

Buttling, from Battleaxe to Britannia

Dressed in traditional butler's uniform and wearing his South Atlantic medal, William French gave us a wide-ranging and most entertaining talk in September.

Starting with his teenage years in the Royal Navy as a Leading Steward and first responder during the Falklands War, William recalled the Argentinian air attack that greeted his ship, *HMS Battleaxe*, and being sent to the aid of *RFA Sir Galahad*, where he and a fire crew delivered Simon Weston from a potential fiery grave. After returning to serve at Northwood, the Strategic Command HQ, William was successfully interviewed for the position of Royal Class Steward on the Royal Yacht *Britannia*. He regaled us with tales of nearly poking the Duke of Edinburgh's eye out when putting up an umbrella, and his first-night nerves when serving soup to the Queen at a state banquet.

Many of his reminiscences were of the personal kindnesses shown by members of the Royal Family, from being allowed to take a photograph of Princess Diana, to chatting to Princess Alexandra about her underpinnings! He travelled both far and near, on state visits to Shanghai, Singapore and Oman, as well as the regular summer tours of the Western Isles of Scotland.



Britannia's dining table took 3 days to set

It is here that the royals are at their most relaxed, and William recalled with affection how the Queen Mother deftly intervened in a private tiff between her personal butler and under-butler, cheerfully demanding that her customary gin and Dubonnet take precedence!

Leaving the Navy shortly before *Britannia* was decommissioned, William served at both Buckingham Palace and Kensington Palace, and for several years as butler at the Eaton Square home of Lord Rothermere, proprietor of the *Daily Mail*. He subsequently worked for many stars, including Nicole Kidman, where assisting with underwear adjustments was also required before one red-carpet occasion – a recurring theme, it would seem! Since retirement, William has become involved with managing the domestic arrangements of local stars such as the comedian Susan Calman and television weather broadcaster Carol Kirkwood – an eclectic list of clients!

Coaches and Coach Horns

Carriage driver Colin Pawson, aka The Tootler, also cut an immaculate figure when he spoke at our October General Meeting.

Dressed from head to foot in his scarlet 19th-century coach guard's uniform, highly polished boots and top hat, he certainly looked the part. Colin's talk covered the golden age of coaching from 1820 to 1840, the coming of the railways, the coaching revival at the end of the 19th century, and coaching as it is today.

Coaches of the 18th century were slow wagons that resembled those we see in cowboy films, when migrants took their worldly possessions to seek their fortunes in the Wild West. However, following road improvements by Thomas Telford and John MacAdam, there came faster, lighter coaches that transformed travel throughout this country.

Inside this issue...

Sign of the times



Discovery of Treasure Trove and a Roman villa in Oxfordshire.

In the footsteps of Roman soldiers



Walking the route of Hadrian's Wall – and edible dormice?

'Allo 'allo, who lived in this Haddenham house then?



And who set fire to its outbuildings, causing a lovely malty smell?

Royal Mail coaches were very fast, travelling through the night, and taking precedence over other road traffic. The guard blew a series of calls on his brass horn to warn other road users of their presence, on which side they might overtake, and to alert toll gate keepers and coaching inns of their need to change horses. A furious pace was maintained, and fines were meted out to anyone who impeded the Mails.



A Royal Mail coach, as seen by our Technical Group at the London Postal Museum *

Stage coaches, which were the equivalent of today's motor coaches and buses, carried up to fifteen passengers plus a coachman and guard.

The Post-chaise was a private two or four horse light coach for two to four passengers. The Travelling Chariot was a larger, more expensive carriage pulled by a team of four horses.

At its peak, it was not unusual for coaching inns to stable 300 horses, and some could house up to 3000 on the busy roads to London!

Theatre manager John Palmer of Bath, frustrated with the length of time it took to get to London, was responsible for the first passenger-carrying Royal Mail coach. He suggested a new system of 'stage' coaches that stopped to change horses at each eight to twelve mile stage rather than wait for one team of horses to take lengthy rests on their journey.

Palmer's method was trialled by the Royal Mail in 1784, reducing the journey between London and Bath from three days to an astonishing seventeen hours.

In 1841 the GWR was opened by Brunel and train travel crippled the coaching industry. However, in 1880 Subscription Road Coaches revived coach driving for wealthy travellers on the road from London to Brighton. Coaching Clubs were formed by gentlemen who loved coaching and some are still going today.

In 1888, for a wager of 1000 guineas, James Selby drove from Brighton to London in seven hours fifty minutes by changing his team of four horses in an incredible 40 seconds at each 'pit stop' stage.

Colin has been a light horse harness instructor and carriage driver for over thirty-five years, and raises money for charity via coach tours and his work with the Riding for the Disabled Association.

Before Covid, he appeared at several major County Shows, and he finished his wonderfully enthusiastic talk with a skilled demonstration of some original coachman's calls on his two authentic coaching horns.

The Queen's coins

Our November talk was given by Keith Westcott, who discovered the Broughton Hoard – the last Crown Court case to be heard on English Common Law Treasure Trove. Keith's role as a detectorist has taken him far and wide in search of ancient artefacts, from the everyday to historical coins, valuable not just for being silver or gold, but because of their provenance. His travels have included unearthing handmade nails to verify the existence of houses such as those of US presidents George Washington and James Madison, as well as wreck diving off the Farne Islands and south Devon. The latter was the *HMS Ramillies*, which sank in 1760 in a storm, with a loss of more than 700 men.

Keith discovered the Broughton Hoard when he spotted a little-known crossing of the moat at Broughton Castle, where he thought items might have been dropped or buried in the past. He quickly excavated 16 silver Spanish coins, minted in the Netherlands and believed to



The Broughton Hoard, now in the Ashmolean Museum

have been brought there by Queen Henrietta Maria. She was on her way back from seeking financial support for the Royalist cause; having landed at Bridlington she was travelling to the temporary capital at Oxford and was to meet husband Charles I near the site of the Civil War's Battle of Edgehill. It is believed that the coins were part of disbursements she made at various staging points on her journey.

Subsequent to his finds on the Broughton Estate, home of Lord and Lady Saye, of the Fiennes family, Keith investigated the area around a sarcophagus ploughed up by a farmer. By surveying the topography he deduced that the lie of the land was far from natural, and his instincts proved correct when he found and recognised a hypocaust tile – possible evidence of a Roman villa. It turned out to be one of the largest such buildings in the country, with a footprint similar to Buckingham Palace. As a result, Keith has been helping with the archaeological dig mounted this autumn by television's *Time Team*. You can find out more about their progress at timeteamdigital.com, together with details of forthcoming new episodes on the Patreon platform.



* See Technical Group article on page 7

Diary Dates

General Meetings

All at 2.15 for 2.30pm in the Village Hall

Tuesday 7th December 2021

Ellesborough Silver Band, Christmas refreshments

Tuesday 11th January 2022

Plant hunting in Eastern Anatolia

Making a welcome return to Haddenham, Timothy Walker's travelogue will cover some 2,000 miles of visiting the Pontic Mountains, the plain of Erzurum and the foothills of Mount Ararat, amongst other places of outstanding beauty. The flora of Turkey is vast, numbering many thousands of species. Timothy's talk concentrates on the north-eastern corner of the country, where many of our common garden plants come from as well as many choice alpine species.



Tuesday 8th February

Our Brains: How we remember, and why we forget!

Jim Ellis is an occasional learning design consultant and an active member of Wendover U3A.

His talk will help us to understand our brains. How do people accumulate, understand and apply



information? What does our brain do to help us remember and make sense of new things? Do we all do this in the same way? Why are different people skilful at maths, sport or languages, but rarely all three? And where did you leave your glasses?

In this lively presentation, Jim will address all of the questions above and dispel some common myths about the brain. He uses numerous examples to illustrate his points and encourages audience participation – but only if they are comfortable doing so.

Thames Valley Network study days

All events are bookable at u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Please check the website regularly for further details.

Monday 29th November

Mandela, the man behind the myth – Bjorn Watson

Thursday 9th December

The Spirit of Christmas – Katherine Kear

A word from the chair

Twenty years old this year! What a success story our u3a is, with 433 members and over 30 interest groups. It certainly is an achievement, and we owe a big thank you to all the dedicated Committee members and volunteers who make this possible.

Our AGM finally took place on 9th November. I reported that despite the pandemic we managed to keep many activities going. Treasurer David Ackroyd presented the financial report, which shows us to be in a healthy position. The addition of clauses to the Constitution to allow on-line meetings was ratified. There were no nominations for the Committee vacancies, and we are very fortunate that all the present Committee were willing to stand again and were duly re-elected. I would like to thank them all sincerely for their continued support and dedication, without which our u3a could not continue. However, it is vital that new people come forward to join the Committee, and to lead our special interest groups, to ensure the future of our u3a.

After the AGM, past Chairs Elaine Parkes, Peter Wenham and John Brandis joined me to cut our 20th-anniversary cakes. After Keith Westcott's presentation we celebrated with prosecco and cake. As a longer-term commemoration of Haddenham u3a's history, we intend to plant a tree at Snakemoor Nature Reserve shortly.

I know I keep on saying this, but member participation is vital to the success of our u3a, fulfilling the guiding principle of the u3a 'to promote lifelong learning through self-help interest groups'. If you feel you could help by joining the Committee please contact me, or as a group leader, contact Linda Page.

Best wishes to you all for the festive season.

Sally



John Brandis, Sally Lajalati, Elaine Parkes and Peter Wenham
cutting the 20th anniversary cakes

Interest Group News

Writers Group winner

As the leader of the Haddenham u3a Writing Group, Kevin Cheeseman was delighted to have won First Prize for the story he entered in the Thame Arts & Literature Festival Flash Fiction Competition in October.

'Flash fiction' is a style in which the story is compressed into just a few hundred words. In the TAL Festival competition, the limit was 500 words and the story had to be on the theme 'The Prime of Life'.



Kevin's story, *Debating with Mr D*, is a dark comedy in which a man attempts to persuade Death that he should be spared because he is 'in his prime.'

Judge Sandra Smith said that Kevin, 'Took a serious subject and channelled it into an engaging piece, the splashes of humour in no way detracting from the underlying message.' She also said that it was, 'A mature piece of writing which deserves first place.'

Keith's winning short story can be read at

talfestival.org/flash-fiction-winners

Our u3a members should note that there is still room to welcome one or two more people to the Writers Group.

Looking for a gift for the grandchildren? The Writers Group has published a booklet of Bedtime Stories which they say is suitable for children from ages 3 to 93! Call 01844 291613 or 01296 747528 to get your copy. A donation of £2+ each is suggested, that will go to support local schools.

Book Group 3

As both our Book Groups are full, a third group is planning to meet in January. One of our new members, Norma Moore, has kindly volunteered to lead it so, if you enjoy reading and stimulating discussion, this is the group for you. A few members have already expressed interest but more would be welcomed. If you would like to join, contact Linda Page at groups@haddenhamu3a.co.uk and she will pass on your details to Norma.

Genealogy for beginners

The Genealogy Group held a meeting for beginners in November, with another planned for 10th February. On 13th January, professional genealogist Joan Reid will be giving a talk on basic techniques for research into your family history. If you would like to participate, please join us in the Parish Council Committee Room. For more details contact Sue Michell on 01844 290595 or at susan.michell501@gmail.com

Film Club reopening

The Film Club has started up once again. It now meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month (except December) at 2pm in the Walter Rose room at the Village Hall. The screenings are open to all u3a members. The next film on Tuesday 23rd November will be *Richard Jewell*. Security guard Richard Jewell is an instant hero after foiling a bomb attack in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, but his life becomes a nightmare when the FBI makes him a suspect in the case.



History Group

Mary Paterson writes: In September the History Group greatly appreciated a very interesting talk given by Alan Rose on Haddenham Myths and Folklore. We now all have a better idea as to why Haddenham is called Haddenham (Hæda's Homestead), why we have a feast and not a charter fair and that the Green Dragon pub was not a coaching inn – residents of Haddenham who could afford to travel to Aylesbury, London or Oxford had to trudge across the fields to Kings Cross or Kingsey to board a coach. Alan also regaled us with the convoluted story of the murder of William Edden at King's Cross in October 1828 by Solomon and Benjamin Tyler. After two years of investigation the supposed perpetrators of the murder were convicted and hanged in the Market Square in Aylesbury. Alan's full account of the murder and subsequent investigation is in the 2006 Haddenham Chronicles, available from *Blooming Fruity*.



Whooo lived in this house?

October's History Group meeting heard retired Conservation Officer, Martin Andrew, explain that the history of The Malt House at Church End is closely linked to number 5, now called Malt Cottage and also to number 6. The second Great Fire of Haddenham in 1760 was accidentally started by a servant in the outbuildings behind numbers 5 and 6. A newspaper report refers to 'a malt-house with a great stock of malt' being burned down. Parts of The Malt House date from the late 18th century, thus after the fire.



The oldest part of The Malt House was a grand wing added to Malt Cottage. The 1834 enclosure map shows 4 and 5 as a single dwelling. By 1851 the links

between the two had been blocked up, with John Paine, the maltster, living in Malt Cottage and William Farley, Curate of Haddenham, being the tenant of The Malt



House. It seems the house was gradually extended and 'gentrified' and this continued into the 20th century. Hilary Minster, who played General von Klinkerhoffen in the BBC's 'Allo 'Allo, lived there with his parents in the 1960s. In the 1970s Roald Dahl's sisters lived there, and Roald was a regular visitor. We are grateful to the present owners, Mary and Chris Wellby for allowing Martin to talk to us about their house.

Thank you, Ann

The Committee would like to thank Ann Rickard, who is stepping down after many years of running the Board and Card Games Group. We do hope that someone will be willing to take over from her. We are also still looking for new leaders for the Theatre Group, Earth Matters Group and Discussion Group 2. If no one comes forward then obviously these groups will not be able to continue.

Out and about

Gardening Group

Doreen Barker welcomed two new members who were able to join the group at Robin Hill, near Stokenchurch, in September. This 1½-acre country garden on the edge of the Chiltern Hills offered wide vistas of bedding and informal lawns, leading to a wildflower



The Grange, Chalgrove

meadow and large orchard, containing cherry trees up to 100 years old – originally planted for the local furniture industry – and a chicken run!

Borders of shrubs, perennials and grasses set off new and mature trees, one of which was a swamp cypress, an unusual deciduous conifer. The early autumn sunshine allowed almost 30 members to enjoy the customary tea and cakes while sitting in the sheltered

courtyard of the owners' 17th-century cottage or taking in the extensive views from the lawn.

Group members were treated to a bonus visit to end the season in October when more than 20 members visited The Grange in Chalgrove – a superb 11-acre garden surrounding a 1958 house built in traditional manorial style. The generous proportions of the grounds contained a small arboretum, sweeping lawns and traditional border planting, all set off by a beautiful stream and substantial lake with a central island and gazebo. In addition to an orchard, small woodland and sculpted beds of prairie grasses, the garden even boasted its own grass maze and a children's play area, complete with a wooden crocodile. Other carvings included owls 'roosting' in dead trees plus several pairs of larger-than-life doves in stone. Despite the dampness of the day, the autumn colours remained vivid, and refreshments were taken *al fresco* overlooking the lake.

Roman foot soldiers

Neil Dury writes: A Holiday Fellowship (HF) expedition in August comprised 16 Haddenham u3a walkers, including their HF guide, member Brian Bowman.

Based In Haltwhistle, Northumberland, our small army followed the wall along 50 miles of rugged terrain. A literal high spot (1132 ft!) was the vastness of the views in every direction and the relative scarcity of people. In perfect walking weather – nary a drop of rain – the group visited all the main forts and



Robin Hood Tree

museums and encountered the famous lonely sycamore tree, now more popularly known as The Robin Hood Tree, following its appearance in the Kevin Costner film. Local hosteleries provided welcome post-walk liquid refreshment and there was fine hotel dining, including a final Roman banquet. The Latin menu included *panis glires* – stuffed dormouse! Grateful thanks to Brian and to Hilary and Edgar Skipsey for organising (and rearranging) another excellent holiday and transport. A great Covid escape – until one of us caught it!



Oxfordshire Way in 25 months!

The 68-mile walk along The Oxfordshire Way has finally ended. Our longer distance walking group set out from Bourton-on-the-Water in September 2019.



Journey's end at Henley

Mud and bad weather were no deterrent – but then Covid-19 arrived! The project eventually resumed this September, with a walk led by Helen and Andrew Wild. In October Chris Wheeler-Cherry and Pat Cradden led 14 walkers over the final ten miles into Henley-on-Thames. With wooded slopes, meadows and parkland, this last section was the most picturesque – and a delightful unspoiled country inn with home-cooked food added to the overall feeling of satisfaction!

Walking Group 1

This autumn has seen the group walk from Bledlow along part of the Phoenix trail, led by Eileen Monks in September, ending with a fine lunch on the green at The Lions pub. In October an intrepid group led by Hilary Skipsey and Angela Wenham started from Aldbury, where the route took in views over the nature reserve at Aldbury Nowers, before reaching a literal high point on the Ridgeway, south of Ivinghoe Beacon,



Aldbury Nowers

and returning to The Greyhound pub, where past members joined the group for an excellent meal. November might well have been the last fine weather walk this year, when Sue and Jerry Michell headed a variation on a familiar Chiltern Way walk from Ewelme, including beautiful autumnal colours and excellent views over the RAF base at Benson to the Thames Valley and Wittenham Clumps.

Fancy a stroll?

The shortest distances walked by our current groups are around 5 miles. If you would like to support a group taking shorter, flatter walks, perhaps without stiles on the route, the idea of a Strollers Group has been proposed. Walks would be no more than 2 or 3 miles, and there will still be the benefits of fresh air,

companionship and exercise, but without the aches and puffs! As always with a new group, a leader is required, but they will be provided with a few ideas of easy routes to follow to get the group going.

If you are interested, please get in touch with Linda Page at groups@haddenhamu3a.co.uk

Think before you walk

Between them, walking groups represent a significant proportion of our u3a membership, enabling many to enjoy healthy exercise and meet regularly outdoors with friends. The restrictions imposed by Covid have protected both walkers and other interest group members. However, as life returns to normal, it is worth emphasising the need for walkers in particular to take a responsible attitude to the safety and wellbeing of themselves and fellow members when out in the countryside. Here, they are



arguably at more risk than indoor exercising groups, because of exposure to the elements, variable terrain and distance from immediate help.

Guidelines have been discussed in more detail with walk leaders. They should have absolute authority on an organised walk, but we should all recognise our own responsibilities before and during any walk:

- Find out what the walk entails: distance, rate and amount of climb, terrain, duration.
- Find out about expected weather and dress to ensure good protection, warmth and visibility, with appropriate footwear.
- Be responsible: If, with the information, you still have any doubts whatever about your ability to complete the walk safely, don't go.
- Carry plenty of water, food, nutrition and any medication you might need.
- On the walk, try to stay together as a group, so that you can see the leader and the back marker, and they can see you.
- Warn others of any hazards encountered *en route*
- For emergency carry a mobile phone if you have one, charged and switched on and with any contact numbers you might need.
- Your walk leader should have first aid items, but why not take your own anyway?
- Always carry an ICE Card (In Case of Emergency), which can be obtained from Neil Dury or any member of the Committee.

Tiny tube train travel

At the end of October, Kevin Nash led eight members of the Technical Interest Group on a visit to the London Postal Museum. Between 1927 and 2003 a 6½-mile driverless underground railway linking Paddington and Whitechapel carried up to 4 million letters a day. It now offers tours (not for the claustrophobic) in a modern miniature two-foot gauge train. Stopping alongside small underground station platforms, dramatic audio-visual presentations show the lives of the postal workers who once kept the mail coursing through London, 22 hours every day.

Elsewhere in the museum, history ranged from the Penny Black stamps of 1840 to the present day, when we even have James Bond on our stamps! Apparently, in the 1920s there was a ban on sending copies of



James Joyce's *Ulysses* through the post – it was classed as obscene and the books would be destroyed. On the other hand, game such as rabbits could legally be posted as long as they had a neck label 'and no liquid was likely to exude'. Yuk!

News in the community

New lease of life for old laptop PCs

The Committee recently decided to recycle an old laptop which has been languishing in the u3a cupboard. The laptop was eleven years old, rather slow and was no longer needed for u3a work by any of the Committee. Elaine Parkes contacted Lucy McNeil, headmistress of the Community Infant School, to see if her school would like the laptop. Her reply was: *'That is so kind to think of my school and computing needs. It would be great to have as a PC we can lend out to pupils with no other access'*. Geoff Parkes deleted all the existing software and formatted the hard drive so that the machine was ready for the school to install software for the pupils. The laptop has now been handed over to Lucy and hopefully is being put to good use within our community.

The Carwithen Music Festival

Our July speaker, local viola professional Mark Chivers, described the life and works of Doreen Carwithen, the celebrated film composer born in Haddenham. We



can now confirm that the major festival he mentioned will take place next summer from 30th June to 3rd July. Centred on Haddenham St Mary's church, events will

celebrate the centenary of Doreen's birth in 1922. Over the long weekend we can look forward to six concerts from some of the best professional classical and jazz musicians in the UK – from international soloists, to famous film composers and, in the Festival finale, a very famous actor. There will be something for everyone, including a late-night concert of 1950s jazz, a string quartet and a lunchtime piano recital.

Haddenham Beer Festival has kindly offered to fund the installation of a blue plaque on Doreen's High Street birthplace – a fitting tribute to Doreen's legacy and her family history within Haddenham village. The plaque will be unveiled on the Friday by Debbie Wiseman OBE, one of the UK's most prominent female film composers. Afterwards she will open the exhibition space downstairs in Doreen's birthplace, which is now the studio of award-winning photographer Paul Wilkinson. For full details and tickets, see carwithenmusicfestival.co.uk/home

Carols at Christ Church

There are still tickets available for the carol concert at Christ Church Cathedral, St Aldates, Oxford on Monday 20th December, at 5.30 for 6pm. After the service a two-course supper with wine, mince pies and coffee will be served in the Great Hall in the college at 7.30. Payment of £35 per head by hand must be made in advance to Mary Paterson, The Bothy, Stockwell, Fort End, Haddenham HP17 8EJ Tel: 01844 291919.



Village news

We always try to keep you informed about events relevant to Haddenham u3a, whether past, present or future, but we also recommend that you see the short monthly electronic Haddenham Village Newsletter for wider local news. This might prove particularly useful now that member Christina Jeffery is no longer our local correspondent for *The Bucks Herald* (thanks for all you've done, Christina! Ed). Read and sign up at haddenham-bucks-pc.gov.uk/Newsletters_23007.aspx

Let us know if you have news of any community activities of interest to the u3a which you would like to share with us in a future newsletter.

National u3a news

Over 35,000 u3a members are now signed up to the monthly newsletter from The Third Age Trust. This provides a quick and easy read on your screens each month. It's always useful to know what's going on in other groups and we might even pick up ideas for new interest groups in Haddenham. Remember, our region is South East, and you can register at u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter



"For Ch****'s sake! Just plug it into the mains!"

Our u3a – the story so far

Secretary Tony Barker has been raiding the archives to shed some light on our first twenty years.

Haddenham u3a was formally established in 2001. The impetus came in the year before from our founder, Rosemary Cashmore, who placed a short article in *The Bucks Herald* and spread the word in Haddenham to elicit interest. A steering committee of local residents was assembled with Peter Wenham as acting chairman. Around 25 people attended the first general meeting in July 2001 in the Walter Rose Room of the Village Hall. The annual subscription was set at £12.50 and a constitution based on the Third Age Trust model was adopted. A local retired churchman, Rev. Frank Garvey, gave the first talk. Later talks included a presentation on wildflowers by Rosemary Cashmore, and one on wine, given by Charles Garrett, former Chief Education Officer of Bucks County Council.

Two years later at the May AGM the Chairman reported that the monthly afternoon speaker meetings had each attracted approximately 60 members. The first established groups included Gardening, Art, Books, Music, Painting, Play Reading, Travel and Walking, and these were followed shortly

thereafter by Antiques and Bowling. A programme of outings included visits to Wisley Flower Show, Nymans Garden and Petworth House.

By May 2003 membership stood at 115 and continued to grow steadily, peaking at 460 in 2019, before easing back to the present total of 433 (although we still have new members joining).

Pressure of numbers prompted a move to the Youth & Community Centre for general meetings in 2005. With the continued growth in membership and the limited size of the hall, two meetings each month became necessary by September 2012. Our subscription was raised to its current level of £16.00 in April 2015, the first increase since the establishment of the u3a.

For operational reasons in 2019 the Committee decided to revert to one general meeting per month in a larger venue. However, as we all know, Covid changed everything and the move was put on hold. During the pandemic we held a number of successful general meetings online and several of the activity groups were also able to continue in this way. August 2021 saw the first general meeting at the Village Hall following the easing of Covid restrictions and most of our activity groups are also now reconvening.