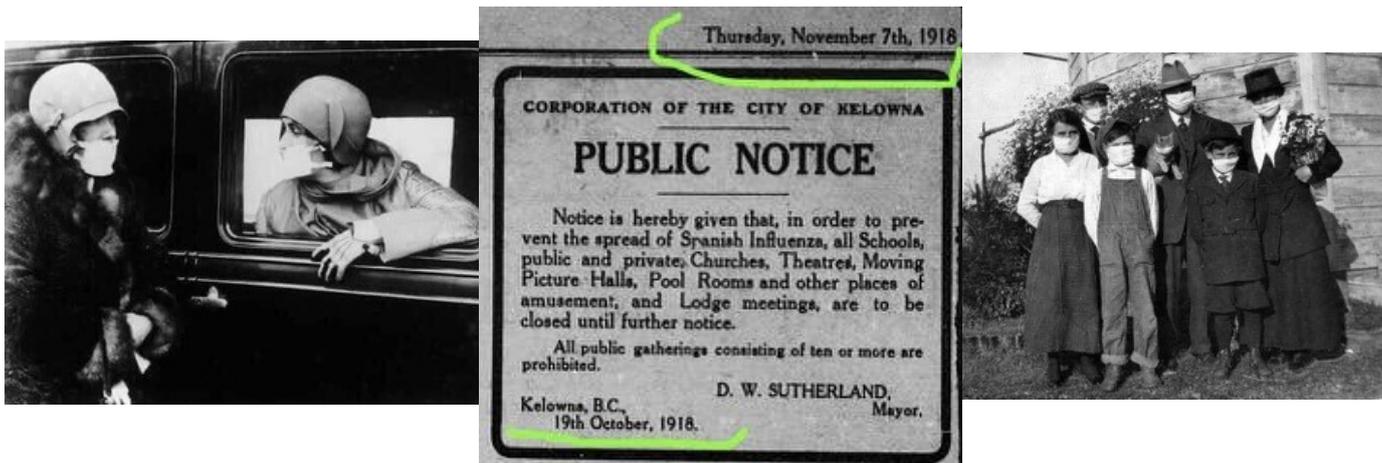
Hi Tony,

Thanks for the clarification and the classification. I expect the German migrants got there early.

BWs

Phil

What goes around comes around...



From Diane and Ken Middleton in answer to a Copyright query about the photos in an e-mail they sent to the Editor

Hi Phil,

It came from our National Trust Club in Hook. It was sent out to all the members. So they weren't worried about copyright - which I think if there was a problem they wouldn't have sent it out. Looks like our relatives! *[I'm worried but let's thank The National Trust Club for their courtesy, etc. - Ed.]*

Fascinating wasn't it? They didn't have the NHS and they were just getting over WWI!

Seems to me we don't have to put up with very much compared to those poor people.

Sadly a lot of folk breaking the rules - not a brain cell between them - and making it worse and then protesting that the Government are failing them!

Diane and Ken x x

From Rosemary White about the Walking Groups and the new lockdown

Hello Everyone

I know this email applies to only some of you but just in case anyone was thinking of starting.....

Here we go again all walks are off the table until we are allowed to meet up again.

I'm personally devastated about the whole thing I think we are just going to have to learn to live with it but that's my opinion.

Anyway take care everyone and hopefully December will be back on the cards.

Love Romy

Thanks Romy,

I like the sentiments so I will print it in the next issue.

Luv, Phil

More from Barbara and Martin

U3A poem for Nov 2020

It's raining again from the sky
I wonder why, Oh me, Oh my!
It drops , it seems, just when I try
To start some task that must stay dry.

The wet it falls, splattering down
On my head, it makes me frown,
The drips they then run from my crown
Past the collar of my gown.

I go inside to dry things out
To try to solve and think about
How to complete the job today
But does the rain stop? "No – NO WAY!"

Classified ads, which were actually placed in U.K. Newspapers:

FREE YORKSHIRE TERRIER.

8 years old, hateful little bastard. Bites!

FREE PUPPIES.

Mother is a Kennel Club registered German Shepherd.
Father is a Super Dog, able to leap tall fences in a single bound.

COWS, CALVES: NEVER BRED.

Also 1 gay bull for sale.

JOINING NUDIST COLONY.

Must sell washer and dryer £100.

WEDDING DRESS FOR SALE.

Worn once by mistake. Call Stephanie.

**** And the **WINNER** is.... ****

FOR SALE BY OWNER.

Complete set of Encyclopaedia Britannica, 45 volumes.
Excellent condition, £200 or best offer. No longer needed, got married,
wife knows everything.