

## Nice to see you again!



**A**long with David and Mesdames Ann, Christine and June, we welcome **u3a Day** as the first step back on the path towards normality.

Celebrating early June sunshine, our Chairman and many of our Club members made the most of the day meeting up with their friends some of whom had not seen one another since last year.

The **Summer Picnic Party** on 15th July brightly beckons with another chance for members to renew acquaintance.

EDITOR

# Chairman's Message

**J**une 2nd was declared to be National u3a Day by the Third Age Trust, and clubs were invited to celebrate by doing something in public to promote interest and could possibly invite others to join their club.

When we first considered our options we had to accept that we were rather limited as to what we could do to illustrate some of the activities that our various Groups enjoy.

Because Covid regulations still limit the numbers that can meet together in any enclosed space we were unable to display any of the Art, Photography or Craft items that would normally demonstrate some of the varied interests that our club embraces.

It was therefore agreed that we would invite members to join us at *The Coffee Shop on The Green* behind the Hawley Leisure Centre and were delighted by the number of members that joined us on the day.

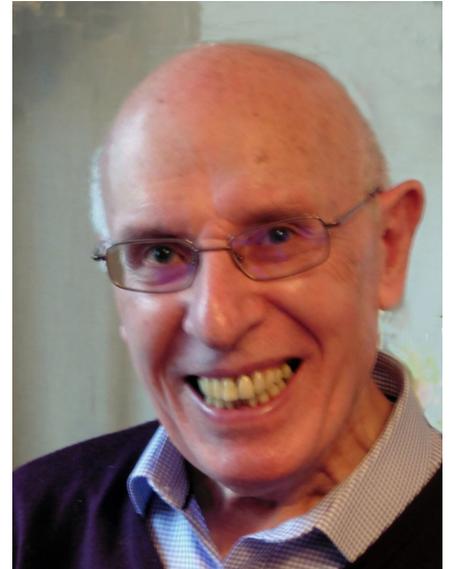
Blessed with a sunny day, we were grateful to find some comfortable seats under the shade of the trees and it was great to see everyone enjoying each other's company and, as the rules were being relaxed, similarly relaxing a little themselves; as you can see from the photos that the 2Daves [Dickinson and Turner] and Graham Sargent managed to take during the proceedings.

Looking forward, we still have our Summer Picnic Party on 15<sup>th</sup> July upon Hawley Green and our first regular meeting to be held at the Derby Green Centre on 19<sup>th</sup> August and Speaker Secretary Margaret is hoping to produce a special speaker for the meeting; many members have indicated that they wish to attend and it will lovely to see you all again.

We can only hope that the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions on 21<sup>st</sup> June remains unaffected by the Indian variant but rest assured we will be making sure that we comply with any regulations that still apply.

Best wishes,

DAVID



# We met and chatted

Catching up with your friends on u3a Day



*A warm Welcome [GS]*



*Catching up [GS]*



*Maintaining a Social Distance [GS]*



*More Catching up [GS]*



*Grahām and Lin by 2Daves*

# Well, there's a lot to say



# Summer Picnic Party

**15th July**

## Summer Picnic Party

on Hawley Green [2.00 ]

**BRING YOUR OWN FOOD & DRINKS  
CHAIRS & SHADING**

**Bring & Buy Plant Exchange**

# Pencil in these dates!

**5th August**

**AGM Meeting via Zoom**

**19th August**

**Meeting at The Derby Green Centre**

**2.00 p.m.**

# How about a Quiz?

Here we are, it's now June, and more questions do loom

## General knowledge

- 1) First name of Mr Dyson the vacuum cleaner brand developer?
- 2) What type of business did Richie's father own in 'Happy Days'?
- 3) What year did Concorde make its first commercial flight?
- 4) Muscat is the capital city of where?
- 5) What does a spermologist study?
- 6) Which animal appears on the Welsh flag?
- 7) Which female body part was banned in Hollywood films from 1934-1961?
- 8) Which comic book hero features in a Queen song?
- 9) What is the masculine for goose?
- 10) Who killed Cock Robin?
- 11) How many muscles do humans have in their bodies?
- 12) Which is Europe's highest mountain?
- 13) What is one third of 51?
- 14) How many millilitres in half a litre?
- 15) In architecture what is a cupola?

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers

"The answers, they're here today!"

## General knowledge

- |                                                            |                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) When was the first series of 'X Factor'?                | 2004                 |
| 2) Richard and Maurice founded which company in 1940?      | McDonalds!           |
| 3) How many Olympic Golds has Mo Farah won?                | 4 (2xLondon-2xRio)   |
| 4) What was Marilyn Monroe's real name?                    | Norma Jean Mortenson |
| 5) Which is Shakespeare's longest play?                    | Hamlet               |
| 6) Where was Christopher Columbus born?                    | Genoa                |
| 7) Who composed Moonlight Sonata?                          | Beethoven            |
| 8) What was Woolworths own children's clothing brand?      | Ladybird             |
| 9) What is the name of the Downing Street cat?             | Larry                |
| 10) What city was Boris Johnson's birthplace?              | New York             |
| 11) Which Beatle crossed Abbey Road first?                 | John Lennon          |
| 12) Bacardi was founded in which country?                  | Cuba                 |
| 13) What is Chinese gooseberry known as?                   | Kiwi Fruit           |
| 14) Which is the most northerly capital city in the world? | Reykjavik            |
| 15) Who is Reginald Kenneth Dwight?                        | Elton John           |

Arranged by the Blackwater Bloggers

# In my garden



*June Turner*



*Pat Dickinson*

# Out and about

BY MIN GARDINER

## *Everything Eversley!*

The Walking Group's June walk took us on a circuit from Eversley Church to Eversley Copse, round the Eversley cricket pitch, along Fleet Lane and back down Eversley Street to the Church!

On the way we saw swans on the river and alpacas grazing. Lovely walk, come and join us next time!



# A little bit of History

By Barbara and Martin Brooks

## Where the 'sayings' came from.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, 'Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint)

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As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October) Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term 'big wig.' Today we often use the term 'here comes the Big Wig' because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

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In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title 'Chairman' or 'Chairman of the Board.'

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Personal hygiene left much room for improvement. As a result, many women and men had developed acne scars by adulthood. The women would spread bee's wax over their facial skin to smooth out their complexions. When they were speaking to each other, if a woman began to stare at another woman's face she was told, 'mind your own bee's wax.' Should the woman smile, the wax would crack, hence the term 'crack a smile'. In addition, when they sat too close to the fire, the wax would melt . . . Therefore, the expression 'losing face.'

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Ladies wore corsets, which would lace up in the front. A proper and dignified woman, as in 'straight laced'. . Wore a tightly tied lace.

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Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'

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Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some ale' and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term 'gossip.'

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At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in 'pints' and who was drinking in 'quarts,' hence the term minding your 'P's and 'Q's.

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### ***One more and betting you didn't know this!***

In the heyday of sailing ships, all war ships and many freighters carried iron cannons. Those cannons fired round iron cannon balls. It was necessary to keep a good supply near the cannon. However, how to prevent them from rolling about the deck? The best storage method devised was a square-based pyramid with one ball on top, resting on four resting on nine, which rested on sixteen. Thus, a supply of 30 cannon balls could be stacked in a small area right next to the cannon. There was only one problem...how to prevent the bottom layer from sliding or rolling from under the others. The solution was a metal plate called a 'Monkey' with 16 round indentations. However, if this plate were made of iron, the iron balls would quickly rust to it. The solution to the rusting problem was to make 'Brass Monkeys.' Few landlubbers realize that brass contracts much more and much faster than iron when chilled. Consequently, when the temperature dropped too far, the brass indentations would shrink so much that the iron cannonballs would come right off the monkey. Thus, it was quite literally, 'Cold enough to freeze the balls off a brass monkey.' (All this time, you thought that was an improper expression, didn't you?)

# A And a bit more History

By Diane and Ken Middleton

## History is Not Boring

They once used urine to tan animal skins, so families would all pee in a pot. Once a day it was taken and sold to the tannery. If you had to do this to survive, you were 'piss poor.' Worse than that were the really poor folks who couldn't even afford to buy a pot. They 'didn't have a pot to piss in'; and were considered the lowest of the low

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Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell, brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

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Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women, and finally the children. Last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying: 'Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!'

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Houses had thatched roofs with thick straw piled high and no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying, 'It's raining cats and dogs'. There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

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The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the term: 'dirt poor'. The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance-way. Hence: 'a threshold.

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In those old days, they cooked in the kitchen with a big kettle that always hung over the fire. Every day they lit the fire and added things to the pot. They ate mostly vegetables and did not get much meat. They would eat the stew for dinner, leaving leftovers in the pot to get cold overnight and then start over the next day. Sometimes the stew had food in it that had been there for quite a while. Hence the rhyme: 'Peas porridge hot, peas porridge cold, peas porridge in the pot nine days old'. Sometimes they could obtain pork, which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth that a man could 'bring home the bacon. They would cut off a little to share with guests, and would all sit around and 'chew the fat'.

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Those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food causing death by lead poisoning. This happened most often with tomatoes so, for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

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Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top or the 'upper crust'.

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Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of holding a 'wake'.

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In old, small villages, local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone-house, and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins one out of twenty-five coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside, and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, leading it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night ('the graveyard shift') to listen for the bell. Thus, someone could be 'saved by the bell' or was considered a 'dead ringer.

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***Now, whoever said history was boring?***

This incredible piece about "the way things were" is a great reminder to respect our rich history.

## *More from Barbara and Martin*

### Retirement?

Poor chap - he decided to retire  
And sit, comfortable there, close by the fire  
His wife however, had other dreams  
For jobs to be done, and cars to be cleaned,  
“There’s the whole house to paint now ‘my dear!’”  
This was the request he’d been fearing to hear.  
To polish the sideboard, re-point the wall  
He thinks, “If the ladder slips will I fall?”  
He thought on this, “What’s happened to me?  
I’d believed ‘Go relax, go places to see.’”  
“Now what sounds much better?” our chap is thinking  
“What’ll make life worth it?” he says, now winking.  
“Warm comfortable evenings, with a glass of wine!  
Sitting relaxed, now that’ll be fine.”  
To be together now, non reliant  
Free of burdens from business client  
To share some time unavailable before  
That’s not hard. Why I didn’t retire before?