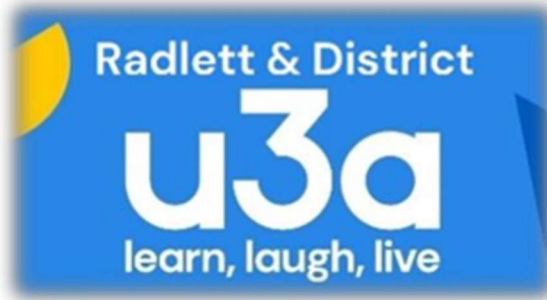
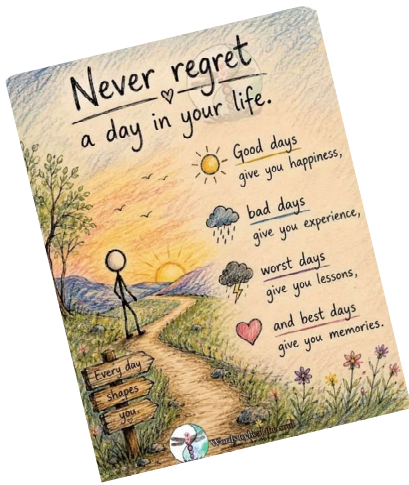




NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2026

Bridge

The Duplicate bridge group will play online three times this month, on 8th, 22nd and 29th. If you would like to play and are not already on my mailing list please let me know. **Gary**

Opera



I have still not had anyone come forward to take over running this group. However, I will try a few online only sessions. So this month, on Friday October 16th at 14:00, I will show Puccini's Tosca in a production from The Metropolitan Opera of New York with Lise Davidsen as Tosca, Freddie De Tommaso as Cavaradossi and Quinn Kelsey as Scarpia.

Tosca is one of the world's most loved operas but one that has not been shown in the Opera group for many years. It is a roller-coaster story of love, lust, murder and political intrigue. With a richly romantic score by Italian composer Puccini. A tragic tale of passion and jealousy, Tosca's storyline follows the tempestuous opera singer Floria Tosca as she fights to save her lover Cavaradossi from the sadistic police chief Scarpia.

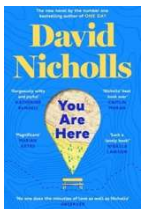
If you would like to see this, please let me know and I will send you the zoom link and other details. **Gary**

Film Group

No film group meeting this month. I hope to have our next meeting on Thursday November 5th so look out for details in the next newsletter or email me if you want to be added to my mailing list. **Gary**

eMail: Gary.Harding@Gmail.Com or Gary.Harding@outlook.com Mobile and WhatsApp: 07949 141214

Evening book club



After last month's mild collective shrug over 500 pages of 19th-century wanderlust ("**The Romantic**" by William Boyd), we decided to bring things into the 21st century with David Nicholls' "**You Are Here**".

The premise? Two lonely, reluctant, middle-aged adults end up on a multi-day Coast-to-Coast trek across the North of England and are forced to navigate torrential Lake District downpours, blistered feet, and the delicate art of small talk.

Marnie and Michael felt intimately familiar. In fact, half the room immediately identified with Marnie's core philosophy: why walk 15 miles in the driving rain when you could stay indoors with a hot drink and a good book?

Nicholls nails the dry, self-deprecating wit that made me laugh out loud (but I think I might have been the only one!). We spent a good fifteen minutes debating whether we would ever agree to a Coast-to-Coast hike. The group consensus was a resounding "Only if someone else carries the luggage and there's a pub every two miles."

After the heavy military campaigns and endless travels of our previous pick, this was universally declared the literary equivalent of a soft wool cardigan and a fresh pot of tea. Gentle, witty, and surprisingly moving without ever feeling overly dramatic.

A brief, spirited side-discussion took place regarding waterproof jackets, proper hiking boots, and whether any of us could manage a compass without satellite navigation. (Spoiler: We'd all be lost in the Pennines by lunchtime.) **Yvonne Brown**

Cooking for one from Chris

Another successful meeting at which we prepared and consumed chicken thighs with figs and honey served with creamed potatoes and tenderstem broccoli; followed by bananas stuffed with Mars Bars baked à la barbecue, served with cream – all washed down with a 2025 Pinot Noir from the Loire by Olivier Dubois.

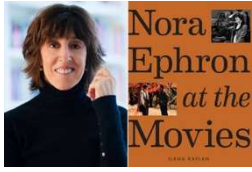
Future meetings for the diaries – all start at **5:00pm** at 3 Broadlands as usual:

- **Tuesday 17th November** – Griddled Bavette steak served with Dauphinoise potatoes and tossed salad; followed by a yet-to-be-determined crumble and custard.
- **Tuesday 12th January 2027** – Sausages with jammy figs and barlotti beans cassoulet served with greens; followed by something seasonal for the New Year (perhaps based on Atholl Brose).

Remarkable women

We started the new term up in the Himalayas, hearing about the amazing achievements of Lhakpa Sherpa (born 1973) a Nepali Sherpa mountaineer. Growing up in a simple mountain village, in 2000 she became the first Nepali woman to climb and descend Everest successfully. Her record-breaking 10th climb to the summit was on May 12th 2022, the most by any woman in the world and she is now in the Guinness Book of Records.

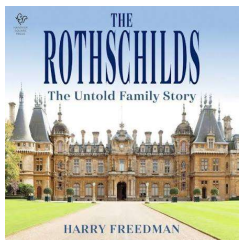
She climbed Mount Everest for the 11th time in May this year aged 52. Our session was illustrated by excerpts from the amazing and also rather moving Netflix documentary 'Mountain Queen, the Summits of Lhakpa Sherpa' recommended viewing for anyone interested.



Next month on **Monday 12th October**, I am happy to welcome back Jonathan Bergwerk who will be giving a presentation on Nora Ephron, American writer, playwright, journalist, and filmmaker, (her screenplays included When Harry Met Sally). Some of you will have heard Jonathan lecture on other topics before and know what an accomplished lecturer he is. This will be at 3.15pm at my home as usual. More details nearer the time. **Carmel Byers**

Quiz Group

Our next quiz group will be on Tuesday 3rd November at 14:00 in the upstairs room at Radlett Library, Aldenham Avenue. If you would like to attend, please email oliver@cahn.co.uk and bring the exact amount of cash being £4 per person. As always, the judges' decision is final!! The meeting scheduled for Tues 6th October has been cancelled as not enough attendees were able to make it, due to the Harrogate holiday.



History lovers

Just a brief note to remind you all that our next meeting will be on Thursday 15th October 2026. This is a week later than our usual monthly date due to some of us being away on the u3a Yorkshire holiday.

I am happy to tell you that we have another great presentation for you with Jonathan Bergwerk talking to us about the History of the Rothschilds family. Usual venue, Vision Hall at 2.30 on 15th October.

Jonathan has given many great presentations to us in the past and this one promises to be equally good.

Please make a note in your diary. Warmest regards. **Stephen and Harvey**

Reading Books is A Novel Idea.

At our September Book Club Meeting we discussed our latest read, White Mulberry by Rosa Quan Easton.

Nine people had read the book, one had started it but gave up. Five of the readers would recommend it.

Positive comments:

- * Lovely, enjoyable story and nicely written.
- * Interesting and thought-provoking historical elements.
- * Well researched.
- * Explored themes of resilience, determination, aspirations, love and identity.
- * Particularly interesting was the story of immigration, wanting to feel a sense of belonging, the search for what is really home, and identity.
- * The dilemma of allowing your child to be cared for by family or by someone who is paid to provide care prompted interesting discussion about whether this is the right thing to do when circumstances require it, and how this has affected us more generally.
- * Some found the identity crisis, questions surrounding the rituals, the change of speech and dress to pass as Japanese particularly fascinating, this then led to a lively discussion as to whether any of us had felt pressured to suppress part of their identity to fit in or stay safe.

Less positive comments:

- * A few found it took a while to get into.
- * Described by some as wishy-washy, predictable, vague, simplistic or repetitive.
- * One felt the story was obvious and not particularly well written.
- * A few found it dull, although an easy read.
- * Some enjoyed the book but would not recommend it.



Other Recommended Books.

His and Hers by Alice Feeney.

City of Widows by Nadia Hashimi.

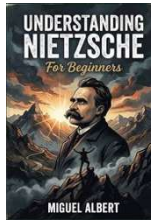
Three days in June by Anne Tyler.

The Lion Women of Tehran by Marjan Kamali.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 1st October 10am to 12 noon. Our chosen book for this month is The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

Philosophy group

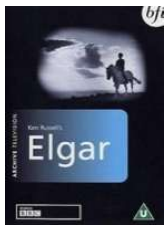
Last month we discussed Schopenhauer (1788-1860), who, in trying to explain why violence and injustice are rife on every side, pointed out that in the animal kingdom, animals live by hunting down and devouring other creatures, so that everyday thousands of animals are being torn to pieces or eaten alive. He thought the human world was the same, namely the elimination of the weak by the strong.



For our October meeting we will look at Nietzsche (1844-1900), who was greatly influenced by Schopenhauer. We will be looking at his ideas on Morality. The morals and values of the Western man derive from religious beliefs that he (Western Man) is ceasing to hold. He therefore needs to re-evaluate his values. According to Nietzsche, our existing morals derive largely from the ancient Greece and the Judaeo-Christian tradition. He argued, however, that in a godless world we cannot base our lives on societies that no longer exist and on religions that many no longer believe in. What enabled mankind to emerge from the animal state and to develop civilisation including everything we mean by culture, was the perpetual elimination of the weak by the strong, the incompetent by the competent, the stupid by the clever. Only because these processes carried on over countless ages did things we most value about human existence come into being. But then along came the so-called moralists such as Socrates and Jesus who said all these were wrong, and that justice should range, not strength; and that the meek, not the enterprising, should inherit the earth. The very processes by which man had been raised above the animal, and civilisation brought into being, were then put into reverse.

So, if we reject these classic values, how can we find a basis for new values that we really believe in to support our values? What do you think, and what would you suggest?

As usual, all are welcome to attend our next Discussion Group meeting at 2.00 PM on Thursday 15th October in the Vision Hall, Christchurch. **Christopher Langdon Radlett u3a Philosophy Discussion Group Leader**



Music appreciation

The Music Appreciation Group meets on 19 October at St. John's Church in Gills Hill Lane at 2pm.

We will be watching Ken Russell's groundbreaking 1962 documentary on the life and work of Sir Edward Elgar. We can have a discussion about England's second-greatest composer, his music, and how he was portrayed in this, the first of Russell's musical biopics. Please bring your membership lanyard and £3 for hall-hire and refreshments. **Edward Cross 07961 102197**

Rusty racquets

We are very sorry to hear of the demise of this group, run admirably by Tony Etherton since 2021. His note

I think the Rusty Rackets tennis group has run its course. For the whole of this year very few people have come along to play. It's been impossible to get anyone to commit, and the hot weather has required several games to be cancelled. We used to have the services of a tennis coach but as they have put up their fees and fewer people have attended, the individual cost has become excessive. So, I'm sorry to announce that the tennis group is closing despite strenuous efforts.

Thank you Tony for all the efforts, very much appreciated by Radlett u3a.



Danny's London Walking Tours

We've been lucky enough to join Danny on a number of his walking tours around different parts of London, and everyone has been fascinating.

Today's walk took us around Mayfair, and, as usual, it was really interesting. Danny is absolutely full of knowledge about London and seems to have a story, fact or fascinating little detail for almost everywhere we go. He has a wonderful way of bringing the history of an area to life and making you look at familiar streets and buildings in a completely

different way.

Mayfair certainly didn't disappoint. We explored the elegant streets and squares, taking in the beautiful architecture, grand buildings and some of the lesser-known corners that are so easy to miss when you're simply walking through the area. Danny, of course, had plenty to tell us about the people, places and events that have helped make Mayfair what it is today.

That's what makes Danny's walks so enjoyable. They're not just about ticking off famous landmarks — it's the stories and little details that make them special. You never quite know what you're going to discover, and there's always something that makes you think, "I never knew that!"



It's such a shame that Danny isn't sure whether he'll be able to carry on with his walking tours. I know I'm certainly not the only person who would be sorry to see them end. His knowledge, enthusiasm and love of London really shine through, and we've been so lucky to have him showing us around.

Hopefully, today's walk around Mayfair won't be one of the last. 🙏

There are still plenty more London streets to explore and plenty more

stories for Danny to tell. Here's to many more walks with Danny! 📷❤️ **Jacquie**



Hints and old wives tales

I am very disappointed that after being told what a good idea this was to put in the newsletter each month, nobody has sent me anything! So, I am going to give you a good hint that has worked for me, without fail, for the past 25+ years

A very seasonal hint. Conker time! Please gather conkers when you walk through the park, or ask your grandchildren to do so for you.

I have been putting conkers on my window sills for as long as I can remember, and have never seen a spider in my flat, except for the large one which took the liberty of marching in when I opened the front door to the postman a couple of weeks ago! **June**

What the Papers say

After missing a meeting last month, our next meeting is on the 19th October, in the room above the library at 10.30 am.

Jacque and I look forward to seeing you there. No need to phone us, just turn up and we will be pleased to welcome you.

No charge again this month, but tea, coffee and biscuits will still be served. If you have any subjects to put forward for discussion, please let us know on junemarks@btinternet.com

Chair Yoga

Our Chair Yoga is going well and our little group really enjoy the session every Friday morning at 11 am in the room above the library. Entry for this meeting is through the library, turn right and up the stairs. We enjoy the opportunity to give all our muscles and joints a good stretch and the relaxation at the end of the meeting is just wonderful. I personally find it difficult to stand up, because I feel so relaxed.

Do come and join us. Entry fee is £8 to cover our excellent teachers fee and the price of the room. **June**

Radlett & District u3a Science & Technology Group

Our next Radlett & District u3a Science & Technology group meeting is on **Tuesday 26th October at 11.00am** at The Red Lion Pub/Restaurant in Radlett WD7 7NP.

At our meeting Chris Simmons, from Dacorum u3a, will present on **Climate Change - a Geological Perspective.**

Earth's climate has always changed, but the *rate* and *cause* of modern warming are fundamentally different from natural geological cycles. There is no entrance fee for the meeting. We look forward to an interesting and enjoyable meeting.

email: stephenkirsh@yahoo.com tel: 07815 061577

Rummikub group is on Wednesday mornings starting at 10.30 am at the Red Lion pub in Radlett. The first date we play in October will be Wednesday 14th and then after that it will be the 28th. We play every other Wednesday and welcome anyone else who would like to join us. Please email me at karis532003@yahoo.com or phone me on [07917 773111](tel:07917773111). **Karen**

PLEASE NOTE:

It is important when booking an outing to please first check availability with the events organizer and have your name added to their list. This represents a firm commitment to attend this outing and you are expected to pay within a few days.

DO NOT MAKE OUR HARD WORKING COMMITTEE HAVE TO CHASE YOU FOR PAYMENT.

You will not have a confirmed place on our lists until your payment has been received.

We do not automatically offer refunds for any cancellations by our members but if you check with the Event organizer to see if we have a waiting list then we may be able to sell your ticket to someone on that list and we will refund you after receiving the new payment.

If we do not have a waiting list then it is up to you to resell your tickets to another u3a member.

When paying for outings and events please only pay by payment card (via the website) or by cheque. No cash please.

We cannot accept payments direct to the Radlett & District u3a bank account.

If you need assistance paying by credit card, to avoid long queues at the monthly meeting, please call Anthea on 01923 85 2274.

If you are paying for two members by credit card please show both names on the payments form.

PLEASE NOTE:

When we organise any of our outings by coach, we try to allow sufficient time for you to have a snack or a meal, and whenever possible, we will give advice on where to eat in the locality and recommend you to book in advance. Our committee are now getting many requests to book meals for our members. This is not part of their responsibilities, and I cannot ask them to take on extra work. We are not in charge of what you want to do so please make your own arrangements.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ARE SOLD OUT BUT PLEASE ADD YOUR NAMES TO THE WAITING LISTS BY CONTACTING THE COMMITTEE MEMBER AS SHOWN BELOW:

THE STANDARD OF LIVING: Thursday 15th October Contact: Joan Altman joanaltmanu3a@outlook.com 01923 404920

SING-ALONG-A-GARETH: Saturday 21st November

Contact: Vivien Summers events@radlett3a.org.uk 01923 856728

WISLEY GLOW: Tuesday 24th November

Contact: Helen Bocarro helenbocarro@yahoo.co.uk 01923 858155

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ALL HAVE AVAILABILITY:

THE FESTIVE SEASON WILL SOON BE HERE

JOIN US FOR OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT

THE BLUE CHECK RESTAURANT 144 HIGH STREET. BUSHEY WD23 3DH

TUESDAY DECEMBER 1ST 2026 12.15pm for 12.30pm £34

Contact: Vivien Summers events@radlett3a.org.uk 01923 856728



NEW YEAR'S DAY PROM AT THE BARBICAN CENTRE

FRIDAY JANUARY 1ST 2027 LEAVE RADLETT 11am £58.50

Begin the new year in unforgettable style with the New Year's Day Proms - a rousing celebration of classical favourites, uplifting anthems, and beloved operatic gems.

Contact: Joan Altman joanaltmanu3a@outlook.com 01923 404920

NEW NEW NEW



TOUR OF DRAPERS' LIVERY COMPANY

DRAPERS' HALL, THROGMORTON AVE, LONDON EC2N 2DQ

Fire of London and rebuilt to designs by Edward Jarman. Following another fire in 1772, it was rebuilt again **MONDAY 9th NOVEMBER**

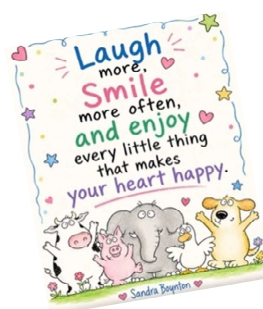
NO COACH - MEET THERE AT 10.30am FOR COFFEE

TOUR STARTS AT 11am £7

Located in the heart of the City of London, Drapers' Hall provides a majestic setting for our private tour. Once part of the Augustinian Priory, the original mansion was sold to the Guild of Drapers by Henry VIII in 1543. It had been the home of Thomas Cromwell but was forfeited to the King on his execution in 1540.

In 1666, the building was destroyed in the Great Fire of London. Further extensive exterior and interior alterations were made during the 19th century.

Contact: Helen Bocarro helenbocarro@yahoo.co.uk 01923 858155





BARBICAN HALL CONCERT
London Symphony Orchestra/Sir Antonio Pappano
Elgar and Tchaikovsky with Alisa Weilerstein

Two of classical music's most heart-rending works, Elgar's Cello Concerto and Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony, take us from the depths of emotion to intoxicating highs.

ON THURSDAY 18TH FEBRUARY 2027 £47
LEAVE RADLETT 3.30pm

Contact: Sandra Clark sandrau3a@hotmail.com 07770 467381

SAVE THE DATE

SINGING IN THE RAIN Wednesday 24th March

MUSICAL TOUR OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY WITH THE PURCELL SINGERS Saturday 17th April



The trip to the open air theatre was absolutely fantastic, the weather was on our side, the coach did not take long to get there or back, enjoyed a relaxing cuppa and cake in the cafe, had a nice stroll round the park, the seats were comfortable and in a very good position to the stage, the choreography was brilliant, the entire performance was stunning, I counted a total of 24 different cats on stage. Thank you to Vivien for organising such a lovely day out. **Bob Bassey**

We just wanted to say how much we enjoyed the show Cats at the Regents Park theatre on 3rd September. We boarded the modern and comfortable coach in Radlett at 11am and off we went to London. When we arrived most of us went to the lovely park cafe and had a light lunch, sitting outside in the sunshine. As we were so early (the show didn't start until 2pm) we walked around the park for a little while and then sat on a bench in the beautiful surroundings. We were lucky with the weather which was warm but not too hot, our theatre seats were very comfortable and we had a great view of the stage. The show was amazing, with a large cast of fantastic dancers and singers, and we all enjoyed it very much. Then we were picked up by our coach right outside the park and delivered back to Radlett in good time. We want to thank Vivien and Stephen very much for efficiently organising all of us - no mean feat! - and for arranging the outing so smoothly. A terrific day out! **Terri & Brian**

The Purcell School welcomes the Radlett u3a group for another fantastic festive concert, featuring our wonderful students. Tickets are a donation of £25.00 and we will be serving freshly made vegetarian sandwiches, pastries, mince pies and teas & coffees. Thursday 3rd December 1.30 – 3. **PLEASE CONTACT CAROLE CONSTAD** Carole Constad coggie07@yahoo.co.uk

DINGBATS

GROUND LONDON	ROAD	often not often	PEEP
01	02	03	04
CONTRO	I E E	xmascara	WHEEL WHEEL WHEEL WHEEL DRIVE
05	06	07	08
DKI	BLONDE	iⁿtoxi^cat^ed	SOS.
09	10	11	12

The Radlett & District u3a October 2026 meeting will be held at the Bushey Metropolitan Sports Venue on Tuesday 13th October at 10:00 when the subject will be

"THE STORY OF MR SELFIDGE – SELFRIDGES ITSELF AND OTHER WELL KNOWN BYGONE STORES" BY DAVID GOTTLER



to have them back. But, unbeknown to me, Sam told me with a downturned mouth, three ants had died. How on earth did I miss that? Apparently, the Queen harvester ant can live for 10 - 15 years, whilst her workers live 1 - 3 years and are replaced by new generations. I wonder if I'll be entrusted to look after them next year?!

A Bridge Story from Marilyn

During the 1990s, when I was first learning to play Bridge, Peter and I went on a cruise where a Bridge tournament was being held on board. I had only had a couple of lessons, so I really didn't know how to play. I thought I would go along, watch the tournament and perhaps learn something. I approached the director and asked if anyone would mind me sitting in and shadowing them.

Before I had finished asking, a gentleman from Texas, wearing a **huge cowboy hat**, stepped forward and immediately asked me to be his partner! I explained that I couldn't possibly play. I had only had a couple of lessons and really didn't know what I was doing. In a wonderfully booming Texan voice, he declared that **I had to play — otherwise I would never learn!**

I explained again that I really didn't know enough to play. But he was having none of it. His voice echoed around the room as he repeated, "You've got to play, or you'll never learn!"

By now, everyone in the room was looking at us. If the floor could have opened up and swallowed me, I would have been more than happy!

I couldn't defend my position any further without drawing even more attention to myself, so I allowed my new partner to lead me to a table and sat down.

The first hand was dealt. He bid a suit, followed by one of the opponents. Then it was my turn.

I hadn't the faintest idea what to bid, but my new friend confidently encouraged me to bid my best suit.

He then made his next bid and promptly jumped to game in a suit that **hadn't even been bid!**

And, of course, he made the contract.

After a couple more hands, I began to realise that it really didn't matter very much what I bid. My new partner simply took control of the auction and somehow made everything work. I could have been bidding **one Mickey Mouse or two Donald Ducks**, and it probably wouldn't have made the slightest difference!

At the end of the morning, I thanked him very much and went on my way. I can't honestly say that I learned much about Bridge that day — I was still far too bewildered to understand what was going on!

The Surprise

The following day, there was a welcome from the Captain in the ship's main theatre. During his speech, he announced the results of the previous day's Bridge tournament and said he was delighted to announce the winners.

Then he called out **my name — along with my new Texan partner's!**

We were asked to come up onto the stage to collect our winners' cups. The Captain then turned to me and asked, "How long have you been playing Bridge?"

Thankfully, I managed to think quickly and replied:

"Not as long as my partner here!"

I could hardly tell him that I'd only had two lessons and hadn't really known what I was doing!

Later that day, my new Texan friend invited Peter and me to dinner with him and his wife. Naturally, the conversation soon turned to the tournament.

I finally had to ask him the question that had been puzzling me all day:

"How on earth did we win when I clearly didn't have a clue what I was doing?"

He modestly explained that he was the **Captain of the Dallas Aces Bridge Club in Dallas, Texas**. He told us that, by listening carefully to the opponents' bidding and knowing his own hand, he could work out what was happening. It really didn't matter too much what I bid — he was able to take control and play the hand accordingly.

The next day, I looked up the Dallas Aces and discovered just how extraordinary my new partner really was. They were a legendary powerhouse in the Bridge world, having won major tournaments across North America.

So there I was — a complete beginner who had barely learned the basics — sitting at a Bridge table with one of the finest players in the world!

A Wonderful Introduction to Bridge

What an honour it was to have played with the Captain of the Dallas Aces. More importantly, he was such a kind and encouraging gentleman. Rather than making me feel foolish for being a beginner, he insisted that I play because **the only way to learn was to have a go**.

That experience stayed with me and encouraged me to continue learning Bridge.

Bridge really is a wonderful game. It isn't simply a matter of luck — it makes you think, listen, remember and use your brain. And although it can look complicated when you first see experienced players bidding and playing, **it really isn't as difficult as many people imagine**.

You don't have to become a tournament player to enjoy it. Anyone can learn to play Bridge socially, at almost any age, and there is always something new to discover.

And sometimes, if you are very lucky, you might even find yourself sitting opposite a Texan in a huge cowboy hat who tells you:

"You've got to play — otherwise you'll never learn!"

Bits and pieces from Alison



TV CRITICS TERRI AND BRIAN (*I love their revues and they make up lots of my TV viewing – Adrienne*)



The second series of **LUDWIG** on BBC1 has not disappointed after the great first series. David Mitchell plays puzzle solver “Ludwig” (who is actually called John Taylor), whose identical twin brother James, a police detective, has gone missing. In the first series he was roped in to try and find what happened to his brother by the brilliant Anna Maxwell Martin, who plays Lucy, James’ wife, and she persuaded him to impersonate his brother at the police station in order to find out any clues. He then got caught up in several murder enquiries, and being a puzzle-solver he solved the mysteries and found the killers. In this series the police know who he really is, but they employ him anyway to solve other cases as an advisor, allowing him to look into his brother’s disappearance at the same time. It’s clever and fun, and David is in his element as a quirky, odd and socially awkward man!

We watched **LION** on National Geographic, and it is a fascinating series showing the journey of a cute and funny tiny lion cub called Kio to 4 year-old adult over 4 years in Kenya’s Maasai Mara National Reserve. It’s a sweeping saga of family, hope and courage and follows Kio from a vulnerable cub into a powerful leader. Along the way he faces loss, exile and fierce rivals in a fight to survive. The photography, and particularly the many closeups of the lions, is stunning, and it combines cinematic storytelling with groundbreaking national history filmmaking. Lions are such beautiful animals, and they have a loving and supportive family dynamic. Kio becomes a King and his journey is a stunning and interesting watch.



BURIED WITH MICHAEL SHEEN on BBC2 is a -part investigative documentary presented by Michael that explores an environmental scandal involving toxic chemical dumping in Wales and North-West England. He teams up with environmental journalists to look into claims of chemical pollution in his homeland of Wales. It’s absolutely terrible how much chemical waste has been dumped, both on the land and in rivers, and nothing seems to have been done about it. He examines how the longterm effects of all this has affected so many people, with cancers and illnesses that were unexplained until this investigation was started -

originally by an environment campaigner called Douglas Gowan, who spent decades looking into it all and trying to raise awareness. Michael stumbled across Douglas online and was intrigued enough to interview him before he died. Hopefully there will now be some sort of official investigation.

THE MARLOW MURDER CLUB is in 6 episodes covering three two-part mysteries on BBC2. It stars Samantha Bond as Judith Potts, a retired archaeologist and crossword setter living in Marlow, who decides to investigate a murder that has taken place in this sleepy town, (he was her neighbour), after the police don’t seem to be looking into it seriously. She is joined by the local vicar’s wife, Becks, and a dog walker called Suzie, as they try to solve this, and subsequently two further murders. It’s what is called a “cosy” murder series and we found it quite enjoyable.



INSIDE THE PRESIDENT’S WAR ROOM is a documentary on BBC narrated by Jeff Daniels that chronicles the twelve hours following the September 11 attacks from inside the US Presidency. It’s fascinating to watch direct testimony from President George W. Bush, vice President Dick Cheney and senior staff as it changed them, America and the world. The President was at a school in Florida when he heard of the terrible attacks on the twin towers and the Pentagon and was desperate to go back to Washington. However, his advisors were afraid there may be other attacks

and possibly one towards him ,so they persuaded him to board Air Force One, together with about 65 advisors, security agents and staff members, to an underground bunker at an Air Force base in Bellevue, near Nebraska. He was eventually flown to Washington where he made a heartfelt speech to the US nation. A very good insight into the immediate events post 9/11 and a great documentary.

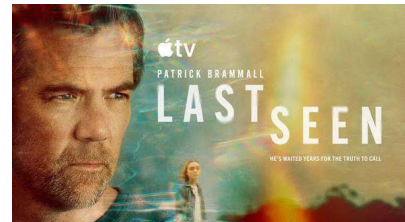
A Canadian series in 6 episodes is called **LITTLE BIRD** and it's on Sky Atlantic. It's based on the true story of an estimated 20,000 indigenous children who were forcibly removed from their families and adopted by non-indigenous families in the 1950s to 1980s. This drama focuses on Esther Rosenberg, who was adopted aged 5 in Montreal by a Jewish family. At her engagement party in 1985 she overhears her fiancé's mother describing her as "exotic" and realising how she doesn't fit in she suddenly leaves and flees to Saskatchewan clutching a newspaper clipping showing an ad to place First Nations children for adoption. She discovers her real name is Bezbig Little Bird and manages to find the family that she hardly remembers. In flashbacks in 1958 we see how her twin brother had thrown a rock at a passing police car and so officers go to their home where they see that the family are living with no electricity and clean water and that they all sleep in one room, (although they are actually a happy and well-loved family). The officers decide to apprehend three of the four children and forcibly take them away from their distraught mother to the welfare agency for adoption. The series shows how the whole extended family was fractured and isolated, how Esther had to come to terms with it all and how terrible this practice was. It is beautifully and movingly acted by all. Very good. (*Fantastic and very moving* Adrienne)



The third and final terrific series of **COLIN FROM ACCOUNTS**, opens three years later after Gordon, who is a beer brewer and bar owner and who is played by Patrick Brammall, had drunkenly proposed to Ashley, a student doctor, played by Harriet Dyer, and he was embarrassingly shot down by her when she refused him. They are now both in new relationships and the reasons why they didn't work out together before are still there, but so are the reasons they often did! Their shared little dog, Colin, is adorable, and we were hoping the couple would get together again in the end - it's a real will they/won't they scenario. You'll just have to watch all of the six amusing and well-acted episodes to find out what happens....! The actors are actually married in real life and co-writers of the series.



A six-part Australian series on Apple called **LAST SEEN** also stars Patrick Brammall, who starred in Colin from Accounts. It's a six-part thriller based on the novel The Dispatcher. He plays Ian, an Aussie police dispatcher who used to be a detective until his daughter Maggie went missing 11 years before, triggering him into a booze hell. He gets a mysterious phone call that makes him think Maggie is still alive and he won't stop until he finds her. Maxine Peake also stars and is a great character. It has many twists throughout and we thought it was quite good although a bit far-fetched.



HIT POINT is a six part series on U&Dave starring Nick Blood as Leo and Saffron Hocking as Bella, two 30 something detectives who investigate a masked robbery leading into West London's criminal underworld. On the hunt for answers the lines between their personal and professional lines blur with every twist and betrayal, and nothing is what it seems. They are both interesting characters and have a terrific chemistry between them, and Saffron, who we haven't seen before, is a beautiful and charismatic actress. We thought the acting was natural and good, and the series was very well done with a satisfactory ending.



Then lastly, we have started watching **THE BLAME** on ITV which stars Michelle Keegan and Douglas Booth as Emma and Tom, two DI's. It starts with the murder of a pretty skater, and the detectives find evidence of serious misconduct within their police station which seems to uncover a web of lies, cover-ups and moral compromise. We thought it was quite good, but we've only watched 2 episodes so far so we will see.....

Happy watching. Terri & Brian



Sinatra the Musical

A lovely day out was held going to see Sinatra the Musical in the Aldwych. Without doubt the easiest way to travel, coach door to door, plenty of restaurants if required, good seats, good company – all thanks to our ever-busy Events committee. Frank Sinatra cannot be copied in my view, but a good try was made and the music, as always well-known and delightful. As always a big thank you to the organisers.



We had a lovely get together for our holiday group last Sunday and are looking forward to a great time together in Harrogate next week.

Thank you to Jacquie and Tony for the use of your home and to Cathy for all the advance organisation



From a survey at Head office u3a – hope this applies to some or all of you - our members – any comments or views ??

95% say u3a has improved their life in some way

90% say u3a gives them opportunities to keep learning and stay curious

79% say u3a has expanded their social connections

77% say their sense of wellbeing has improved since joining

66% say u3a has helped them stay mentally and physically active

45% say being part of u3a has reduced feelings of loneliness or isolation

Dingbat answers

1. London Underground
2. No Through Road
3. More Often Than Not
4. Look Both Ways
5. In Complete Control
6. I Hate You
7. Kiss & Makeup
8. 4 Wheel Drive
9. Mixed Up Kid
10. Fair & Square
11. Drunk & Disorderly
12. Emergency Stop

