

Haddenham

U3A News

A bit of a laugh

In early July we finally managed to hold a 'virtual' general meeting and talk, which 40-plus members joined via Zoom. Ian Keable delivered a *History of Cartoons: from William Hogarth to Private Eye*, despite wrestling with a poor internet connection. In fact, he stretched the timeframe by starting with anti-Catholic visual propaganda from the time of Henry VIII. As well as familiar Hogarth and Gillray cartoons, Ian introduced us to perhaps less well-known names such as George Cruickshank – and John Leech, who drew the so-called Cartoon, No. 1 for *Punch*. From that magazine's H M Bateman (The Man Who...) to newspaper cartoonists Carl Giles, Posy Simmonds and Nick Newman, he included infamous images relating to the response to the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* and the 'Honourable Members' cartoon by Gerald Scarfe in *The Sunday Times* (see page 5).

Technical gremlins towards the end of the talk meant that a certain Mr Trump got off rather lightly, but it's possible that might be covered in a return visit by Ian.

From revolting English...

At our August virtual general meeting Andy Thomas gave us a much-appreciated presentation on *The Story of English Freedom*, from the rebellions of Boudicca against Roman invaders to Magna Carta, the Peasants' Revolt and the modern Poll Tax riots. It was interesting to compare the roles of movers and shakers such as the Suffragettes and George Orwell with today's protests in the name of individual and collective freedom. Andy was keen to remind us that we should safeguard our basic freedoms with care, as some were hard-won relatively recently.

...to the Spanish Civil War

On 9th September, members who sign up for another Zoom-based general meeting will learn about *Oxfordshire and the Spanish Civil War, 1936-39*. Oxford-based historian Liz Woolley will relate how local people united 'town' and 'gown' through their roles in the conflict and support for Basque refugee children.

At our 7th October meeting, Simon Gregor will talk about *Exploring Berlin: a window on German history*.

All members will be emailed in advance of these meetings with an invitation to join in.



Gillray's *The Plumb-pudding in danger* from 1805, showing Pitt and Bonaparte carving up the globe into the land and the sea

© British Library



Thoughts from the Chair

I hope you are all enjoying the new found freedoms we have now, albeit still small compared to life 'pre pandemic'. Wearing a mask is still a very strange experience. I find myself smiling at people and then realising that they can't actually see it, except hopefully in my eyes. Even so, covering up is a small thing to remember, along with all the other recommendations we have been given, to keep ourselves and everyone else safe, and play our part in combatting this dreadful virus.

As a novice vegetable gardener I have been very excited to be able to harvest my crops. Although my cauliflowers were small they were almost perfectly formed, and as an alternative to cauliflower cheese I found a recipe for cauliflower popcorn, which was absolutely delicious! I'm sure that many of you also have wonderful vegetable patches and gardens that are more beautiful than ever.

We still can't say when we will all be able to meet up again for our General Meetings and Interest Group activities but in the meantime, as many of you know, some groups are managing to meet using Zoom – we are also using it for our General Meetings and will continue with this for the foreseeable future. We had a good response to our meeting on 5th August which was hosted by Elaine Parkes. I do hope that those of you who have attended will continue to do so, and if you haven't tried it, maybe consider taking the plunge.

Best wishes to you all.

Sally

Lockdown blues*

With apologies to A A Milne

from a client of Aston Hearing

They're wearing masks on Paddington station
We've got to protect the health of the nation.
Some are quite fancy, some are just plain
"No-one without one can get on the train"
Says Boris.



I need a mask to go in a taxi,
This is the front and this is the back, see?
The driver is talking – I can't hear a word,
He's wearing his mask and we both look absurd
For Boris.

You need a mask to go on the bus,
If you don't have one, they make such a fuss.
Most seats are empty. "You can't sit too near,
One at the front and one at the rear"
Says Boris.

There's just one question I'd like to ask
When can we all stop wearing a mask?
I'd like to see faces who give me smile,
The distance apart feels like a mile —
Thanks, Boris

*To the tune *Buckingham Palace*



Shannon Wheeler, Wired

Lockdown Lilly learns to live with it *Scarecrow Festival*

This year's Festival was Haddenham's most successful yet, with more than £4,000 being raised despite, or perhaps as a result of, the lockdown. The 140 entries were twice that of the previous high in 2018 and four times as much money was raised as in the best year of its five-year history. The beneficiary was Medical Detection Dogs – a worthy cause, as we learnt at our November General Meeting, given that this charity could make a significant contribution to the early detection of coronavirus in future.

Our U3A provided a topical contribution, thanks to Sally Lajalati's *Lockdown Lilly* in the garden of Margaret and David Ackroyd, who also provided the graphics and stiff competition of their own with *Pearl the Pirate Mermaid*, which was the judges' third favourite.

Popular entries from other U3A members include *Staycation Costa Townsend* by Peter and Marie Woodrow and *Hope yew will smile* by Richard and Trish Hirst.



Lockdown Lilly



Pearl the Pirate Mermaid



Staycation Costa Townsend



Hope yew will smile

Out and about

Walking boots on again after 4 months

Many of us will have been following our own walking routes during lockdown, but on 21st July, after a break of 18 weeks, Malcolm and Mary White reconvened the Tuesday Walking Group. After taking in the spectacular views over Princes Risborough and far beyond, the group set off from Whiteleaf Cross in ideal weather conditions for a socially distanced amble across the ups and downs of the Hampden Estate woodlands.

There was a predictably good turnout of 17 regulars, most of whom were able to stay afterwards for lunch in the picnic area. If the weather allows, on 18th August Bill Piers will lead a walk from Haddenham to The Bell at Chearsley for lunch in the garden, either returning by the same route or via a potential extension for more energetic members!



Courtesy: Flickrriver

From scams to camping

Technical Group zooms ahead

Notable among several Zoom meetings held by the Technical Group was that hosted by Roger Rowe in July. Kevin Nash introduced the meeting with a lively discussion on email scams. This was stimulated by a hilarious TED talk by comedian James Veitch taking us through his email responses to wear down a scammer by insisting on increasingly ludicrous security precautions before he would accept his promised shipment of gold.

Roger then showed a fascinating video tour of the Bailey Caravans works in Bristol, which would have been difficult for the group to visit anyway because of distance, the split manufacturing and assembly sites and lack of safe space around the production lines. We followed construction from the semi-automated bonding and laser-guided cutting of the composite walls and floor panels to the more traditional hand build onto the chassis, fitting out and specialised weather sealing. With the current travel prospects, the end result made a very persuasive case for those wary of camping holidays.



Final assembly at Bailey Caravans

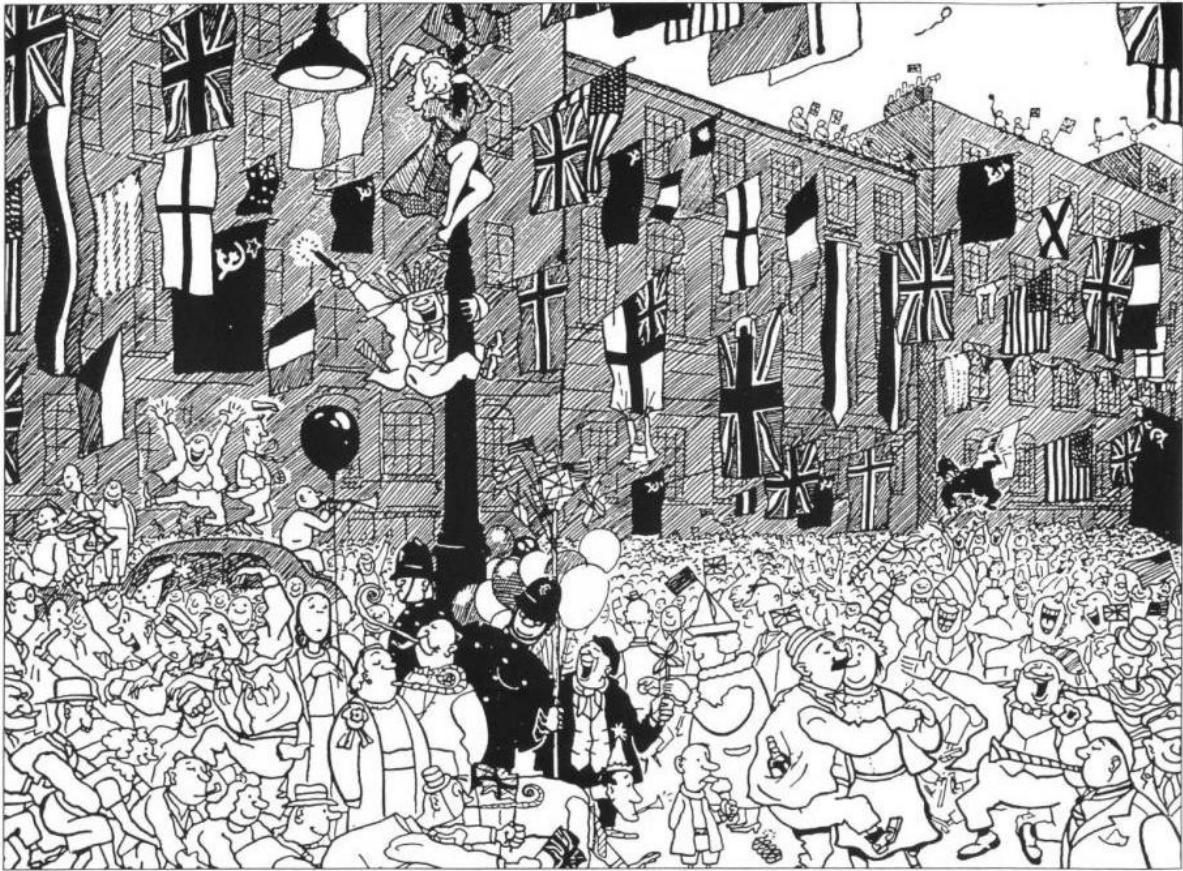
Take the tour

www.baileyofbristol.co.uk/news-events/lets-take-a-tour-behind-the-scenes-at-bailey-of-bristol/

Listen to the talk

www.ted.com/talks/james_veitch_this_is_what_happens_when_you_reply_to_spam_email

70 years of progress?



'Be funny if the siren went now, wouldn't it?'
Carl Giles, *Sunday Express*, 19 August 1945



'Honourable Members'
Gerald Scarfe, *Sunday Times*, 3 July 2016

Book Group 1 takes to the open air

In July Book Group 1 met for the first time since February. We gathered in a member's garden, suitably socially distanced, of course. As we had not had a specific book to read Ann suggested that we each choose a poem. The result was quite an eclectic mix. We were taken back to our childhoods with John Masefield's *Cargoes*, a poem which many of us had had to learn by heart. Nevertheless it had lost none of its charm, with the change of rhythm reflecting the movement of the ships and the amazing range of goods – from sandalwood to amethysts to cheap tin trays. We were also returned to childhood with *Night Mail* by W. H. Auden, again with its striking rhythm. Helen Dunmore's *Crossing the Field* brought evocative images of the countryside. But perhaps the most interesting poem was written by one of our members in the 1970s. While waiting for his train on Nuremberg station he witnessed families parting, presumably some members having to return to East Germany – a very moving scene. Altogether it was an excellent meeting, partly because of the interesting poetry but also the novelty of seeing at least some of our group in the flesh!



Bringing the cheque and the postal order...

Book Group 2

Since the beginning of lockdown our group has met twice a month via Zoom. At one meeting we discussed the planned book and at the other we suggested books which other members might enjoy. Here are some of the suggestions which you might also find interesting:

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Once upon a River by Diane Setterfield

Lark Rise to Candleford by Flora Thompson

A Suitable Boy by Vikram Seth*

The Architect's Apprentice by Elif Shafak

The Girl with the Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

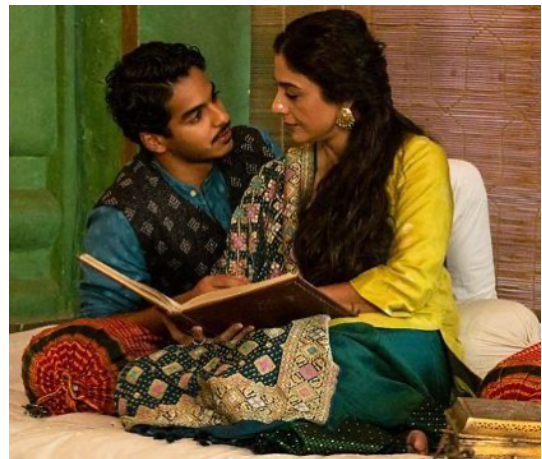
The World's Wife by Carol Ann Duffy

Cilka's Journey by Heather Morris

A God in Ruins by Kate Atkinson

Life after Life by Kate Atkinson

Enjoy!



© BBC

* Compare and contrast with the BBC1 adaptation by Andrew Davies, currently airing on Sundays at 9pm.

For a couple of delightful musical treats with a difference [click here](#) and [here](#)



Church Ladies with typewriters

These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water'. The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off – let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7pm. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7pm at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Haddenham Parish Council has asked us to publish the following:

The Parish Council is planning to identify the highest impact measures to contribute towards Haddenham becoming carbon neutral by 2030, and needs villagers to take part in pilots for these. Their initial focus will be on reducing food waste, supporting the installation of infrastructure for electric cars around the village and working with reLEAF to plant more trees to act as a carbon sink.



If you are interested, email Cllr David O'Hanlon at d.ohanlon@haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk