

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the new style High Lane U3A newsletter or should I say u3a. Lower case is the new standard format; I've now typed it many times but it still feels odd!

I would like to start with a vote of thanks. You will see in the Chair's report that Sheila has reached the end of her term as Chairperson and I'm sure members would like to thank her for all the hard work in what has been a difficult year to say the least. We have a Committee meeting in March and will be discussing what we will do until we are able to hold an AGM and elect new Officers.

At least there is some good news. As I write some 19 million Covid vaccinations have been given. It looks like most of us have received our first vaccination although Sheila's experience was perhaps not as straightforward as for many of us (see page 19). I heard tales that some did not even get the chance to sit down it was so efficient! Even better news is that research is showing that the vaccines are effective in reducing serious illness and hospitalisation and also in reducing transmission. The first national research study, carried out in Scotland, by researchers from Strathclyde University reports

By the fourth week after receiving the initial dose, the Pfizer and Oxford–AstraZeneca vaccines were shown to reduce the risk of hospitalisation from Covid-19 in up to 85% and 94% respectively. Among those aged 80 years and over – one of the highest risk groups – vaccination was associated with an 81% reduction in hospitalisation risk in the fourth week when the results for both vaccines were combined. <https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/news/vaccineroll-outworkingfirstnationalstudysuggests/>

Findings from a second study (released this weekend) based on data from England shows the Oxford/Astra Zeneca Covid vaccine has proved to be slightly more effective than the Pfizer jab at cutting hospital cases among over-70s. Both vaccines are said to be 90% effective at keeping those infected out of hospital after just one dose.

And it's beginning to look a lot like Spring; everywhere you go

Outside, it's sunny again today
Maybe Spring is on the way
Inside, bowls of yellow daffodils
Are adorning the windowsills
Let's hope it's here to stay.

We have some lovely Spring flower pictures from the gardening group on page 16.



There must be lots going on; this edition has turned out to be the longest yet! Notable items include reports of the artistic exploits of two of our members, Pam Cooke and Liz Jackson, who have had pictures published on the National u3a website in the Paint or Draw activity. Pam's picture was also published in the February edition of Third Age Matters. We also have some stories and reports for you including a couple of memoirs from the early

days of u3a. Not forgetting poems and things to make you smile and, of course, our usual limerick or two! Still time for you to write one – for the next newsletter perhaps?

As with the previous editions, this newsletter will be available only by email and on the web. This month's newsletter is accompanied by the February newsletter express from National Office. I have given a link to the full National Office newsletter on page 9.

Please feel free to share some of your interests, items you have found that you think would be of interest to other members, places you have visited, books you have read, films you have seen; your recipes, limericks; the list is endless. The next issue will be April 2021 so please send your contributions to me before the end of March via newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Diane Saxon

FROM THE CHAIR

My term as Chairman of High Lane u3a came to a close last month so this is my final report. Little did any of us know back in 2019 what the next couple of years had in store. Suffice it to say that it has all been interesting if not challenging.

I am tremendously grateful to u3a on a personal level for all the opportunities it has afforded me, and not least to the new friends I have made. It is a privilege to be a member, let alone the Chairperson. I gave it my best shot and am happy to stand down and join the ranks of Past Chairpersons. I must pay tribute to the Committee for their support and tolerance. They were always there for me. Thank you once again.

Hope to see you all around soon

Warmest Regards

Sheila Harrop

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership renewal was due in February. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please do so without delay so you are sure of continued access to our activities and newsletters. Forms and instructions were sent with the last couple of editions of the newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is around this time we would have our AGM and I would be spending time writing a report that would try and put you to sleep in under 10 minutes. This year is different as firstly we have been unable to have an AGM and secondly whilst I have done the accounts I cannot get them checked as the Checker is in Derbyshire and I need to get into the loft for my Sheep suit so the police do not recognise me.

It's a perfect disguise and I am sure the Walking group can plot me a route where I will fit in and I promise I will give my report as soon as the accounts have been checked. Regrettably my journey this week to deliver the accounts was postponed at the last minute so let's hope the weather allows me to use my disguise next week



Onto another matter I am sure with Boris' plans to come out of lockdown and the roll out of the vaccine people are hoping that finally we can start to meet in some form. I also hope that is the case, but it would be wrong of me if I didn't mention one or two things.

Firstly Corona has not gone away and masks and social distancing may be with us for a time but if meetings are allowed at some time it is essential as members and group leaders that we check the venues we use are safe for us to use.

Secondly we must be aware of government regulations and these must be followed.

I personally can only speak for the Village Hall which has made many alterations such as sanitiser stations, one way systems, safety rails, restricted areas of use so any contamination can be contained and an anti-bacterial fog machine to help sanitise after use. We must not just return to the "same old" as it is important our members are not put at risk.

Looking forward to vaccine number two at some future date. In the meantime stay safe.

Les Birks

Did you hear the joke about coronavirus? Never mind, I don't want to spread it!

I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it!

20th ANNIVERSARY

This year is the 20th anniversary of High Lane u3a; we hope that the virus situation will be such that we can arrange a celebration later in the year. In the meantime, we are trying to gather information and memories of the early days.

John McCartney has kindly sent some thoughts.

20 years with High Lane U3A – random thoughts on its evolution.

Twenty years ago, Barbara and I attended a preliminary meeting at the village hall, held to establish if there was sufficient interest and support to form a U3A at High Lane. The response was very encouraging. Some weeks later the inaugural meeting was held. We had talks from members of regional and local U3A groups.

It was established that there were people who would act as Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer and so the committee was formed. I joined the committee at the end of the meeting and continued as an elected member until 2010, serving as Chair from 2006 to 2010.

Some important decisions shaped our U3A as we know it today.

Although not formally recorded in the constitution, it was generally agreed that our U3A should be a friendly, open, supportive organisation, inclusive rather than exclusive. We were reluctant to set maximum numbers for groups and for our U3A.

We developed a constitution, financial procedures and registered as a charitable trust. We aimed to keep bureaucracy to a minimum. Sadly, over the years, legal requirements have thwarted our ambition.

In 2006 a bid for lottery funds was successful. We received £3378 for the purchase of audio visual and IT equipment. The equipment was used for monthly meetings and by individual interest groups. The grant was instrumental in keeping membership fees low.

We pioneered a link with a local primary school to enable members of the computer and family history groups to use the computer suite after school. The arrangement was the first of its kind in Stockport.

It is through the enthusiasm and dedication of members that High Lane U3A has developed into a successful, valuable community resource.

Best wishes for the next 20 years.

John McCartney

A second story is from Walter Mason who has kindly sent this information about the early days of our u3a along with a photograph which he tells me was taken in 1996.

I wasn't present at the inaugural meeting, but I knew very well one of the U3A steering group charged with advertising and organising the start-up of High Lane U3A. This was Ken Sharpe, short in stature but confident and humorous - he always called himself a "toy" salesman.

Ken was also the third monthly speaker in May 2001 with "Round World Cruise". I believe the first two monthly speakers were Doug McCaskill with "Cheshire Myths and Legends" in March 2001, and Thelma Brooks in April 2001 - although I don't know her subject.

Ken, David Burke and I all joined Stockport Speakers Club on the same day, 14th November 1973. Ken did very well, and eventually became National President of the Association of Speakers Clubs. David and I did more modestly, just being President of the Stockport Club in our time there. Another member was Wilf Gannicliffe, for several years leader of our History Group, before his untimely death in 2011. Ken had died earlier in 2005.

Ken had plenty of experience in setting up new clubs and had been instrumental in the formation of several local speakers clubs. So it is no wonder, that with the others on the steering group, High Lane U3A was successfully launched in February 2001.

Walter Mason

Our website was set up in 2006 so we have records of monthly speakers from that date - the earliest one we have is on the right. Does anyone remember any of these talks? We also have some newsletters from that date but if you have memories of the 'early days' please send them to the Editor.



MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
June 14th - 2pm general U3A business	Jack Glenn - 2.45pm	'A Lighthearted Look at Public Speaking'
July 12th	Marie Dickson	'The Things People Say'
August 9th	Howard Green	'Vernon Park - The Stockport Story'
September 13th	Mrs C Robinson	'Glimpses of Chatsworth'
October 11th	Michael Gitsham	'Bottoms Up!'
November 8th	Mr J Tindsley	'Singing Waiters'
December 7th	Marple Golf Club	Christmas Dinner
December 13th	Village Hall	Christmas Party

SPEAKER SECRETARY

I do hope that you are getting into the habit of tuning in to the Mirthy talks on a Thursday afternoon at 4pm (please note change of time) for their varied selection of free talks.

I especially enjoyed the one about airships, and Mavis found that the one about Australia brought back many happy memories.

The programme for March is as follows ...

- 4th March "The Devil's Daughter and me"
- 11th March "The London no-one tells you about"
- 18th March "Morecambe and Wise"
- 25th March "Tibetan Journey"

It's very easy to access. Just log on to the Mirthy website <https://mirthy.co.uk/> and follow the links. As well as the free talks, there are other talks costing just £2.99. They have a wide range of talks so feel free to browse.

Note: you will need to register for the talks you wish to attend before the event.

Good Viewing

Sheila Harrop

Reports from February talks

Zeppelin, Ship of Dreams

This was a most interesting talk, presented by David Skillen, an experienced speaker for u3a and other groups. The talk was varied and well-illustrated, about the design and development of airships. Count Zeppelin designed these huge machines as weapons of war. There were 100 in use in World War 1. Between the wars they became luxurious modes of transport, regularly travelling across the Atlantic.

It was amazing to see how beautiful the interiors were and to imagine what it was like to fly in these magnificent but dangerous craft. As we all know they were not to last, but their story is a fascinating piece of history.

Sheila Harrop

30 years of Travelling in China

This talk was presented by Chris Forse, a retired teacher who spent many years in Hong Kong. He is currently Chair of Warwick u3a. In this fascinating talk, we learnt about how tourism was opened up in China after the death of Mao Zedong in 1976. Mao's successor Deng Xiaoping decided to promote tourism as a means of earning foreign exchange which he could use to buy technology. The first tourists in the late 1970s had a tough time; they could visit just one city, Guangzhou, a port city northwest of Hong Kong on the Pearl River. They had to travel and remain in a group, follow a pre-determined itinerary which mainly consisted of factories and were accompanied by an official. China was still largely a rural country with poor housing. Tourists were a rare sight and of great interest to the local population.

Chris explained that more cities, mainly in the south, were gradually opened up but tourists still had to follow fixed itineraries. Beijing wasn't opened up until the 1980s; people got around on bicycles (the nine million bicycles in Beijing) and the city was a building site. It wasn't until the late 1990s that it became possible to obtain an individual visa and travel around the country independently. In the years since, China has built huge cities, road networks, high speed rail links and is a very different world.



Chris also talked about his travels on the Yangtze and Li rivers and trips along the Silk Road leading groups of students from Xian to Islamabad and the difficulties they had to overcome on the route. The talk was beautifully illustrated with photographs of his travels.

Diane Saxon

CANASTA

For obvious reasons we haven't met but for all you Canasta players who meet at the Royal Oak we have some good news. We are fortunate to have a lovely couple who run the Royal Oak; a couple that do their best to make us comfortable no matter how much we spend or, like Rosemary and I, prefer a pint of tea. We heard through the High Lane grapevine this week that Nick and Dot have got married during lockdown and we wish them all the best and look forward to our return as soon as possible.

Les Birks

ART**U3a National Office Paint or Draw**

In the January category, Lights, this picture by Pam Cooke was selected as one of the best. The accompanying caption says, "The Victorian Lamp post in a bygone snowy Liverpool – I think it's seasonal but lockdown seems to make us think of different eras and time gone by".

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/paint-or-draw/201-learning/1013-paint-or-draw-lights>

It was your newsletter pointing out the "paint and draw" section that prompted me to enter as I've never entered anything like it before. My picture "The Victorian Lamp post" is painted in watercolours and to be honest it's not my usual style which is more of ramshackle buildings in wash with pen and ink and more nature subjects in watercolour. I know it has a "Lowry" simplistic feel which I think lent itself to the Victorian Liverpool scene I chose to paint.



I have found the u3a so helpful especially since I lost my husband Pete; doing my "memoirs" and submitting art has helped to keep me going through lockdown as I'm sure it has for many people. My husband's mother, who I never met as she died the year I met him, came from Liverpool and my youngest son is a teacher at a Liverpool school, but to be fair it could be seen as any snowy industrial area with its housing and chimney. I like to think that the gentleman in the foreground with the hat is based on my father in law!

Anyway, I think it has prompted more response as I notice Liz Jackson has got her "Trees" picture chosen in the next category – I think they are choosing different people each time to encourage members to participate. It's very easy to enter; not very technical. You just take a picture of your artwork and upload it via the link. I have had quite a few emails from Janine Aldridge who is running the paint and draw initiative and they are apparently going to run online sessions hoping that members will teach other members, although I'm not brave enough for that one!

Pam Cooke

In the February category, Trees, this picture entitled 'Reflections' by Elizabeth Jackson of High Lane u3a was selected and published on the National website. As Liz says, "Loving the autumnal shades and the darkness as they are reflected in the water".

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/paint-or-draw>



The current theme is 'The Sea' and the deadline for submission is 24 March. More details here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/paint-or-draw>

FROM U3A NATIONAL OFFICE

It's great to see the success of our artists in the Paint or Draw initiative. The photography initiative u3a Eye is also continuing. The current theme is 'Glimpsed' and the closing date for entries is 4 March.

The link for the National Office February Newsletter is <https://us9.campaign-archive.com/?u=656ad5962b370cc9e2731d1ed&id=32932eaa31>

Events

There is a good range of events offered on diverse topics including maths, geology, art, wellbeing and history. Note that, from past experience, some may well be already booked. You can find them here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

The Winter school sessions have now all finished. If anyone joined these groups, please write about them and send to the editor for a future issue of the newsletter.

u3a Day

A nationwide day for celebrating u3a and what it has to offer both nationally and locally has been planned for some time. It was postponed last year due to the Covid lockdown but the date has now been confirmed as Wednesday, 2 June 2021.

The aims of the day are

- To raise the profile of local u3as so, collectively, there is more awareness nationally
- To help challenge negative perceptions of older adults
- To invite other Third Agers to learn how u3a supports the lives of retired people.

You can find out more here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/u3a-day>

The Committee will be coming up with a plan and welcomes your views and offers of help. Of course, we still don't know what will be allowed at that time so it may have to be largely a digital event. Please don't be shy in offering help.

u3a Poetry Competition

The u3a poetry competition, received nearly 200 submissions from members across the movement. The ten winners have now been announced.

One of the judges commented, "It was a pleasure and a privilege to be a judge in the u3a National Poetry competition. I found myself laughing out loud on several occasions. The clever and witty poems I read are a credit to the poets and testament to the creative talent within our u3a movement."

The first, second and third placed poems will appear in April's edition of Third Age Matters and will be on the website after publication. The others in the top ten can be read online here <https://u3a.org.uk/learning/national-programmes/poetry-competition-2020>

I liked this one!

Host queen by Deirdre Kenny of Belfast u3a

*We wish you all happiness in the years ahead
But knowing you, you'll find plenty to do"*
Oh dear lord, those words filled me with dread
I left my workplace, feeling downcast and blue.

Buck up my girl, I said to myself
There's a whole world out there for you to explore
You can't just moulder on the old age shelf
All you need do is open that door.

So I've tried writing and walking and even tried craft
And debating and dancing and military history
I even tried judo, my friends thought I was daft
But what's my favourite? Ah, that's the mystery!

It starts with a z and ends in an oom
And takes me to places north, south, east and west
I'm the reigning host queen from my living room
And I'm loving this new life and all my Zoom guests.

And I also liked this limerick from one of the judges!

**Judging for me was great fun,
No problem in getting it done,
The poems were witty,
Clever and gritty,
And finally, one poem won!**

We have some more poems in Poetry Corner later in the newsletter.

NORTH WEST REGION OF U3AS

Second Tuesday Talks

North West u3a continues to offer Zoom talks, at 10.30 am on the second Tuesday of each month.

March 9th 2021	Happy Ever After? presented by Catherine Stevenson. This presentation maps the history of fairy stories through art and literature.
April 13th 2021	Japanese Culture presented by Gill Russel. This presentation is an introduction to Japanese culture

These sessions take place on Zoom and are free but you need to book. Go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

CHURCHES AND PUBS

I have spent quite a lot of time this year looking at churches for 2021. There are still one or two left in our area and I have made a note of eight different churches that look promising. To name a few Sutton, Chester, Buxton, Matlock, and Mellor. If anyone knows of an interesting church, please can you let me know and also if you can recommend a good pub to go for lunch. The way things are going it looks as if a lot of pubs will close. Let's hope not as there are a lot of excellent pubs out there.

I have seen one or two of our U3A groups have been having online sessions but Churches and Pubs and Kurling, which we also run, would be a bit difficult.

Best wishes

Paul and Barbara

BRIDGE

Our weekly Monday afternoon sessions on bridgebase continue; new members are always welcome to join us. We are also getting a taste for Realbridge where we can see our partner and opponents and actually talk to them. It's almost like being in the same room – and definitely good fun. Please contact me if you want to know more about what we are doing.

The article below is interesting; bridge really needs to attract younger players.

Online bridge clubs narrow the gap between young and old

Emily Kent Smith, The Times, 10 Jan 2021

"It is, in many people's minds, the game their grandparents play, but bridge has attracted a younger audience during the pandemic.

People in their twenties and thirties have started learning through online lessons, while others have turned to bridge apps. Many of them have never held a real deck of cards, as they play only online."

You can read the article at <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/online-bridge-clubs-narrow-the-gap-between-young-and-old-rkzmbdwzs>

Diane Saxon

MUSIC

The art of the possible ... an update from members of the U3A Choir.

Making music has proved quite a challenge during lockdown, but this hasn't deterred some intrepid members of the choir. Let me introduce a piece from Sheila Flitcroft, one of our sopranos.

Have you ever heard of 'Couch to Concert'?

I sing with the U3A choir but due to the lockdown and like members who belong to other U3A groups, we have not been able to hold our meetings since March last year. With the help of Margaret Glynn our pianist and thanks to our conductor Julie Sutton, we have met using Zoom.

Another treat for me this week and the next three weeks will be singing with Opera North. The workshops are one hour each session and are open to singers of all levels. With the guidance, encouragement and humour of Jenny Stirling, the sopranos will attempt their part of the 'Triumphal March' from 'Aida' and Mozart's 'Idomeneo'. The last session, the concert, is all voices together with the Opera North chorus, hence the name 'Couch to Chorus'.

It will be a pleasure to meet up again soon. In the meantime, I hope that Diane's newsletter will brighten up your day!

Sheila Flitcroft

As a choir we were quite slow to get going with singing remotely via Zoom. However, having experienced the joy of playing my saxophone alone in my dining room with the various groups I would normally play face to face with, to the accompaniment of backing tracks, I began to realise it was something we could and should try. As Margaret, our brilliant accompanist, says

"The Zoom meetings haven't been without their hiccups, (that's an understatement) but without them life would be so much the poorer. We usually start with a chat, followed by a musical workout and then sing two pieces, which we have prepared beforehand (or some of us have!)."

We haven't managed to get all the choir to embrace this approach, which is a shame, but this week's topic for a chat will be how we can make a return to singing together safely as lockdown restrictions ease, which can't come soon enough.

On a very sad note, we have recently lost two of our most loyal members, Geoff Bradbury and Eunice Beesley. May they rest in peace.

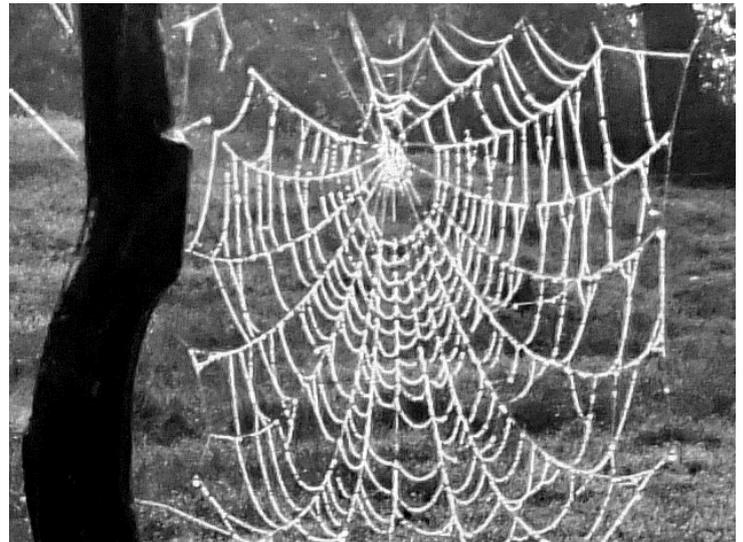
Julie Sutton

PHOTOGRAPHY

The January competition subject of 'Cold' produced some clever ideas. We were lucky that there had been several snowy days during the month which helped with finding good photographs. In the competition, Jeff just outscored Derek with his photo of Grizedale.

Results were

1st Grizedale (Jeff), 2nd No flies on me (Derek)



We had three joint thirds: Canal (Chris), 4 Cold feet (Derek) and Middlewood Way (Jeff)



Thanks to everybody for the brilliant photographs and congratulations to the winners.

It's now time to get our thinking caps on for ideas for our March competition on the theme of pictures that are 'not what they seem'.

Jeff Robinson

SCIENCE PHOTOGRAPHS

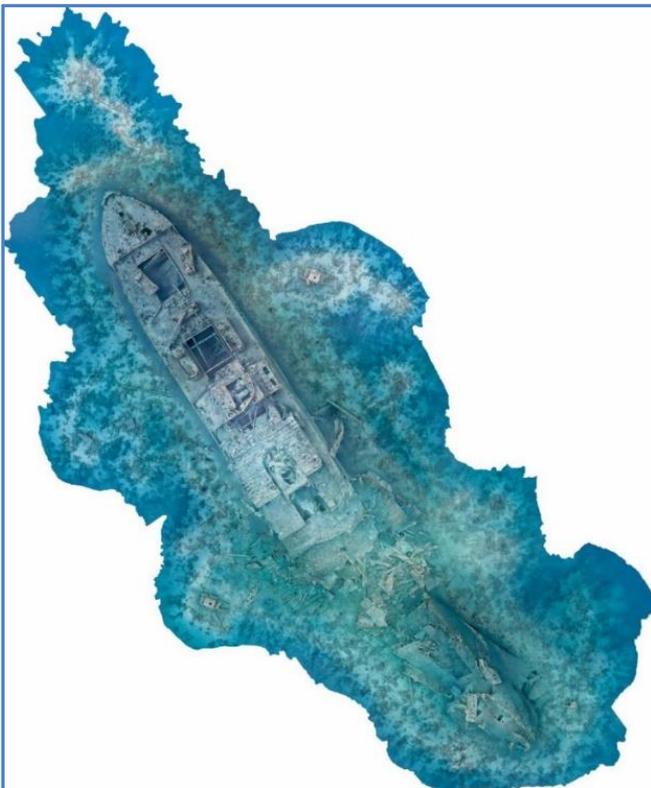
Every year the Royal Photographic Society runs a competition for the Science Photographer of the Year. This year, they received more than 1,200 photographs from enthusiasts and professionals. The competition ran in conjunction with the Manchester Science festival which took place digitally between 12 and 21 February.

The photos will form an exhibition that will tour the UK later in the year. Live events have finished but you can view the photos at

<https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/manchester-science-festival/whats-on/science-photographer-of-the-year/online-exhibition>

This photograph of the wreck of SS Thistlegorm was the winner. SS Thistlegorm was a British Merchant Navy ship which was sunk by German bombers on 6 October 1941 near Ras Muhammad in the Red Sea.

The other photo, entitled a Year in garbage, is all the waste thrown away by the photographer's family in a year.



GARDENING

February was a month of contrasts, from snow to thaws to warmth. The warmth brought spring flowers out in a rush, so members' photos from Lynn, Lynda, Chris H., and Walter show a quick progression from snowdrops, through crocus, to daffodils, tulips to hellebore.



Walter Mason

First Attempt at Camping

It seemed a good idea at the time! We were very involved in the events of the Austin Healey Club now that David had finished building our car. The Club was holding an International Healey Weekend at Brands Hatch. We had quite a few friends who were taking their Healeys. It was held in July and we thought the weather would be good. There were two options open to us – we could stay in a hotel near the event or we could take our car and camp.

I had never been camping before and, as we had a caravan, we did not possess any camping equipment, but we had very good friends who were willing to lend us the things we needed. We had to be selective as you can't get a lot of equipment into a two-seater sports car. Our old neighbours were camping fans and let us borrow their small frame tent which was nearly new. The next-door neighbours lent us two blow up mattresses and a two-burner cooking stove for brewing up. We needed clothes for the weekend and some basic provisions. We came to the conclusion that we needed a boot rack which we borrowed from another member of the club.



(A photo of the Healey – but not during the camping weekend!)

We seemed fully equipped but had to remember that anything packed in the boot would come out smelling of petrol as the filler cap was located there as an anti-theft device. David is much better at packing things than I am so he loaded the car. He fed the poles for the tent down the passenger side of the car which meant I had to climb over them to get in. This wasn't a problem but I am sure it wasn't advised from a safety point of view!

We set off on a sunny day and arrived at Brands Hatch without any problem. It took a while to put the tent up but things were looking good. We were next to some friends we knew who had taken a two-man ridge tent. We could actually stand up in our tent which seemed luxury.

That night we pumped up our mattresses and settled down for a good night's sleep. What we hadn't known was that the mattresses hadn't been used for years and they were perished. They gradually lost their air and, if you couldn't get to sleep within 20 mins, you were back on the floor!! This didn't lead to the relaxing night we had hoped for. Also, the occupants of next doors ridge tent seemed to be having similar problems as, every now and then, there were sounds of what seemed like someone with very bad asthma. It turned out that they were continually blowing up their bed too.

The next morning it had started to drizzle. Luckily, we had wellies with us and waterproofs as you never know what the English weather will be like. We wandered round the site looking at other cars and admiring them. There were driving events and stalls with entertainment going on. We got lunch at a tent serving meals. All was well and then it started to rain heavily. We had booked to go to the disco and BBQ at the large marquee in the evening.

We went back to our tent to get ready. We decided that we should keep our wellies on as the area was beginning to get rather muddy. I had never gone to a disco in wellies before. We arrived at the marquee and the BBQ was lit but the caterers were struggling in the rain. People were sitting at the tables inside when I thought my eyesight was failing. It was a few minutes before I realised that they had moved the BBQ just inside the entrance to the marquee and it was getting foggy inside!! We battled on and had an enjoyable evening with friends but not quite what we had expected.

We retired to bed quite late, having pumped up our beds again! Another night was spent on the floor. It was about 6.00am the next morning when we could hear noises next door. The occupants of the tent on the other side of us had decided to give up and go home early. We were due to leave that day so we decided to have a coffee and then dismantle our tent. It had continued to rain heavily and the camping field looked like something out of a disaster movie. Cars were trying to get a grip to help them out of the mud and people were helping to push them. When we were ready to go some kind friends helped to push us onto the grass instead of the mud. I realised I had lived in my wellies for the entire weekend.

We arrived home safely but it took days to get the mud splashes off the borrowed tent and to clean the car.

Never again!!!

Linda Heathcote

Jab Done.... Eventually!

News that the Pfizer vaccine had been successfully tested and would soon be available must have burst on the scene in mid-November. This was the best news ever and came just as I was preparing the Chairman's Report for the December newsletter, so I highlighted it and said that I WOULD be going to Hazel Grove Baptist Church to get vaccinated and to offer up thanks to all the scientists, medical teams involved.

Two things happened after that ... there was no news from the GP about dates, just advice to stay cool and await instructions. There was, understandably a lot of anxiety and a new phenomenon of Covid envy seemed to develop. Rumour had it that I had already received my jab which was completely untrue of course but must have stemmed from the newsletter. I had to refute this several times, which was really not a problem, not the first time I had been at the centre of Fake News!!!

Then, out of the blue came a mailing from NHS England inviting me to attend a clinic in Macclesfield and I happily logged on and made two appointments, one for Jan 19th and the second 12 weeks later. This was followed by a phone call from the G P offering an appointment locally but as my son Philip was prepared to chauffeur me and I hadn't been out of the house for ages, I stuck with the original arrangement and enjoyed a scenic run through Prestbury. We duly arrived and were greeted by a volunteer in High Vis jacket, carrying a clipboard. Unfortunately, my name was not on the list!! I just couldn't believe it, and for once was lost for words. Philip took over and handled the situation, turning to me and saying, in that patient, irritating way that offspring have "Mother, did you press Confirm??" and, of course, I hadn't. We could not take a cancellation, as there were none that day so back home we had to go mission still not accomplished.

Salvation came when I contacted the GP and was offered an appointment two days later. I can categorically say that I received my Pfizer vaccine on Thursday, January 21st and have the card to prove it.

I am reminded of that quote from the Bible; "The First shall be Last and the Last shall be First".

Sheila Harrop

QUIZ

We continue to have monthly quizzes that are fun and not too time consuming. Our February quiz was set by Margaret and included questions related to news and programmes during the previous few weeks. Marlene has set this month's quiz and we are told not to Google the answers! It looks hard!

Answers to 'Things that fly or flew' in the February edition. How many did you get?

Things that Fly or Flew	
46	_EA___/O_/__O___/A__E__
47	_O__I___/A_E_
48	_A___/I__E'/_U__O
49	A/___EA/A___/A/___/I_/A/___UE
50	__E/_A_I___/OU___/A_
51	__E_O_A_____
52	_I__E__E___/A___/E_E_/A_
53	__A___/O_/O___I___E_
54	__I___E_O_____
55	_E__O_/E__IE/_A__U__E_
56	_I_E/___E/_OU'_E/_A_I___/_U_
57	__A___/O__OI_E__E__
58	_A_E__I_A/_E_E___O_A
59	__U___/I_E
60	_A__AI___/O___/U_E__A__E/_E__E_

- 46 realms of glory angels
- 47 Sopwith camel
- 48 Walt Disney's Dumbo
- 49 a flea and a fly in a flue
- 50 the daring young man
- 51 pterodactyl
- 52 Tinkerbelle and Peter Pan
- 53 charm of goldfinches
- 54 thistledown
- 55 yellow bellied sapsucker
- 56 time when you're having fun
- 57 small tortoiseshell
- 58 Valentina Tereshkova
- 59 stunt kite
- 60 bargains off supermarket shelves

Carol Straffon has created a quiz for us this month. Titles and authors have been replaced by their initials. We found these quite addictive. If that happens to you, Carol has a much longer quiz in a similar vein. If you would like to try it send me an email.

Book Quiz

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| S and L by DHL | The BK by FD | The T of PR by BP |
| The R to LD by BB | C and P by FD | The B by MN |
| C by MB | WT by ZS | The G L and PPS by MAS |
| The B by IM | The C I of the D in the N by | and AB |
| FP by NH | MH | The S G by FHB |
| The FS by JG | OHB by WSM | C by AB |
| The C of M by TP | CW by EBW | The KR by KH |
| The BT by MD | C and the CF by RD | JP by MC |

As I mentioned in the last edition, we have some of our members interested in a Zoom quiz. Would you like to join us? Bubbles and households are all welcome. Please let me know.

Diane Saxon

POETRY CORNER

We know that High Lane u3a also has talented poets. Did any members enter the Poetry competition? This month, Stewart Clay has sent us a poem he has recently written.

Life's Cruel Deception

*Staring resigned – at the mirror's reflection
Accepting ruefully – life's cruel deception
While inside our heads – we still think as a teen
The lines on our faces – tell how much life we've seen*

*The brain may continue – to encourage each limb
To perform contortions – that belong in the gym
But sadly the brain – has left the body behind
The body is knackered – and that's being kind*

*Life's quite fair on the brain – the years making us wise
But why must the brain – then tell the body such lies
All those years filled – with sporting enjoyment
Now feeble attempts – just bring disappointment*

*When once we were able – to run jump and skip
It's nought but a stroll now – with a new knee or hip
The days of enjoying – squash, football, or tennis
Are long in the past – and on a bike we're a menace*

*Our heart rate now rarely – goes above normal pace
Maybe if playing Black Jack – and we pick up an ace
Perhaps in Scrabble – we get an x or blank tile
But they're not really a substitute – for running a mile*

*We had decades of following – some energetic pursuit
The enjoyment and benefits – are not in dispute
But we now have to settle – for Pursuits rather Trivial
Though the mood – that they're played in – is always convivial*

*So if just like me – you are way past your prime
But can rely on your memory – to exaggerate times
Relax with the rest of us – and enjoy the quiet life
Settle for telling tall stories – to your friends and your wife*

Irene Merson sent this poem. The source was hard to track down; the title seems to be A Brief Pageant of English Verse, but no-one appears to know the author. There are at least 12 references to literary works hidden in the lines of the poem. How many can you spot? Answers next month.

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea.
I won't go down to the sea again; I won't go out at all
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall
There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the north of Kathmandu,
But I shan't be seeing him just yet, and nor, I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling English road from Birmingham to Rye.
About the woodland, just right now, I am not free to go
To see the Keep Out posters or the cherry hung with snow.
And no, I won't be travelling much, within the realms of gold,
Or get me to Milford Haven. All that's been put on hold.
Give me your hands, I shan't request, albeit we are friends
Nor come within a mile of you, until this trial ends.

LIMERICK CORNER

Walter has been writing limericks again this month. Here is his latest.

At last we can see to the end.
After months all driven round the bend.
Now vaccine joy, Pfizer 'n' AstraZeneca.
My old boss would have played his
harmonica –
We need music to be back on the mend.
Walter Mason

Another day in lockdown
She said with a wearisome frown
Still everything's closed
The question must be posed
What have they done to our town?
Anon.

DID YOU KNOW?

The full moon in each month of the year has a name. February's full moon, which we have been looking at for the last few nights, is called the Snow Moon. Many of the names come from Native American culture because they used lunar cycles as a method of timekeeping.

And to finish this edition

A selection of puns from Andre. Taken from many doing the rounds on social media.

- The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pi.
- No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationery.
- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.
- Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, 'I've lost my electron.' The other says, 'Are you sure?' The first replies, 'Yes, I'm positive.'
- If you jumped off a bridge in Paris, you'd be in Seine .
- Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: 'You stay here; I'll go on a head.'
- Two silkworms had a race. They ended up in a tie.

Trevor sent this joke from social media.

Paddy is on the £1m question on 'Who Wants To be a Millionaire' Chris Tarrant asks 'Now Paddy which of these birds does not build its own nest - Blackbird - Thrush - Robin - Cuckoo?'

Paddy replies "Cuckoo!" Correct says Chris - You've won £1m!

Paddy goes back home and meets Seamus who asks ... Paddy how did you know a cuckoo does not build its own nest? Seamus replies - Well a cuckoo lives in a clock!

Trevor Kinvig

And thanks to Sue Harlin and others for these.

Did you know?



Line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.



People who wonder whether the glass is half empty or half full miss the point. The glass is refillable.

This quiz show's severe, on the whole
But for some it's the ultimate goal
The set is quite stark
Just a chair, in the dark
And all you can win's a glass bowl

$\sqrt{-1}$ 2^3 Σ π
and it was delicious!

"In the rush to return to normal, use this time to consider which parts of normal are worth rushing back to"
- Dave Hollis