

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the seventh edition of the new style High Lane U3A newsletter. It's sad to report that we are still in lockdown and the news is getting worse not better. However, U3A is still alive and there is lots going on both at National and local level.

Notable items in this edition include our second speaker meeting that Sheila, with her Programme secretary hat on, has arranged for us; The time the talk is "Food of the Gods" A History of Our Love Affair with Chocolate". I have a box of Lindor truffles at my side as I write this. See page 3 for more information about how to join the talk. We also have some interesting contributions from members about their recent activities.

Our Limerick theme continues. Sue has one in her Mah-jong report and Walter has come up with another for you!

There was an old grandmum in't Grove,
Who took risks and developed the Cove...
Had to leave grandkids perambulator.
Got hospitalised on ventilator.
But recovered and got back to her Love.

Do send me your limericks!

As with the previous edition this edition will be available only by email and on the web. Hopefully members can share it with their friends who may not have access – post a copy though their door perhaps.

I'd like to thank members who have sent me contributions; please keep them coming. 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. It would be good to hear from members' trips/staycations in the Covid world. The next issue will be November, so I will need your contributions before the end of October. Please send ideas, suggestions and contributions to me at newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk

Diane Saxon

U3A DIARIES 2021

If you would like to buy a U3A diary for next year, please contact Pam Curly. Pam will order the diaries and deliver them to you when they arrive. This year the diary has a dark blue cover. The price is £3 as last year.

FROM THE CHAIR

On Monday September 7th we had our first Committee meeting of 2020 in the newly opened Village Hall. We looked at Risk Assessment forms and planned to have an open meeting for group leaders. We were shown the new safety measures in place in the hall, which are in line with the government's guidelines on Covid. The mood was quietly optimistic but within 24 hours the rule of 6 was announced and hopes of getting back to something like normality were dashed once again.

Since then things have got marginally worse so, we can't meet face to face at the moment but we can meet virtually by the wonder of modern technology. I would like to congratulate group leaders who have been doing this for some time, using Zoom etc. For those who are tentative there is help in the newsletter on how to proceed.

I hope to link up with you soon. Meanwhile keep safe and well and try to be patient

Sheila Harrop

PROGRAMME SECRETARY REPORT

Last month we enjoyed our first online talk when Vince Eager assured us "You're Never too old to Rock and Roll". Over 50 members tuned in, which was pleasing. Many thanks to those of you who contacted us with your evaluation. It was really good to hear from you.

A comment from Doreen Robinson summed up the majority of our feedback from members. Have just spent a very pleasant, relaxing, 40 minutes listening to the Vince Eager talk. He took me right back to the Sixties and stirred a lot of memories. It's quite true you are never too old for Rock'n Roll !!. What a wonderful idea to have the opportunity through the Mirthy Org. to be able have these stories. He was articulate, humorous and sincere and told us so much about the era. Thank you Vince, and of course High Lane for organising this.

We have another talk this month and I have arranged to have it on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.00 p m which would have been our monthly meeting of course.

This time the subject is "Food of the Gods" A History of Our Love Affair with Chocolate". it's at 2.00 p m on Weds Oct14th. The Aztecs believed cocoa seeds were a gift from the god of wisdom. The Spanish took the bean back to Spain in 1528. By the 1550's chocolate had arrived in England and the first Chocolate House opened in 1657. The Quakers were instrumental in making it popular, the Swiss refined it; and now we can't seem to do without it! The god of wisdom gave us chocolate – I'm not sure if it was a wise move!

The speaker is Sandy Leong. Sandy is an historian, passionate about bringing history to life and is a lively and entertaining speaker. She has a popular series of entertaining, light hearted talks on general historical subjects.

We would love to have more people joining us.

It's really simple; the link is <https://mirthy.co.uk/u3a-highlane>

To join the talk, you just need to click the link, enter your name and email address, and then click on the Register box. You will then be sent an email with the link you will need to join the talk. We are advised to do this about 1:45pm on the day so we are ready to go at 2pm.

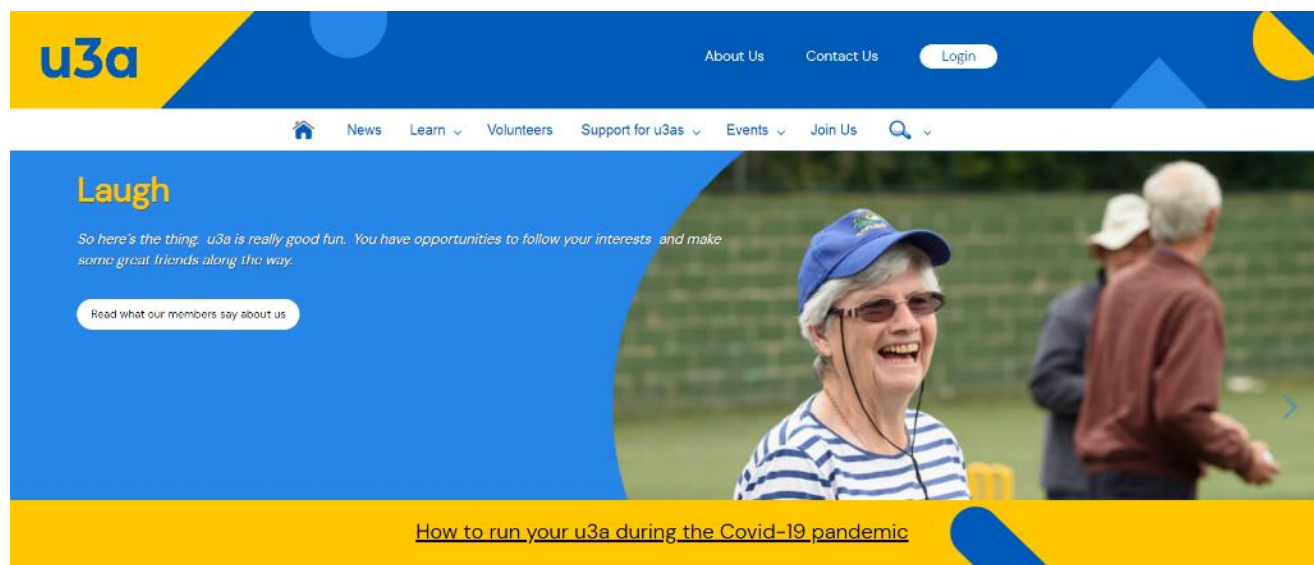
You can use a tablet or laptop or PC. A smartphone will be OK but is not recommended due to bandwidth issues. The Chrome browser is recommended.

Sheila Harrop

There are also some talks organised by the North West Region of U3A, which you might also like to try. These are via Zoom. The first one of these is on Tuesday 13th Oct at 10.30 am and is entitled "Memory and Identity". Tony Clarke of Lymm and Thelwall U3A will lead us through 'who we think we are'. You need to book for this event and numbers are limited. As of today, it appears to still be possible to book. Here is the link <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

The next one in the series is on 10th November. It is entitled 'Grandma flew spitfires'. Tim Young of Newmarket U3A will explore the roles of the women who supported the air defence of Britain.

FROM U3A NATIONAL OFFICE



The National Office website has a new look; brighter colours, larger text as in the page above.

u3a Radio Podcast

The first u3a radio podcast was broadcast via the U3A youtube channel on Tuesday 29 September. The u3a Radio podcast series showcases every part of the movement from members, interest group leaders, Trustees, national volunteers and Subject Advisers. You can listen to it here <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr9c8qYDZ4U24lq0J4qx0fQ>

Technology How to Guides

Using technology for learning and communicating – a series of How to guides are collected together on this page. There are several guides to using Zoom. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/how-to-guidance>

Online resources for group leaders

There are some online resources available through the library here

<https://u3a.libertyasp.co.uk/library/libraryHome.do>. These online resources are available without logging on, just search for the subject area you are interested in or 'online courses'.

There are now over 70 subject advisors who produce newsletters, post information and ideas etc. You can find the list here <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/subjects>

U3A Online Learning Hub

The Hub is planned to be an online collection of all of the resources and tools you need to support learning in your interest groups and your U3A. National Office is carrying out an investigation to find out what members want to see from their online learning resources. The first stage was a questionnaire created by the learning department. This was followed by a small number of focus groups conducted using Zoom with members, one of which I was invited to attend.

The focus group comprised about eight members from U3As around England. The feeling seemed to be that we didn't want videos and articles but more ideas that group leaders could take away and develop to suit their groups. I raised the issue of the significant proportion of members who do not have or do not wish to engage with technology and how disenfranchised they are during the lockdown. An online learning hub will not help with this. This led to a lot of discussion about the possible impact of this on membership after the lockdown – if we can look that far ahead – and how members can be kept engaged. Participants felt that the group leader was vitally important in keeping their group members on board and that ideas on the proposed Hub would be useful.

Diane Saxon

LOCAL INFORMATION

It appears the rules change daily; a few days ago we had Boris Johnson making confused and inaccurate statements! Today's are full of the stark warnings contained in last night's TV broadcast. Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle have close to 10 times the level of infection than average. The latest available Covid-19 infection rate figures for SK6 and SK7 both show big increases on previous weeks although we are still well below the rate in other areas of Greater Manchester. Shops and restaurants etc remain open which at least gives some semblance of normality to daily life. I hear that some members have been managing to meet up for lunches out. It's really hard on those poor students stuck in halls of residence when they should be starting their university careers.

Lesley shares some good news about Lyme Hall below. If you have any local information, please let me know so we can share this with our members.

VOLUNTEERING AT LYME PARK

As a U3A member, I attend the German group when this is possible. Of course, this hasn't been an option in the past six months, which is a great shame. I also volunteer regularly as a Room Guide at Lyme Park. I started doing this about four years ago and I love it. It is wonderful to spend time in the House, learning more about its history and talking to all the lovely visitors. I also deliver Talks and Guided Tours round the hidden servants' areas of the House that aren't generally open to visitors.

This all stopped abruptly in March as the National Trust closed down its properties because of COVID-19. So as well as coping with lockdown and all that brought with it, I really missed Lyme!

I was therefore delighted when the National Trust chose Lyme as one of the first five houses to test re-opening in a safe way. To prepare for this, House Volunteers who felt safe to do so undertook various on-line training courses and had a walk-round the house to see the changes that had been introduced.

The reopening began in the middle of July. There are fewer rooms open, as areas with tight corners and pinch points are still shut, but the key rooms are all open. There are fewer of us Room Guides (now known as Reopening House Volunteers), but we're there to help and assist the visitors as usual. We now stand behind the ropes to maintain safe distancing, and we regularly disinfect our chairs and information booklets. Visitors come into the house in small batches at a time, so there isn't any crush of people at any one point and, since early September, visitors must wear masks unless exempt. Everyone therefore feels safe and the visitors have said how much they are enjoying being able to visit properties again. Of course, for us Volunteers, it is absolutely wonderful to be back.



There are no Talks or Guided Tours at the moment, but any visitor who books a slot to visit the park can, total numbers permitting, come into the House when it's open (Friday-Tuesday). I do thoroughly recommend it and hope to see some of you there when I am volunteering.

NB Booking is available via the Lyme pages of the National Trust website.

Lesley Richards

A VIRTUAL WALK

My husband and I love walking and at the beginning of the lockdown I had an idea to make our daily walks a bit more purposeful.

We decided to try to walk the length of the country from Land's End to John O' Groats. We found a walk some chap had done where he recorded his stops and how many miles there were between each place. He had a few rest days on the way. In all he walked 1111 miles over a period of 70 days.

So we set off in March stopping at places including Taunton, Gloucester, Middleton- in- Teesdale, Haltwhistle, Edinburgh and Inverness. In the evening we googled the various places and learned quite a lot of geography!

We have averaged about six miles a day and have discovered all the paths along canal banks and across fields around High Lane. There are many. We have discovered quite a lot about coal mining and brick making and the development of the transport system. We have watched the beauty of nature through the changing seasons. Ducklings, goslings, lambs and calves. The flowers have all blossomed and now the autumn colours are coming. We have picked bowls of blackberries and made tasty jam.

It has taken us six months!

Today, September 23rd September we have only 10 miles to go and we will have reached our goal! 1111 miles for two 70-year olds is not bad going. We have thoroughly enjoyed it. Where can we go now?

Kathleen and Tony Wareham

A DAY AT THE SEASIDE

On what was probably one of the last warm and sunny days of the year we checked the tide tables and set off for the coast. We ended up at New Brighton where we hadn't been for many years. There were waves, albeit small, sand, places open for lunch, more dogs than I could count, wall to wall sunshine and not too many people. We walked on the beach and what felt like most of the vast promenade. Trip Advisor's top attraction in New Brighton is the Black Pearl; a ship made from driftwood. In September last year it looked like the picture on the left. It now looks like the one on the right; maybe it's been ravaged by the recent storms.



We completed a great day out with a wander round Ness gardens; not as good as in Spring but some nice herbaceous borders.

Diane Saxon

HOLIDAY IN THE SUN

Reading the title above you may be thinking Caribbean, Spain, Italy, Greece.....but you would be wrong.....destination Crewe! Crewe I hear you say.....well more of that later.

We set off last Saturday and headed for Chester, lunch, walk round part of the walls and a good old mooch about, followed by a leisurely drive to the village of Rossett (Wales) where we enjoyed a lovely evening at the Rossett Hall Hotel.

Sunday saw us taking in the beautiful scenery of the Horseshoe Pass and the Horseshoe Falls which are set in a stunning valley and well worth a visit.



Moving on we explored the small town of Llangollen, admiring the river, steam train and watching the horse drawn tourist canal boats. The horse didn't seem to mind his work as he stopped regularly to partake of a tasty morsel from the hedgerow on the side of the towpath!

Our next stop was the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal; what an amazing feat of engineering. We walked beside the canal for a short way; it was like being in the canopy of the trees. However, when I looked over the edge, I decided enough was enough and hurriedly retreated to firmer ground!

Now the bit you've all been waiting for..... our final destination, Crewe. Crewe Hall to be exact, the scene of our wedding five years ago. A glass of wine on the terrace in the sunshine, absolute bliss. Last year we were lucky enough to visit South Africa and went on a safari. Keen to see elephants and giraffes again Monday saw us at Chester Zoo where we were impressed by the work done in some areas to create a suitable environment for the animals.

On Tuesday we visited the market town of Nantwich. St Mary's church is a must as it's known as the 'Cathedral of South Cheshire'.



Back in High Lane the sun suddenly disappeared behind a cloud but we had been blessed with fantastic weather and had really enjoyed our short break taking in some of the wonders that are on our doorstep and of course.....no quarantine!!

Lynn Arnold

READING

I have recently read a book by Lemn Sissay called 'My Name is Why' which has made a great impression on me. Many people will know of him I am sure, but I had not heard of him before reading this remarkable book.

Sissay was born to an Ethiopian single mother and for reasons beyond her control she had to put him into foster care but after years of being a member of this family they abandoned him and until he was 18 was shuttled around a number of Children's Homes and treated very badly.

What a remarkable man, he was the official poet for the 2012 Olympics, has been awarded the MBE and since 2015 has been Chancellor of Manchester University. If ever there was a story of triumph over adversity, this is it.

If you haven't read it, please do.

Pat Gorie

Indian Interlude

Like many people I was captivated by the wonderful serialisation of "A Suitable Boy" which has just finished on BBC TV. I have never read the book, which is one of the longest in the English language. The programme was baffling at first, and I had difficulty sorting out Lata's complicated family. I am already looking forward to the repeat so that I can fill in some of the gaps!! A couple of anecdotes pleased me greatly.

It was adapted by Andrew Davis; what a great talent and he is 83 years old!!! Also, I read that Vikram Seth enjoyed reading "Pride and Prejudice" and wanted to create his own heroine in the style of Elizabeth Bennett. In my opinion, Lata is a worthy successor.

I got to thinking of the books written with an Indian theme, such as "Passage to India" and "The Raj Quartet", (another memorable TV series) and remembered the last book by Paul Scott entitled "Staying On" which is about an elderly English couple who opt to remain in the newly independent India. In 1980, it was made into a film starring Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson. I have just read the book again and enjoyed it immensely. It is funny and sad at the same time, and short!

Good Reading

Sheila Harrop

The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman

As a fan of Pointless and an avid crime fiction reader, I had to get hold of this much hyped, record breaking Sunday Times No 1 bestseller. The Thursday Murder Club comprises four residents of the Coopers Chase retirement village. They meet once a week to investigate unsolved killings. Things change when the local property developer who wishes to redevelop part of the village grounds is killed in their midst. The four unlikely friends set out to find the killer, getting in the way of the local police in the process.

The book has received very good reviews. I enjoyed reading it. It is funny, there are lots of one liners and good characterisation but I was uncomfortable with some of the stereotyping of the residents of the retirement village and older people in general.

Diane Saxon

Are you sitting comfortably?

Probably not! But should you be sitting too comfortably anyway? I have heard it said that elderly people shouldn't have comfortable chairs as they will be disinclined to move about. I have a fitbit so am reminded at regular intervals to get out of my chair and start moving.

I recently read a very interesting article about chairs in the Guardian. Apparently, chairs were relatively uncommon before the 19th century. Most people squatted or sat on stools or benches. In many cultures, meals were eaten lying down and chairs/thrones were reserved for people in authority: pharaohs, kings, bishops and chairmen.

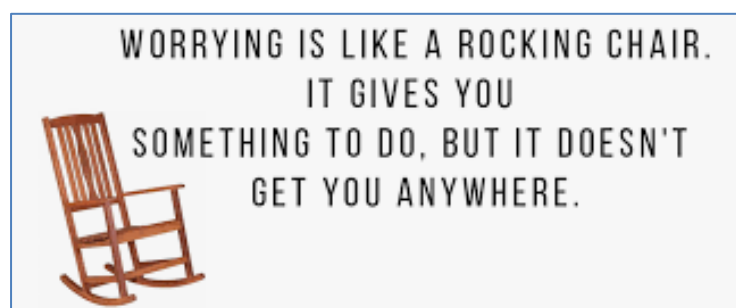
Mass manufacturing and rapid social change in the 19th century brought chairs into daily life for the first time and in modern times chairs have become fashionable items, often with big soft cushions which look comfortable but "an overpadded chair forces the sit bones to rock in the padding, rather than make contact with a stable surface, thereby forcing the flesh in the butt and thighs to bear weight.". Chair design should support and enable the body to move with seats that angle downward in front and a base flexible enough for the sitter to shift their body weight from leg to leg.

Since the 70s designers have worked on creating the perfect chair and the Herman Miller Aeron chair seems to fulfil all the criteria for giving support and comfort. It is mainly in use in offices and costs well over £1000 but cheaper versions can be bought online. It might not look comfortable but it fulfils the brief.



We could do with getting some new chairs but until I can find some that are cat-clawproof I'll have to make do with our Ikea office chairs. Am I the only person who finds the chairs in the village hall comfortable?

Marlene Brooks



MEMOIRS

Being a greengrocer

In mid 1972 I was working in sales for Cadburys and I had always wanted to work for myself. I was approached by a friend who asked me if I fancied buying a greengrocers with him. At this time Barbara was pregnant with our first son. She said you will probably only get one chance in life of doing what you want and if you don't take it you will always regret it. It was a chance we took and our son was born three days after we had taken over the shop and to this day she has not forgiven me for not buying her any flowers. Not knowing the difference between different apples and oranges did not help.

The shop was in Burnage at the top of Burnage Lane near Princess Parkway. There was not a lot of room inside the shop. Three/ four customers and the shop was packed. The main advantage for the shop was a very large forecourt. When we took over the shop the chap before us had one box on display outside.

We built the business up so it took one and a half to two hours to put the display up outside. We more or less filled the forecourt so people could not miss the fruit and veg. All the special offers were on the front row which brought people in and once they were in the selling was easy. If anything new came on the market we always cut it up and gave samples for the customers to try. People thought we were daft. Nobody had ever offered things for them to try before. I used to go to the Market in Gorton every day to keep the goods fresh. It was nearly always about 5am at the market and returning home from the shop about 6-6:30pm, apart from Wednesday which was half day closing.

By going to the market everyday the fruit and vegetables were fresh everyday and the customers realised this and that was what built up our business. Every year we closed the shop twice for one week and opened the following week on the Wednesday. People used to say you can't have a holiday. I replied, you do and get paid for it, I don't get paid and I can't have time off if I don't feel well.

The week before we shut we always dropped our prices so when we reopened after holiday people would say "We went to so and so's. He was dear". Also the odd person would say they had tried shops and they would comment that these shops were cheaper than us. I replied the next time you go please buy some for me. They always said the fruit and veg was not as good as ours. We really had a good mix of customers and always had a laugh.

Next Time- The Customers.

Paul Kenneth

PHOTOGRAPHY

The September competition on "Coast" was won by Jeff (Robin Hoods Bay), 2nd Diane (Jurassic Coast), and 3rd Equals were Walter (Agapanthus Beach) and Derek (Durdle Door).



Next month's title is "**Red**".

Walter Mason

U3A EYE Photography project

<https://u3a.org.uk/learning/u3a-eye>.

The subject changes every fortnight. For each subject, 15 photos are selected for displaying on the website. The most recent subject was Animals. Here are a couple of the selected photos.



The current theme is Shadows – you need to send your photo in by 1pm on Thursday, 8 October. You can only submit one photo and it must have been taken during lockdown and should not include any people.

MAHJONG

I had hoped to have positive news by this time, about re-starting the Mah-jong group, but it seems as though we will be unable to meet up for some time yet!

So my contribution is as follows:

There is a good game called Mahjong,
But for now - to play is called wrong;
We can't get together, lest the virus we tether,
So we sit and just dream the day-long?

For all the keen Mahjong group - please be assured you are not forgotten! I'm sure you have been keeping yourselves cognitively alert, as I have tried to do. If not, why not? If you would like to meet up to hold short 'Zoom' sessions within the Mahjong group members, (although obviously we can't play the game that way,) please contact me by phone and I'll see what I can do."

Thank you

Sue Ardern

If you want to find out about Mah-jong, Hilary Robinson, the U3A Mah-jong Subject Advisor has posted a book online. A U3A Beginners Guide to Mahjong. The content of this book will help U3A members to start to play Mahjong. The book is based on the British Mahjong Association rules. However, if a group of people are playing together, as long as they agree the rules before they begin, and they are enjoying themselves – this should be the deciding factor.

You can find the book here <https://u3asites.org.uk/files/h/hillingdon/docs/mahjongbookrevision.pdf>

QUIZ

Quiz group has been doing online quizzes since the start of lockdown and has recently lost some of its regular members. We definitely miss the social interaction of competing face to face in small teams. However, we want to carry on and would welcome any members who would like to join us in our online quizzes. We have a wide variety of subjects and types of quiz and take it in turns to create the quizzes. Please contact me if you are interested.

A few minutes of nostalgia. Can you identify these advertising slogans from days gone by?

the crumbliest, flakiest chocolate.
 have a break, have a
 full of eastern promise.
 bridge that gap with
 they grow on you.
 nuts, whole hazelnuts

do you love anyone enough to give
 them your last one?
 a hazelnut in every bite?
 the sweet you can eat between meals
 without spoiling your appetite.
 melts in your mouth not in your hand.

Diane Saxon

GARDENING

The gardening group has continued to circulate flower and gardening photos from each other's gardens. Further afield, Abbeywood near Delamere (concession £5) is still very colourful, while Parsonage Garden/Fletcher Moss Garden (free) makes a pleasant change (£2 to park for 3 hours at the Didsbury Pub - refunded if you have a drink!).



Walter Mason

TODAY'S RECIPE

Val cooked this recently and sent the photos. It looks very professional. I love souffles but hardly ever cook them – they can be a bit hit and miss for me (Ed)!

Ingredients

300 ml (½ pint) milk
½ small onion, studded with 1 clove
1 bay leaf
40 g (1½oz) butter, plus extra to grease
40 g (1½oz) flour
150 g good Cheddar cheese, grated
1 level tbs wholegrain mustard
A little freshly grated nutmeg
3 medium eggs, separated
200 ml (7fl oz) double cream
Flat-leafed parsley, to garnish

Directions

Put the milk in a pan with the onion and bay leaf. Bring slowly to the boil, then remove from the heat and leave to infuse for 30min. Remove the onion and bay leaf. Preheat the oven to 200°C (180°C fan oven) mark 6.

In another pan, melt the butter, add the flour and cook, stirring, for 1min. Remove from the heat, then gradually add the milk, stirring. Return to the heat and stir constantly until thickened and just beginning to boil. Remove from the heat, add 125g (4oz) of the cheese and the wholegrain mustard. Season well and add a good pinch of nutmeg. Beat in the egg yolks.

Butter six 150ml (½ int) ramekins. Put the kettle on to boil. Whisk the egg whites until stiff, then fold into the cheese sauce. Spoon mixture into the ramekins and put in a roasting tin. Pour in boiling water to come halfway up the sides of the ramekins. Bake for 15-20min until set and golden. Leave to cool. Run a knife around the edge of each ramekin and turn the soufflés out on to a buttered ovenproof dish.



To serve, turn up the oven to 220°C (200°C fan oven) mark 7. Season the cream, then pour over the soufflés. Sprinkle over remaining cheese. Bake for 15min or until the cream is bubbling and the soufflés have risen. Serve immediately, garnished with parsley.



Val Hadfield

Recipe

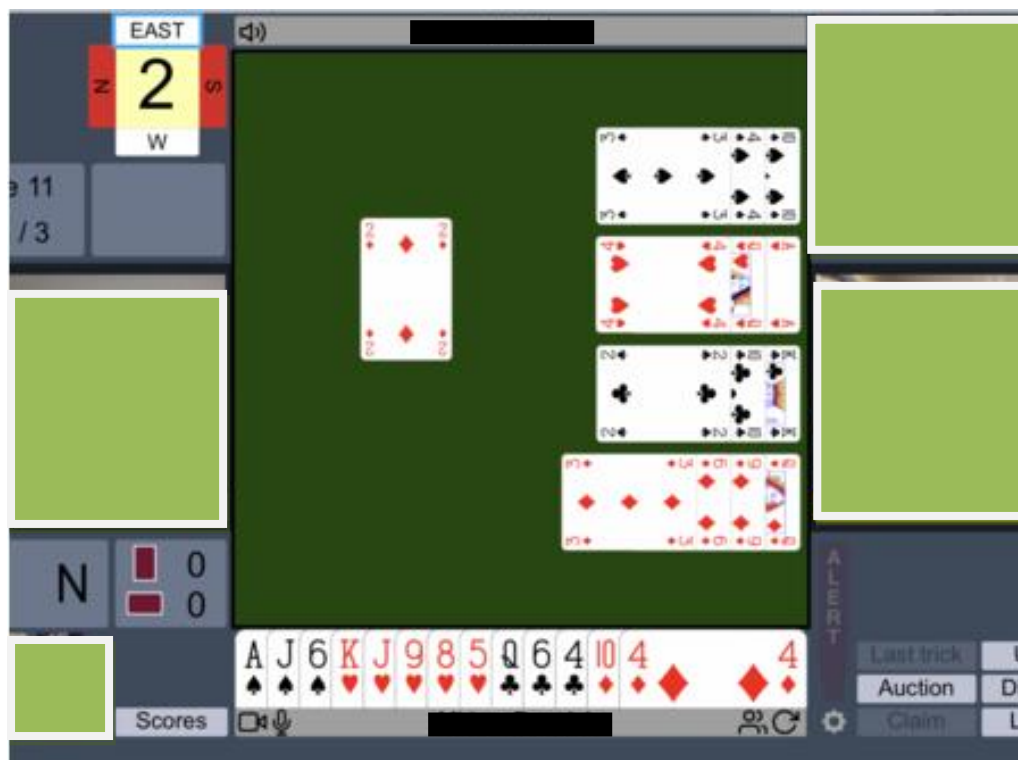
Good housekeeping

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/uk/food/recipes/a537309/twice-baked-cheddar-souffles/>

ONLINE BRIDGE

Our Monday bridge continues and it's not too late to join us. Just let me know if you are interested. Local clubs continue to extend the tournaments they are offering as discussed in the September edition of the newsletter. I recently took part in a trial session using a new bridge playing environment, Realbridge. Realbridge allows players to see each other and speak to each other. The person whose turn it is to bid has a bidding box on their screen and they select the bid they want by clicking on it. The system worked very well and I enjoyed the trial. To make the most of the system, you need to use a device with a camera and microphone. If you already use Skype or Zoom you should be OK. The only problem I found was that I occasionally clicked on the wrong card – on my Samsung 10" tablet the cards are quite close together.

This is very new and there isn't a lot about it as yet. This screenshot shows the playing environment. In the interests of privacy, I have blanked out player names and pictures. The small green box in the bottom left-hand corner is where your picture will appear. The three larger green boxes are where you would see your partner and opponents.



Local clubs are now offering tournaments using Realbridge so you can try it out for yourself if you are interested. See their web pages for details.

This is an exciting development and I will have further information next time.

If you try it out, please let me know.

Diane Saxon

The public don't trust computer algorithms to make decisions about them, survey finds

The majority of people do not trust computers to make decisions about any aspect of their lives, according to a new survey. Over half (53%) of UK adults have no faith in any organisation to use algorithms when making judgements about them, in issues ranging from education to welfare decisions, according to the poll for the British Computer Society (BCS), The Chartered Institute for IT. Over 2,000 people responded to the survey conducted for BCS by YouGov; all were shown a description of algorithms before answering any questions. Dr Bill Mitchell, Director of Policy at BCS said: "People don't trust algorithms to do the right thing by them – but there is little understanding of how deeply they are embedded in our everyday life.

Older people are less trusting about the general use of algorithms in public life, with 63% of over-55s saying they felt negative about this, compared with 42% of 18-24-year-olds. Just 7% of respondents trusted algorithms to be used by the education sector - joint lowest with social services and the armed forces. Confidence in the use of algorithms in education also differed dramatically between the age groups - amongst 18-24-year-olds, 16% trusted their use, while it was only 5% of over 55-year-olds. Attitudes to computerised decisions in the NHS, private health care and local councils differ very strongly by age. 30% of 18-24-year-olds said they trusted the use of algorithms in these sectors, while for those over 55, it was 14%.

The report is at <https://www.bcs.org/more/about-us/press-office/press-releases/the-public-dont-trust-computer-algorithms-to-make-decisions-about-them-survey-finds/>

An algorithm is a set of rules to be followed to solve a problem.

A report from the Centre for Aging Better highlights how COVID-19 has exposed our digital divides.

How has COVID-19 changed the landscape of digital inclusion?

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, a growing trend towards digital technology was already changing the way we do things as a society – with access to services, information and support increasingly going 'digital by default'. The outbreak of coronavirus and the subsequent lockdown has accelerated this shift to digital technology. Our ability to work from home, search for a job, stay connected with family or friends, take part in volunteering, shop for groceries and other essential items, attend healthcare appointments, access financial support and banking services, and keep physically active have all – to varying degrees – been dependent on our ability to get online.

COVID-19 has spurred many more people to get online or to use the internet in new ways compared to before the outbreak. For example, among 50-70 year olds, three quarters (75%) say they were making video calls more often during lockdown and three in ten (31%) said they were emailing more than they did before the pandemic struck. A survey by Lloyds Bank found that three times more 70-year-olds registered for online banking during lockdown compared to the same time last year. At the same time, the pandemic has further exposed and deepened the divide between the digital haves and have nots. Many activities, information and services have moved exclusively online without offering offline alternatives or with offline alternatives being limited or restricted. This has placed those without digital access at even greater risk of missing out than before the outbreak.

<https://www.ageing-better.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-08/landscape-covid-19-digital.pdf>

ONLINE GEMS

22 musicals in 20 minutes from the James Cordon Late Late Show



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a_TvKH-qEJk

Bohemian Rhapsody Lockdown version

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Eo9M4-BrJAART>

Rory and the Robot - Rory McIlroy's golf and banter skills are pitted against a robot in a challenge that sees them hitting balls into washing machines. Filmed at the PGA National Resort and Spa, Florida, the challenge finishes with a bid to hit the ball into a washing machine drum placed 150 yards away and raised 50 feet.



<https://saatchi.co.uk/en-gb/work/roly-vs-the-robot/>

SNIPPETS

Joan Waters sent a joke.

A Haircut or a Car?

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and asked his father when they could discuss the use of the car. The father said that he would make a deal with his son: "You bring your grades up from C to a B average, study your Bible a little harder and get a haircut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he would settle for the offer and they agreed on it.

After about six weeks, his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I have observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed that you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John The Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

To which his father replied: "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

DID YOU KNOW?

Linking back to our September talk, Vince Eager's most famous song was Lonely Blue Boy. The track was originally on a Conway Twitty album in 1959. Vince released it as a single in the UK but it didn't chart. The song was also recorded by many artists with the title 'Danny'. Elvis sang it in King Creole, Cliff Richard included it on his first Album, 'Cliff' (1959). It was also the B side on Marty Wilde's single 'Teenager in Love'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q9HEFW1s3Kw>

On this day, 1 October

1869 – the first postcards were issued (Vienna)

1908 - Henry Ford introduced the Model T. Original price was around \$900 but by 1925 the cost reduced to \$300 due to assembly line production.

1918 - Arab forces under T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) captured Damascus

1949 - People's Republic of China proclaimed by Mao Zedong (1st October is China's National Day)

1969 – Concorde breaks the sound barrier for the first time.

1975 - Muhammad Ali defeated Joe Frazier in the 'Thriller of Manilla'



And 4 October is Silver Sunday – the national day for celebrating older people. The Duchess of Cornwall has urged people to tackle the "blight of loneliness" in older people, which has significantly worsened because of lockdown. The duchess warned that more than a million older people can go for over a month without speaking to a friend, neighbour or family member.

Yesterday, 30 September, was International Translation Day. The most translated novel in the world is a French novella published in 1943; ***Le Petit Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry**, French aristocrat, writer, and aviator. The Little Prince has been translated into 361 languages. It's a lovely story.



A little girl lives in a very grown-up world with her mother, who tries to prepare her for it. Her neighbour, the Aviator, introduces the girl to an extraordinary world where anything is possible; the world of the Little Prince. The story follows the young prince who visits various planets in space, including Earth, and addresses themes of loneliness, friendship, love, and loss. The main theme of *The Little Prince* is the importance of looking beneath the surface to find the real truth and meaning of a thing.

The book has been adapted into radio plays and films—among them animated and musical versions—as well as operas, ballets, and theatre in countries throughout the world.

And to finish off this edition!



What's 12" long and jumps all over Australia?
A kanga ruler!
What do you call a sheep with no legs?
A ball of wool!
What's the stupidest animal in the jungle?
A polar bear!
How do you make an apple puff?
Chase it round the garden!

