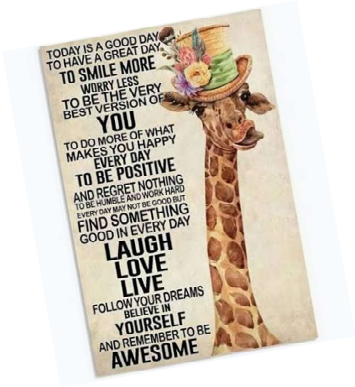


Radlett & District u3a
learn, laugh, live



NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2026

Remarkable Women

Jonathan Bergwerk was the guest at our meeting in October and gave a most informative and entertaining presentation on the life of the American writer, playwright, journalist, and filmmaker Nora Ephron. Jonathan illustrated his talk with wonderful clips from her films, including among several others, THAT scene from 'When Harry Met Sally.'



For our November meeting, we are welcoming Aida Hougie, who will be presenting Madame de Pompadour, a member of the French court, and the official chief mistress of King Louis XV from 1745 to 1751, who remained influential as court favourite until her death. Apart from being a very beautiful woman, (as you will see from the slides illustrating Aida's talk), she was a well-educated woman, a valued aide and advisor to the king, and a major patron of architecture and decorative arts, especially porcelain.
This will be on Monday November 9th at 3.15 pm at my home as usual. More details nearer the time.
Carmel Byers

Film & TV group



I have managed to get the room at the Red Lion for our film group on a Thursday morning for the next few months. So this month starting at 10:00 am on Thursday 5th November I will be showing the 1964 film Zorba the Greek, at the request of one of our members. It stars Anthony Quinn, Alan Bates and Irene Papas. It won three Oscars for Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Lila Kedrova), Best Cinematography, Black-and-White (Walter Lassally) and Best Art Direction-Set Decoration, Black-and-White (Vasilis Fotopoulos). Anthony Quinn was also nominated for Best Actor. It tells the story of an aimless English writer who finds he has a small inheritance on a Greek island. His joyless existence is disturbed when he meets Zorba, a middle-aged Greek with a real lust for life. As he discovers the earthy pleasures of Greece, the Englishman finds his view on life changing. It features Anthony Quinn in a career-defining performance that profoundly explores life and the human condition, complemented by Oscar-winning black-and-white cinematography capturing Crete's stunning landscapes. Quinn's iconic portrayal and philosophical depth remain universally celebrated. As an introductory offer for the new season tea, coffee and biscuits are included and there will be NO CHARGE. However, if you plan to attend please let me know so I can ensure there are enough seats, cups, etc. Maybe it will also be a reminder of our hot summer rather than what looks like it will be a cold, wet, winter! **Gary**

The Canasta group continues to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at The Red Lion, 14:00-16:00. New members welcome. Either put your name on Bette's list at the monthly meeting or contact Sylvia on 01923 852817 or Gill on 0737 594 7822.



Opera Group. For the month on Friday 20th November at 2pm I will be showing online Wagner's Der Fliegende Holländer (The Flying Dutchman) from the Metropolitan Opera in New York. It star Evgeny Nikitin, Sergey Skorokhodov, Anja Kampe and Franz-Josef Selig. It is conducted by Valery Gergiev and tells the story of a ghostly sea captain — the Dutchman — who is doomed to sail the oceans forever because of a blasphemous oath. He can only step onto land once every seven years. The curse will end only if he finds a woman who remains faithful to him until death. If you want details of the showing please let me know. **Gary**

Online Duplicate Bridge group We will play twice this month at 9:45 on the 12th and 26th November. If you are not on my mailing list and would like to play please let me know. **Gary** Gary.Harding@Gmail.Com or Gary.Harding@outlook.com Mobile & WhatsApp: 07949 141214.

The Art Group will be starting on Monday 2nd November at 10.30 to 12.30 at the home of the instructor in Radlett at a cost of £15. The lady taking this group is a qualified teacher and will supply all the paper & paints etc. Deb Cohen is a qualified teacher and will supply all the paper & paints etc. Address is 40 Goodyers Avenue, Radlett WD7 8BA

4 to 5 Mile Walking Group

The group meets monthly on the second Monday of each month. In October, a group of nine met at Ridge to walk the Ridge NW loop, a distance of some 8 Kms. The walk started at St Margarets church and crossed a field that had been ploughed obliterating the way, but the ordnance survey app put us on the right route. We soon came across way marks and the route was then fairly easy to follow. The route crossed Rectory Lane at the site of Pinks hotel, now housing. The path then climbed gently giving long views to the north. The path then descended towards Watford football club training ground where we turned west towards Shenleybury passing Arsenal's training ground. Just before Clore Shalom school we turned in a SE direction back to Ridge. Lots of horses on the return with one of our lady walkers removing a branch which was stuck to a horse. Arrived at Ridge just over two hours from the start where we departed for a well-deserved lunch. The next walk is on the 9th November, hopefully led by Edward Cross. Warmest regards. **Allan**



Rusty Rackets tennis group The tennis group founded by Jerry Packman and continued by myself for many years has sadly had to close. Unable to hold off the ravages of dodgy knees and backs, the group has had to face up to reality and lay down its rackets. However, the very kind offer from Elstree Lawn Tennis Club to use its facilities is still there and if anyone would like to take up the challenge, please contact me. **Tony Etherton (**tonyetherton1@gmail.com

Bus pass group
This is closed for the winter due to the weather, but will be back next year, when the weather is on our side. **Bob**

Nancy's short walk
The next walk will be on Tuesday November 17th at 10am . Meeting point is the car park at Shenley Tea Rooms. Postcode is WD7 9DW. If you would like to join the group, please use the sign-up sheet at the next monthly meeting. **Bob Bassey**

Snooker group continues to meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday at Radlett Members Club. New Members are welcome. **Bernard**

Pickleball
The days are getting colder so the Pickleball group is going back inside. From November 6th courts are booked at Bushey Grove Sports Centre 2-3 pm every Friday.Cost £4 person. All equipment is provided.
Come along if you would like to give pickleball a try, it is a fun game. Contact **Jennyhawkins125@outlook.com** for more details.

Hi History lovers,
We had another great meeting of our History Group on October 15th where we had 75 members attend to hear Jonathan Bergwerk give a brilliant presentation on The Rothschild family. He is such a good speaker that we have booked him again to speak to us next year on Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the Atom Bomb, the date is to be confirmed but we will give you all plenty of notice on this talk.



Our next meeting will be at 2.30pm on Thursday 12th November 2026 at our usual venue, Vision Hall, Christ Church, Watling Street, Radlett. Many of you were present at a meeting we had earlier this year when we had Michael Kushner from Bletchley Park give a fascinating talk on the early life of Winston Churchill. By popular demand we have asked Michael to give Part 2 of his presentation of Churchill's life about his time as war time Prime Minister and his life after the war. This promises to be another must see presentation. Please enter this in your diaries. Refreshments afterwards as per usual

There will be no charge again for this meeting and would ask all those wonderful helpers to come again to support us to prepare the hall as well as pack up again and to assist Elaine in the refreshments afterwards. We are now planning for next year's programme and if anyone would like to give a presentation, either for a full meeting (about 45 minutes) or even a short 15 minute talk please contact me. I am trying to arrange a meeting where we have 2 or 3 members give a short mini presentation, so if anyone feels they would like to take part we would give every assistance in the planning.

Finally ,can I ask those who are not getting my History Group emails to contact me as the contact information given to me is sometimes incorrect. Stephen and Harvey. Stephen's email address is **eandsforman@gmail.com** Mobile number is **07775 504031**



Philosophy Group

At our last meeting we discussed Nietzsche and his nihilistic approach to life. Basically, he thought there was no point in living according to rules or beliefs. We will now move onto more optimistic and useful philosophical ideas.

For the November meeting we will look at some eastern philosophies, such as Buddhism, Confucianism and Taoism. Is has been said that if you want to understand a country, look at its philosophy and customs, and that is what we will do.

I have heard that some u3a members would like to attend but are concerned that they must have prior knowledge or think they will find it difficult to understand what we are discussing. This could not be further from the truth. No prior knowledge is required; all we ask is an open mind and a desire to discuss and explore ideas with like-minded people. Questions are welcome; that's how you learn.

Why not try a meeting and see what it is like to discuss topics such as "What is the meaning of Life? Why are were here? What should we do with our lives? What is justice?" and other questions. You would be most welcome, and our next meeting is at **2.00 PM on Thursday 19th November in the Vision Hall, Christchurch.**

Christopher Langdon. Radlett U3A Philosophy Discussion Group Leader

Reading Books is a Novel Idea

At our October meeting we reviewed our latest book The Personal Librarian by Victoria Christopher Murray and Marie Benedict. Of the eight members who had read and finished the book, six would definitely recommend it, while two would not. One member was approximately a third of the way through the book, and one had not yet started.

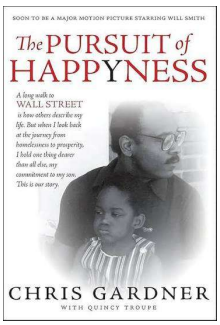
One of the main topics of discussion was the concept of "passing" — something many of us had not previously understood in this context. We discussed why someone who was Black would choose to live as a white person and the personal and emotional consequences of doing so.

We looked at photographs of Belle da Costa Greene , which made the story particularly tangible. We discussed Belle's appearance, her clothing and the way she presented herself, and felt that it must have been incredibly difficult to maintain her secret while living so publicly. She was, in effect, living in open sight, surrounded by people who knew her as a white woman, while carefully concealing her true background.

Some members found the book difficult to get into initially, although once they became absorbed in the story they enjoyed it considerably more. Those who particularly enjoy true stories and historical fiction appreciated the subject matter.

A few members also felt that the book was too long and slightly tedious in places. We enjoyed learning about J. P. Morgan, his library and his extraordinary collection of books and works of art. The fact that he had owned Wall Hall, locally to where we live, was especially interesting.

The book provided an interesting insight into race, identity and social attitudes of the period. We discussed the Civil Rights Act of 1875, which was subsequently declared unconstitutional in 1883, and considered how the changing political and social climate influenced the choices available to Belle and her family.



The story gave us plenty to discuss and introduced many of us to a fascinating piece of history.

Other recommended Books.

The Diamond Eye by Kate Quinn. The Briar Club by Kate Quinn. Judgment by Joseph Finder.

The Calamity Club by Kathryn Stockett. The First Ladies by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

The Family Remains by Lisa Jewell. A Guardian and a Thief by Megha Majumdar.

London Falling by Patrick Radden Keefe. . City of Widows by Nadia Hashimi. The Last Hours by Minette Walters.

Our next book is The pursuit of Happyness by Chris Gardner

Music appreciation group

The group next meets on Monday 16 November 2.30 pm at St. Joh's Church in Gills Hill Lane. All u3a members are welcome; no need to book in advance. **Edward Cross & Tony Clayden** will be looking at ***Great Composers who Died Young.***

Did they project a characteristic or unique sound world? What might they have achieved in a full span of life?

We will be hearing from some very well-known composers, plus some you probably have not heard of yet. There will be lovely music. Please bring £3 for refreshments and hall-hire (coins preferred!) and your u3a membership lanyard.

Edward Cross Edx2017@outlook.com

I find the best way to decorate for Halloween is to stop dusting in July... Alison

Longer walks

Our next walk in November will take us from Crystal Palace on the capital ring, past the dinosaurs to Mottingham
We have one more section to reach the Thames and then not far to the finish line!! **Fiona**

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 852274.
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:

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

Contact: Vivien Summers events@radlettu3a.org.uk 01923 856728

BLUE CHECK LUNCH Tuesday 1st December

Contact: Vivien Summers events@radlettu3a.org.uk 01923 856728

WISLEY GLOW: Tuesday 24th November

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

THE FOLLOWING EVENTS ALL HAVE AVAILABILITY:



TOUR OF DRAPERS' LIVERY COMPANY
DRAPERS' HALL, THROGMORTON AVE, LONDON EC2N 2DQ

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 and rebuilt to designs by Edward Jarman. Following another fire in 1772, it was rebuilt again by John Gorham. Further extensive exterior and interior alterations were made during the 19th century.

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



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



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 u3asandra@gmail.com 07770 467381

NEW NEW NEW



SINGING IN THE RAIN. AT ALDWYCH THEATRE
LONDON
WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2027 £76
LEAVE RADLETT 11.15am

Contact: Joan Altman joanaltmanu3a@outlook.com 01923 404920

SAVE THE DATE

NEW TRENT PARK HOUSE OF SECRETS Waiting confirmation for February 2027

SPECIAL EVENING MUSICAL TOUR OF WESTMINSTER ABBEY WITH THE PURCELL ABBEY SINGERS Saturday 17th April 2027
PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE ON SALE IN THE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

The speaker for our meeting on Tuesday 10th November is Duncan Hess. His topic will be about his varied career at the BBC, having been a Researcher, Producer and Director on many programmes from the Ten O'clock News to the Antiques Roadshow amongst many others. He has travelled extensively and his last major job was directing the lying-in-state of Queen Elizabeth 2nd. Duncan has many funny tales to tell along the way.
Please do join us as this is going to be a fascinating talk presented with professionalism and clarity.

Please put an advance note in your diaries for our special Christmas meeting on Tuesday 8th December when our ever-popular member, Peter Altman, will put us all in a good mood for an unusual, musical and fun morning.

Things We Never Thought We'd Miss……. from Banksy (our elusive contributor)



One of the surprises of getting older is discovering that the things most missed are often not life's great milestones. Few people look back fondly on income tax forms or Monday morning commutes. Instead, it is the ordinary things that quietly slipped away while nobody was paying attention. Who would have thought there would ever be nostalgia for the bus conductor marching down the aisle calling, "Fares please!"? Some carried wooden ticket racks fitted with spring clips holding neat rows of tickets, somehow selecting the correct fare whilst the bus bounced over every pothole. Later came the familiar ticket machine, clicking away as efficiently as a regimental sergeant-major.



Then there were long-distance telephone calls booked through the operator. After waiting patiently for the connection, a polite voice would eventually announce that the allotted three minutes were nearly up. Motorists had trafficators that popped out from the side of the car like a nervous rabbit's ear. Many



drivers supplemented them with hand signals, creating a form of road communication that looked suspiciously like semaphore. The milkman arrived faithfully each morning, and the coalman followed with sacks of coal that appeared to weigh as much as a small elephant. Neither required satnav, online tracking or a mobile phone. Cars were once started with a starting handle, requiring equal measures of optimism and bravery. Steam trains filled stations with noise, smoke and excitement, while the first Wimpy restaurants introduced many people to the exotic notion of





eating a hamburger without cutlery. Many still remember the relief when ration books finally disappeared. Offices had their own soundtrack too: the clatter of typewriters from the typing pool. Carbon paper produced multiple copies of letters and left us with the familiar abbreviations "cc" and "bcc".



Outside, newspaper sellers shouted the evening headlines, and the rag-and-bone man searched for unwanted treasures. London smog also deserves a mention, although perhaps it qualifies more as a memory than a candidate for revival. Of course, what is really missed is not the technology itself. It is the people, conversations and sense of community that came with it. Fortunately, opportunities for friendship, curiosity and new memories remain very much alive at **Radlett U3A**, where some of the best things in life have never gone out of fashion.

TV critics

As we were in Madeira for two weeks at the end of last month away from television watching, many new programmes have piled



up and there seems to be so many good series to catch up with! That's without Bake Off and the most popular programme of the moment - The Traitors!
The third mini-series of TIME on BBC is written by the great Jimmy McGovern and each story is completely different, but all are set in a prison of some sort. This one shows the difficult job that the corrections officers have trying to keep their charges safe and often apart from each other in an under 18s young offenders institution. Siobhan Finneran plays Marie-Louise, a chaplain, and is the only character who has been in all three

series. David Tennant is Bobby, an officer who is wearied by the job but also with some compassion for the young men. They are all subject to the "keep apart" system whereby prisoners who are likely to be violent towards each other are not allowed out of their cells at the same time and are often banged up for 23 hours a day, which actually suits the officers. It's quite earthy, showing the pent-up energy and seething fury of the boys, inarticulate, insecure and hardening by the minute, often resulting in violence. There is brilliant acting by all the cast and we think it's a must-see programme.



We had started **THE BLAME** starring the lovely Michelle Keegan last month but now have decided it wasn't really up to scratch, being a bit silly and far-fetched, and only watched 2 episodes before giving up. Any comments from anyone - should we have carried on watching it

WAR on HBO is a new series in eight episodes with an amazing cast of British actors, including Sienna Miller, Dominic West, Nina Sosanya and Pip Torrens. It's basically about a British tech billionaire, Morgan, played by Dominic, and an international movie star, Carla, played by Sienna, who go through an explosive and high pr ofile divorce. It shows all the shenanigans and twists and turns that their powerful and rival law firms go through to win the case for their clients. As the litigation drags on the personal ambitions, professional rivalries and moral compasses of the lawyers become just as central to the story as the divorcing couple. We are 3 episodes (an episode is released each Friday) and thought it was excellent so far.





The fourth series of **BLUE LIGHTS** on BBC1 does not disappoint. It shows the rookie and frontline police officers working out of the fictional Blackthorn station in Belfast, Northern Ireland as they navigate the dangerous realities of policing a divided community. All the cast are natural and excellent actors and the stories are gritty and violent in parts but also shows how they form intense bonds with each other. We really enjoy watching it and think it's extremely good and is apparently very true to police life there.

Then there is a five-part series called **THE PARTY** on ITV that begins with a blood-soaked man being arrested. The story is about a rich and entitled politician called Ben, played by Tom Cullen, and his friend Martin played by Luke Evans, who have been friends since school. During Ben's lavish and spectacular birthday party he announces he is going to run for the leadership of his political party. However, there are terrible secrets from his and Martin's past that would emerge if he does…..There are flashbacks from the beginning of their friendship, to the party and to the present day, revealing the many details of their early lives and also what really happened after the party. We thought it was very good and the acting was great.(*and it's a YES from Marion C*)





EAST OF EDEN on Netflix is a seven-part historical series set starring Florence Pugh as Cathy, the enigmatic and destructive anti-hero, whose life and choices ripple through the Trask family legacy. It also stars Christopher Abbot as Adam Trask, Cathy's naive and devoted husband, who spends years trying to comprehend her nature and his half-brother, Charles, who believes Cathy is evil. She becomes a prostitute, leaving her husband and baby twin boys to make her fortune. She then inveigles her way into the heart of a rich brothel madam called Faye and manipulates her to make her sole beneficiary, which not a good idea for Faye! The story is based on John Steinbeck's book of the same name and there was a 1955 film too. It's good and Florence is terrific in it.



We have just watched the 2nd series of **SAM & ADE GO BIRDING** in six parts on Channel 5 with Samuel West and Adrian Edmondson, where they travel to the Yorkshire Dales, North Wales and Scotland on another bird watching quest. They have a great friendship and easy rapport between them and as we enjoyed watching the 1st shorter series in April when Sam introduced Ade to birding we were keen to see this second series. There are ordinary, common and rare birds to see, and we learned a lot about them all in the programmes, mainly from Sam who is very knowledgeable. And there is also insight into the lives and careers of Sam and Ade which makes it even more interesting. It was very good.



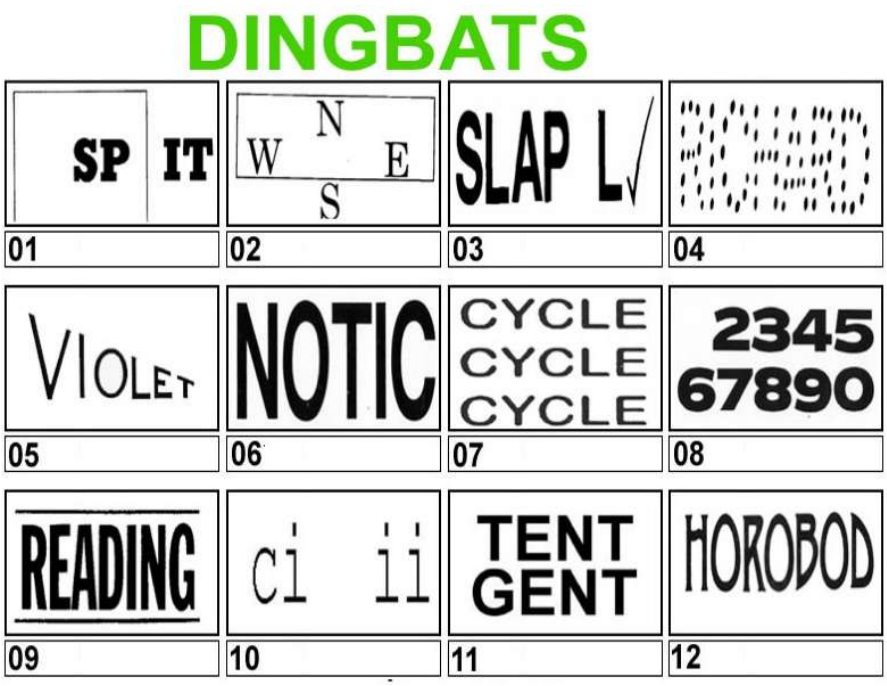
YOUTH on HBO is an 8-part very amusing comedy drama starring and written by Sharon Horgan who plays Alex, a 50 year-old divorced literary agent based in London who leads a chaotic life. She tries to navigate midlife dating while

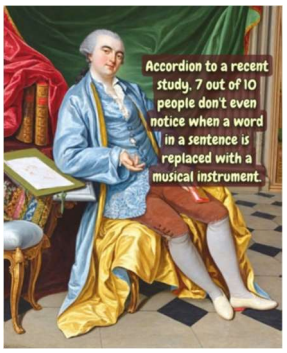
managing her ailing elderly parents and a college-aged son called Ruari, played by Aran Murphy (who is Cillian Murphy's son), who moves back home. It also stars Rupert Friend as Patrick, her never-quite-boyfriend who she keeps going back to, and Anne Reid as Charlotte Arbor, a bestselling elderly author. Harriet Walter is Charlotte's interfering daughter, Livonia, and Douglas Hodge is Malcolm, a former client who Alex had dropped and who has now written a popular romantasy novel that has taken TikTok and the literary world by storm. It has a terrific cast and we think it is well worth seeing.



And lastly, we have just finished the sixth series of SLOW HORSES. The script is so good and the acting is superb, although as it's a spy story there is quite a lot of violence. Gary Oldman is brilliant as the head of Slough House, a spy group that for different reasons are not considered to be top notch but are actually very competent, and with Jack Lowden, Saskia Reeves, Kristin Scott Thomas, Joanna Scanlon and other great actors in it too we think it's one of the best series on television. A seventh series has just been announced.

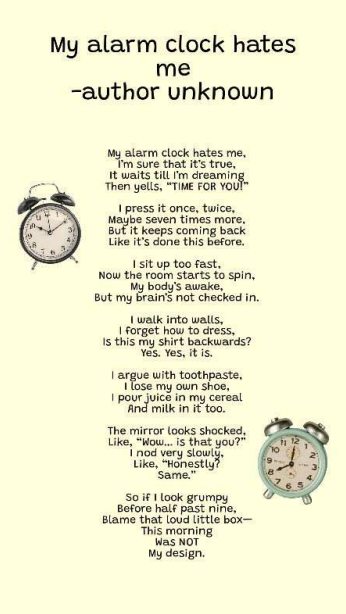
Happy watching, Terri & Brian













A Travelogue by Bob Bassey who took it upon himself to report on our holiday. Thank you so much Bob.

U3a HARROGATE HOLIDAY

NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE & MUSEUM Previously known as Beth Shalom In Laxton Nottinghamshire The youngest survivors were born inside the nazi concentration camps in early 1945 born during liberation.

Auschwitz survivors roughly 196.600 are alive globally, 1,000 or fewer specifically survived the Auschwitz - Birkenau Camp 20% are over 90 so the numbers are declining. Prominent survivors are Tova Friedman, Leon Weintraub, and Naftali Furst
The house of peace was opened in 1995, the exhibition opened in 2008, in the 1990's 16 million died in genocide, 250,000 in Rwanda in 1994.The Ronson Family Learning Centre was opened on 9th October 2015



Blood Libel Phenomenon - Is a false and deeply anti-semitic accusation that Jews murdered non-jewish children (most often Christian) to use their blood for religious rituals such as baking Passover Matzah. The rail line at the centre signifies the journey of the children.
Arriving at the town of Harrogate which is east of the Yorkshire Dales National Park. A fashionable spa resort, The Royal Pump Room museum is in the Montpelier Quarter, documenting the importance of the mineral springs, nearby is the restored, Moorish style Turkish baths and health spa. To the west Leafy Valley Gardens feature the Art Deco Sun Pavillion.



Day 2. CASTLE HOWARD

A baroque masterpiece, one of Britain's most celebrated houses.
This iconic place was created by Sir John Vanbrugh. Building began in 1699 it took over 100 years to complete and spanned the life of 3 earls. The 3rd Earl of Carlisle Charles Howard enlisted the help of Sir John who, having never built anything before, recruited Nicholas Hawksmoor to assist in the practical side of design & construction. Between 1699 & 1702 the design evolved, built east to west the house took shape in just under 10 years. Vitruvius Britannicus (British Architect) served as the first major public showcase for Castle Howard. By 1725 most of the interiors were opulently complete. Vanburgh died in 1726 the 3rd Earl died in 1738. The house was completed by Carlisle's son- in- law Sir Thomas Robinson, Vanbrugh's flamboyant baroque design was brought back down to earth by the 4th earl's conservative Palladian Wing. construction completed in 1801 - 1811 The long gallery decoration was by Tatham. The chapel was refurbished between 1870 - 1875. The final appearance is only a partial resemblance to the ideal view in Vitruvius Britannicus (two identical towers); the house has two wings that do not match. It has a spectacularly asymmetrical appearance as Vanbrugh's baroque vision is challenged by Palladian afterthought. On 9th November 1940 fire broke out, 1960 - 1962 The dome was rebuilt & decorated. In 1981 in conjunction with Granada TV & filming of Brideshead Revisited the garden hall was rebuilt. 1994-5 the central block was re-roofed.
My walk on this day took me round to the boathouse, temple of venus, temple of the 4 winds, the new river bridge & mausoleum, the temple terrace, past the time capsule, the atlas fountain and the walled garden. Some of this route was rather steep and inaccessible for some of our group.



Day 3 EMBSAY & BOLTON ABBEY STEAM RAILWAY

Established in 1979 and officially opened in 1981, A 4 mile route between Embsay & Bolton Abbey through the Yorkshire Dales. It serves as a base for preserved steam locomotives offering unlimited daily travel.



LEEDS & LIVERPOOL CANAL

The canal is the longest single company canal in Britain, it spans 127 miles (204km) crossing the Pennines from Leeds to Liverpool, managed by the Canal & River trust connecting the North Sea to the Irish Sea. 91 main-line locks and a summit of 487 feet above sea level.





1770 authorized by an act of parliament, began at both ends at the same time.
1773-1777 early sections opened, Bradford to Skipton and Liverpool to Wigan, construction stopped due to lack of cash.
1790 work restarted and new routes through East Lancashire were planned.
In 1816 the full line of the canal was opened, taking 46 years to complete.





BETTYS TEA ROOMS

Established in 1919 The famous tea rooms provide a traditional service with a beautiful setting which is good for the soul, life can be improved with simple pleasures.

Day 4

CITY OF YORK with coach tour

The city walls were built in the 13th and 14th century and took 100 years to build it is 3.4 kilometres long, York has 4 Big entrance gates Micklegate Bar which was the Royal entrance, Bootham Bar, Monk Bar and Walmgate Bar.



YORK MINSTER



This was formerly the cathedral and metropolitical church of St Peter in York; it is an Anglican Cathedral, opened in 637 AD. Height 72m, Architectural styles are Gothic, English Gothic and Perpendicular Gothic.
Noted Burials are - Johnathon Martin, William Beckett, Thomas of Bayeux. Numerous Historical burials including Anglo-Saxon Saints, Medieval archbishops and the cathedrals only Royal Tomb - Prince William of Hatfield, the infant son of King Edward 111 & Queen Phillipa of Hainault who died young in 1337.

YORK STATION

It was the largest station at the time it was built between 1872 - 1877 and opened to the public on 25th June 1877 it was designed by George Townsend Andrews, George Hudson championed the construction he served as Lord Mayor of York 3 times and was known as "The Railway King" he pushed to have it built inside the city's walls and worked closely with Andrews on the project.

THE BAR CONVENT

It is the oldest surviving continuously living convent in the UK founded in 1686 when Catholic worship was illegal.

YORK RACE COURSE

Records show that the first fully supported racing was in 1530 first detailed records of a race meeting date as 1709 in 1730 racing transferred to the Knavesmire the first meeting was in 1731. It is the 3rd biggest racecourse and 2nd in prize money to Ascot.

BISHOPTHORPE PALACE



This palace has been there since 1226. Archbishop Walter De Grey purchased the village in then Thorpe it then became Bishopthorpe, in 1480- 1450 the second stage was added The North Wing by Archbishop Rotherham, the 3rd stage took place between 1761 - 1769 Archbishop Drummond appointed the architect firm of John Carr, who designed the gothic stable block and gatehouse. The front of the palace was done 1766 - 1769, which provided the entrance hall and drawing room which has portraits of previous archbishops. The palace reached its maximum extent by 1900, an archbishop of York has been in residence since 1241. Stephen Cotterel is the 98th Archbishop and is 2nd to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

MIDDLETHORPE HALL

Owned by the National Trust, built in 1699 in the Mary and William style is the former home of the diarist Lady Mary Wortley Montagu. It has 20 acres of Gardens.

COVID

Covid started in York in 2020 a 23 year old student and mother from Wuhan in China staying at StayCity Apartment Hotel (near Barbican) fell ill on 29th January and it was confirmed on 31st January.



CLIFFORDS TOWER

Cliffords Tower is the largest surviving part of York Castle. Harrying of the north was a brutal scorched-earth military campaign waged by William The Conqueror in the winter of 1069 - 1070 to crush persistent Anglo-Saxon and Danish rebellions in Northern England. There was also an anti-Jewish Pogrom in 1190 and a fire in 1684

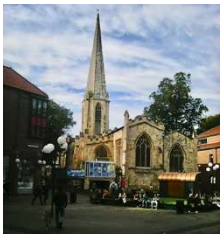
RIVER OUSE / RIVER FOSSE

The River Ouse is 13 miles long (21km) from Nether Popleton in the North to Naburn in the South running through York. The river Fosse is a tributary of the river Ouse it is 19 miles long (31km) runs from Oulton to York.

TERRY'S FACTORY

The historic chocolate factory was opened in 1926. Famous for its chocolate orange, it was designed in the art deco style by J.G.Davies & L.E.Wade. It was closed in 2005 under Kraft foods with a loss of 300 jobs ending two centuries of Terry's manufacturing in York. It has now been transformed into apartments, the clock tower has been restored, it also has a care village and commercial spaces.

ST CUTHBERT'S CHURCH



A 15th century church, restored and rebuilt in 1430 by William de Bowes MP former mayor of York in 1417 and 1428 it was restored in 1859 when the stonework was repointed the floor was levelled and the church renewed, it was joined with St Michael le Belfrey and the church building was converted into offices for that parish in 1980. It is now used for The Well Prayer House. York has 20 surviving medieval churches, only Norwich has more.

MONK BAR

This is the largest and most ornate of the bars, dating from the 14th century. It was a self-contained fortress capable of being defended from all floors. On the front of the bar it has murder holes from which missiles and boiling water could be rained down upon attackers, it is the city's only working portcullis, in use until 1970. Monk Bar originally had a

Barbican on the front, this was demolished in 1825. "Bar" meant a gate or barrier across the road, "Monk" came from Monkgate the street it faces, which was named after the benedictine monks from the nearby York Minster.



ROWNTREE'S

Founded by Henry Issac Rowntree in 1862 the company developed a strong association with Quaker Philanthropy. Throughout much of the 19th and 20th century it was one of the big 3 confectionery manufacturers in the UK along with Cadburys and Fry, both also founded by Quakers. In 1988 the company was acquired by Nestle, it was the 4th largest confectionery manufacturer in the world. The building is now flats, there is a Product Technology Centre on Huxby Road, The quakers did a lot for their workers, providing a village in 1902 with rented properties near Earswick.



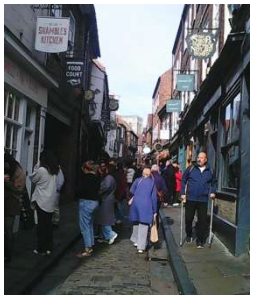
MANSION HOUSE

The mansion House is in St Helen's Square it is the working home of the Lord Mayor of York during there one year term of office. There are three mansion Houses in London, York and Doncaster. York is the 2nd largest to London.

St PETERS SCHOOL

Reputedly founded by St Paulinus of York in AD67. It originally operated in the grounds of York Minster until the dissolution of the monasteries, where in AD 1540, St Mary's Abbey, was seized by the king, this prompted a relocation of the school to outside the city walls. It was said that Guy Fawkes attended the school in 1575.

King James 1's historic entry into York took place on 16th April 1603 as he travelled south from Scotland to claim the English throne after the death of Queen Elizabeth the 1st. James entered the city through Micklegate Bar, he was presented with the city's official sword and keys. There were celebrations and the church bells rang out.



York was said to be the centre for asylum hospitals.

THE SHAMBLES

The Shambles is a historic, narrow medieval street in the centre, famous for its 14th century timber - framed buildings that overhang the cobbled pathway, mentioned in the doomsday book of 1086 it was originally a bustling market street dominated by bitchers.



Day 5 – homeward bound

NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION REMEMBRANCE GARDEN



This is a British site of national remembrance. Its objective is to honour the fallen, recognise service and sacrifice and foster pride in His Majesty's Armed Forces and civilian community.



The idea for the site was conceived by Commander David Childs CBE, in 1988. An appeal was then raised In 1994 by the then Prime Minister John Major. The project began with no money, no land, no trees, just an idea which was yet to exist in reality, The national lottery granted 40 per cent of the funds needed matched by thousands of donations from a variety of organisations both military and civilian, men women, and corporate and voluntary. Planting began in 1997. The site was officially opened on 16 May 2001 it is a registered charity, part of the Royal British Legion.



The gardens have 25,000 tree's and more than 400 memorials for the armed forces, civilian organisations and voluntary bodies who have served the country. The largest section is the Armed Forces Memorial at the heart of the gardens., which is a tribute to the 16,000 personnel who have lost their lives in conflict or as a result of terrorism since the end of the second world war. At 11am on 11th November each year the sun shines through two slits on the outside and inside of the memorial casting a shaft of light across the wreath in the centre. The Armed Forces Memorial was dedicated in October 2007 by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the presence of Queen Elizabeth 11. **Bob Bassey**



The Great u3a Adventure to Harrogate. *A tale of coaches, cases, coffee and company!*

Courtesy of Jacquie Hyams and Chat GPT (mostly)

At nine o'clock in Radlett, we gathered for the day, all ready for Harrogate, hip-hip-hip-hooray!

Adrienne and Joan were in charge of the crew, while Cathy and Adrienne had planned it all through.

We climbed aboard the coach, excitement in the air. With bags and coats and walking sticks — we had the full affair!



I say we were excited, all raring to explore, though with an average age of eighty-two, We'd been excited once before!
The journey started nicely, we thought we'd soon be there, admiring all the countryside and breathing country air.
But then the coach developed a most unwelcome leak, and water poured on suitcases — our holiday looked bleak!
The radiator had decided to give us all a shower, so cases soaked and clothes got wet — it wasn't quite our hour!
Some outfits were quite ruined, some luggage took a hit, and several folk were wondering, "Who organised all this?"
But every cloud has silver linings, as we all soon discovered, for coffee in the sunshine was a treat that we'd uncovered.
We lunched and chatted happily while waiting for our ride, and made the best of things together — with good humour on our side!
At last a shiny new coach came to save us from our plight, and off we went to Harrogate, arriving late but right.
We checked into our lodgings, had dinner, then to bed, with dreams of grand adventures dancing round each sleepy head.
And what a lovely holiday — no cooking, what a treat! each day our meals appeared before us, delicious things to eat.
Someone cooked, someone cleared away, we barely lifted a hand, we could get used to this, you know — it's rather grand!
The staff were simply wonderful, so helpful and so kind, they made our stay a pleasure, with no chores left behind.
We ate, we slept, we went exploring, enjoyed each day's delights, and left the washing-up to others — those truly were the heights!



As Bob's report will tell you, we went out every day, to fascinating places, with so much to see along the way.
We soaked up culture, history, and sights both near and far, and proved that eighty-two-year-olds can travel like a star!
Then Peter took the spotlight one memorable night, with music, tricks and magic that filled us with delight.
He entertained us brilliantly, with talent, charm and flair, we wondered if he'd magic away the wrinkles and grey hair!



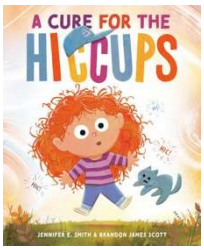
The days flew by too quickly, as good holidays will do, with memories made and friendships strengthened in our crew.



Then homeward bound we travelled, the journey smooth and sweet,
No leaking pipes, no soggy bags — now that was hard to beat!
But when we reached our homes again, we all felt rather shattered,
our energy had vanished and our brains were slightly scattered.
We slept through most of the next day, recovering from the fun, for an action-packed U3A trip is quite a marathon!



So thank you, Cathy, for the plans, for making it all flow, and thank you, Adrienne and Joan, for all the work you do.
Your time and care and patience helped make the trip a treat, Despite a little radiator trouble and some luggage with wet feet!
So here's to U3A adventures, to friendship and good cheer, to sunshine, meals and magic tricks — and trips we'll all hold dear.
And next time we set off travelling, there's just one thing to say: **Please check the coach's radiator before we drive away!**



Your monthly hint ……

June's plea for hints got me thinking. So here is something that many people do not know and is not even an old wives' tale. I have tried it on numerous occasions and it always works unless you have hiccups that are persistent and do not respond to this, which is then a serious medical issue, but I don't want to spoil the 'fun' side of this topic by mentioning pulmonary embolisms, as constant intractable hiccups can be a symptom of this.

To stop a one- off fit of hiccups here's something that really works: take a teaspoon of granulated sugar and swallow it dry. Sounds crazy, but it has a scientific basic. In fact, many granular things will work but granulated sugar is the easiest and safest to go for. The research was inspired by the fact that chickens swallow gravel with their food in order to aid its smooth transmission down their gullet. Fact really is stranger than fiction! **Laura Yale**

RADLETT PRINCESS by Marion Hertz

What a day – you would not believe it! Went down to the High Street – couldn't park. Ten minutes I waited in the slip road – nothing. However, I did manage to catch up on a couple of phone calls while I was waiting, you just would not believe the rudeness of some people, hooting at me over and over again – I mean, couldn't they see that I was talking……

Suddenly had a brainwave. If I took my car to be washed I wouldn't have to pay for parking and it's not far to walk, the car was cleaned a couple of days ago, but these people carriers do pick up the dirt and besides my new 'Manolo's' are killing me, so it's actually a win-win result.

That problem sorted, went to the hairdressers and then disaster - broke a nail! I mean what is happening to me today? Fortunately, Annie, the manicurist was free and did me a repair straight away. Were things looking up? Absolutely not. Popped into the boutique to collect my fab new shoes that I had ordered, they were great, but then new disaster. I saw this amazing tee-

shirt, just arrived from Paris – well I had to have it, but would you believe it only came in 'one size'. I said to them that in future they must cater for ordinary people like me size 4/6.
Meeting bestie for lunch – both calorie counting, so it will be rocket salads. I suppose I could have prepared this at home, but I just don't have the time. Children are at day camp and they need packed lunches, if it wasn't for Marks & Spencer what would I do? Popping into Brent Cross later, must change a cotton sweater I bought, now that my spray tan is darkening nicely the shade of blue is so totally wrong, it must now be white. Omg the pressure, I'll have earned my glass of 'secco' when we are out for dinner tonight.
Totally unbelievable what happened next – car needed petrol, well with the day I had had and my freshly painted nails – no way. Paul, my husband will have to go to the garage when he comes in from the office – he really can't expect me to do everything…..
Arrived home to find they had tried to deliver a parcel whilst I was out– I mean can my day get any worse. Phoned Jessica my cleaner to ask her to pick it up on her way in– I mean whatever next?
Husband Paul home, moaning about his stressful day. Hello! Does he not appreciate mine. Dinner out and just as well, I am totally shattered, just enough strength to phone my Ocado order and pay Yvonne, the lady from doggy day care when she returns Jasper.
Let's hope tomorrow will be better. ……..



Beautiful stunning autumn colour in my garden

Dingbat answers

1. Spit It Out
2. South Of The Border
3. Slap & Tickle
4. Spotted Dick
5. Shrinking Violet
6. Short Notice
7. Tricycle
8. Room For One More
9. Reading Between The Lines
10. See Eye To Eye
11. Man Undercover
12. Robin Hood



We have sadly lost two of our members this month. Kate Childs and Zena Jacobus have passed away. Condolences have been sent to their families.

