

# Newsline Extra

Southwell U3A

April 2021 - No 15



Some of the work of the  
Flower Arranging Group.



I am sitting at my laptop with a cup of coffee to sustain me and trying to think of something to tell you. The first thing that comes into my head is that 21<sup>st</sup> March 2021 is Census Day; this is my first census form since 2001 and it seems a bit strange – my last census form was completed whilst living in France. I can't remember what the form was like – but undoubtedly it was in French! I know a lot more about census forms now, thanks to the u3a. Firstly I joined Family History beginners with Brian Drescher, and then Family History (not advanced – I am still a beginner) with Roger Hancock. I managed to trace my unknown grandfather and his other family and I learnt from both the leaders and the members of these groups. That's what u3a is about – **learn, laugh and live**. Broaden your horizons, find things out and meet new people.

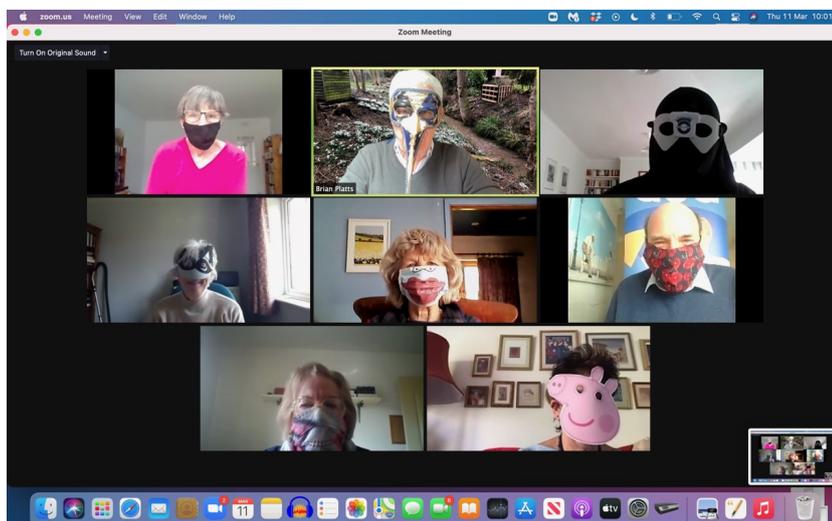
The other thing about u3a is that it is run **by the members for the members**. It is not a money-making exercise. It relies on members participating in the activities and participating in managing it.

Being involved with any activity helps to keep the u3a alive – groups, workshops, planning u3a day, helping with membership records, delivering Newsline to those without internet access, using the phone to keep in touch with your friends in the past year, preparing Newsline, organising trips (**they will start again**), telling your neighbours about u3a. The list goes on – but you, the members, are part of all this – and, for me, it is great to hear from you and chat in town from time to time.

I always seem to be asking for people to take over roles – recently we had a new Secretary, Nadina Lincoln, and a new Treasurer, Jan Clarke-Humphries. Now we need a replacement for our Webmaster – **it can be a woman or a man**. Paul Wilkinson is leaving us but is happy to tell you all about the role if you are interested – have a look at our website <https://www.southwellu3a.com> and see what you think about it. Let us know if we can improve it and of course volunteer if you feel able to.

There is a contact list in Newsline – and we need your feedback on how do we retain our members during and after lockdown. Could you help by reviewing some of our policies – GDPR register – (General Data Protection Regulations), could you organise the hall when we start back - including putting the chairs in the right place, could you help with the technical team – laying out cables and welcoming speakers – there are many ways to help out. Just pick up the phone or send an email – let me know what you can do.

Look at the fancy masks screenshot of committee members from Brian Platts!



## Speakers at monthly meetings via zoom

Chris Bentley

### Professor Philip Dixon on the Chapter House



At our third all member monthly meeting by Zoom on 2<sup>nd</sup> March we had an authoritative and very interesting talk from Professor Philip Dixon, archaeologist and architectural historian, who is currently working on the restoration of the Chapter House at the Minster. In his talk Professor Dixon traced the early development of the Minster, commenting on early versions of the Minster with its different floor levels and remnants of earlier work that still exist today. Moving on to the Chapter House he said there was a spring roughly in this location which may have been developed by the Romans as an outdoor bath and later used as a baptismal bath with associated Baptistery. The Chapter House, with its nationally famous leaves and green men carvings, was then built around 1290 following those at York and Lincoln. But apart from the incredible artistry of the C14 masons what strikes me as utterly amazing is how the huge quantities of massively heavy stone that were required in the building were

transported from Mansfield Woodhouse at a time when there were no proper roads or motorised transport.

I cannot do justice to Professor Dixon's talk which had so much fascinating detail both about the building of the Chapter House and also of the restoration currently being undertaken. Luckily Professor Dixon has also given his talk to Southwell Archaeology and this has been recorded and is available on their website.

<https://southwellarchaeology.org/2020/10/16/southwell-minster-chapter-house-first-and-last-talk-by-professor-philip-dixon/>

### Next Monthly Meeting 13<sup>th</sup> April

Please note that our next monthly meeting will be on 13<sup>th</sup> April, moved one week forward to avoid any clash with Easter week. It will feature the very excellent folk duo Fools Gold with their musical mystery tale *Dark Light* about three lighthouse men who disappeared without trace in 1900. You can see more details on their website at <https://www.foolsgoldacoustic.co.uk/darklight>.

On 4<sup>th</sup> May Roger Bennett will give us an illustrated talk featuring photos of birds that he has taken on his many trips around the globe.

## New Treasurer

Jan Clarke-Humphries



My name is Jan Clarke-Humphries, and I will be taking over as Treasurer of Southwell u3a as of the start of the new financial year (1<sup>st</sup> April) from Tony Keys who is an extremely hard act to follow. However, I will do my best.

I have lived in Southwell for 30 years, so know the area very well and I am sure some of you will recognise me. I worked in local government for many years in management roles and I retired in September 2020. I am not an accountant but have lots of experience in financial management and bookkeeping.

**Northumberland Holiday 2021 - Monday September 20th - Friday 24th  
(4 Nights)**

Are you looking for a holiday once all lockdown restrictions are lifted? Why not join in our visit to Northumberland re-arranged for us exclusively with Travel Wright of Newark, taking place from Monday 20th - Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September.

A few places have become available due to some members of the group having prior commitments for the new dates.

We will be staying at the 4\* Doxford Hall Hotel and Spa at Chathill, situated between Alnwick and Bamburgh.

The price p/person includes all travel on an air-conditioned executive coach, sharing an en-suite twin/double bedded room on a bed, breakfast and dinner basis. The prices are as follows:-

For a minimum 25 persons £527.00, 30 persons £507.50, 35 persons £493.50

Double room for sole occupancy - £140.00 extra.

Personal Insurance £24.50 per person if required. Travel Wright considers it essential all passengers are insured. They cannot be held responsible if you fail to take out adequate cover. Initially they would require a £30.00 per person deposit (plus any applicable insurance premiums) required on booking.

**Itinerary**

Monday :- Depart Southwell approximately 9am . Journey to Doxford Hall Hotel, visiting Beamish Open Air Museum en route.

Tuesday :- Bamburgh, Holy Island (NT Priory and Gardens), Berwick-upon-Tweed (Lowry connection, Famous town walls, specialist shops.

Wednesday :- Alnwick Castle and Gardens with its Harry Potter connection and town.

Thursday :- Farne Islands boat trip options. Alternative, morning in Seahouses / Bamburgh. Afternoon, scenic coast road to visit Alnmouth.

Friday:- Depart Doxford Hall Journey home visiting Beningborough Hall, a NT Property near York en route. Arrive Southwell approx 6-6.30pm.

If you are interested in taking part in the holiday or require more information then please contact me on:- 01636 814153.



Bamburgh Castle



Alnwick Gardens

## Group News

### Website

The groups available through Southwell u3a are divided on the webpage above into categories Art, Food & Drink, Languages, Wellbeing, Science/environment, Hobbies & Pastimes. Within each section the title of the group gives a good clue as to what you may expect if you join and group leaders, volunteers of course, are typically enthusiasts on the topics available whilst many may not call themselves experts. The group leader prepares the information on each group it will vary but there will be details on the meeting dates, times and place and on the group leaders page you can find a phone number and usually an email. Sometimes a programme for the months ahead will be included. This last information is only available if you log in as a member but any visitor can see the webpage and lots of information to tempt them in.

### The Photography Group

**Graeme Stewardson**

The Photography Group has setup a new Facebook group page – Southwellu3a Photography Group. It is primarily for members of our group but we do welcome any members from the wider Southwell U3A community. If anybody wants to post photos or seek advice about cameras, their settings and how to take better shots, we'd be more than happy to help. You are more than welcome to join this Facebook Group, as long as you are a U3A member.

The Photography Group currently has a theme of 'Bleak Mid-Winter' since the start of this year and these are some of our current photos.



### Flower arranging for anyone / everyone!

**Annabel Kingsbury**

This is a good time to start, or get back into flower arranging when we are inspired by the coming of spring, warmer days and daffodils.

Learn the basics of a simple or more decorative arrangement, using a variety of containers from a vase to test tubes and anything in between!

I hope to start soon on zoom, which is an easy way (as long as we are zoom happy!) to talk and plan what we want and when to meet on a regular basis.

As soon as possible we can get together in person with flowers, foliage, containers and ideas ! The hall at Our Lady of Victories is a good venue for this.

Please contact me by email at [annabel001@ aol.com](mailto:annabel001@aol.com) or on 01636 814882 so that I know who and how many might be interested.

In the last issue of Newline Extra Lynn Dorling referred to several popular initiatives in Southwell and Newark to promote foreign language conversations which are held in Southwell cafés though currently held as Zoom meetings. Some u3a members take part in both café conversations and u3a language groups and I would like to clarify what language groups currently exist within u3a and how they function.

**French.** There is a twice monthly meeting for French conversation led by Gill Belton and held at her house. One member is a native French speaker. This group currently meets via Zoom.

**Italian.** This is a group I started shortly after u3a was established in Southwell. Twice a month meetings were in my house. There are many u3a members who joined and stayed for shorter or longer periods; and, initially, we studied simple story books including Pinocchio. As the group matured we moved on to books aimed at the mature reader. Some of our members also attend café conversations and have been involved with the initiative for an Italian choir to visit and perform in Southwell. Since lockdown we have not met face-to-face nor via Zoom but I have been sending the Italian text of a couple of novels, with my own translation and grammar notes. We will resume face-to-face meetings at my house when it's safe to do so. When we resume, anyone wishing to join as a beginner would be welcome to arrive before the rest of the membership for 1:1 teaching so as to catch up. In recent years there have not been enough beginners to form a separate beginners group, but that is a possibility if needed.

**Spanish.** A group was started soon after u3a was established in Southwell and they then worked from a textbook. The group was suspended when the leader moved to live in Spain. Another group was started meeting in a pub in Farnsfield but membership declined and the group was suspended. I then started a new group intended to be time-limited and aimed at beginners who predictably advanced wanted to continue, and we moved on to fashion the group on the same lines as the Italian group but meeting in the pub in Morton twice a month. It has been difficult to hold the group together during lockdown and I have not used Zoom but we hope to meet again when it's safe to do so and plan a format that will suit most and maybe all the membership.

**German.** A German group was started some years ago, but did not survive. This was because some members dropped out and the manager at Gossips where we met would not allow us the use of the upper room with such small numbers. There have been enquiries recently about restarting a German group.

My preference is for learning by reading novels because this allows me to teach pronunciation and for members to work all through the week if they wish, and not just during the class. Beginners can learn from improvers. I would find it challenging leading Spanish and Italian if I had to focus on conversation but my knowledge of one Romance language helps with another when reading a novel, and grammar can be acquired in the same way that children acquire it, without a boring textbook! That said, we need to accommodate the learners' wishes.

Southwell u3a has groups for 5 languages which includes Latin and Greek. For a few years German has not been included, however, the committee is hoping that by joining with another local u3a a group may be started.

### Bringing your Old Photographs to Life!

Over the last year, many of us have found ourselves with free time. Some of us have taken the opportunity to look through our old black and white photographs and scan them in before they fade away completely! Here is a way to bring those old photographs to life.

### How to Sharpen and Enhance your old photographs

Last year, a genealogy research website, called **My Heritage**, offered two advanced tools to change the Way We See Old Photos: One tool was to colourise and the other was to enhance the sharpness of photographs. The technology uses a type of artificial intelligence technology — the same kind used for voice and facial recognition.

My Heritage in Colour studied millions of real photos to learn the details of our world in colour. However, just because an item of clothing or a family home is displayed in a certain colour, doesn't mean it was exactly the same back in the day. Colours are always a "best guess," as there's no way for the computer to know the exact colours in Aunt Sally's flapper dress or the paint colour of on an old house. However, the technology applies what it has learned from millions of other real-life images.

As of March 2021, users who have a paid account with My Heritage can colourize or restore the colours in an unlimited number of photos. Other users can colourize up to 10 photos and restore the colours in up to 10 photos for free, and beyond that, they will need a subscription to use it more. Non-subscribers will notice a watermark of the My Heritage logo on the bottom right of their photos, while paid subscribers will be able to produce colourized and colour-restored photos that are logo-free. For more information go to:- <https://www.myheritage.com/incolor>

### Photo Animation

Earlier this year, My Heritage introduced an additional tool, an animate feature. This is available through their website or in the form of an Android or IOS app. This allows users to edit pictures and add an effect to make it look like the pictures are moving. The app again uses AI to animate old family pictures into short, but somewhat creepy videos. Although this tool truly brings your ancestors old photographs to life, maybe this is an effect too far!

### Family History Group Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Family History Group is 2pm on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April when we have a "Who Do You Think You Are" style presentation looking at a typical Victorian working class family with some unusual twists! All Southwell U3A members are welcome.

Topic: U3A Family History Group

Time: Apr 19, 2021 02:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99169472411?pwd=TXJXTC9SRWQ5T2JaSEcwSFVLakZzUT09>

Meeting ID: 991 6947 2411

Passcode: 979670

### Family History for Beginners

We are also running a new series of eight two hour sessions on our popular "Family History for Beginners" starting September until April on Zoom. Ideal for beginners or those simply requiring a refresher. If you wish to join us please contact me Roger Hancock Family History Group Leader tel. 01636 830267 [roger@silverhost.co.uk](mailto:roger@silverhost.co.uk)

## Community Notices

Presumably **Southwell Library** will reopen on April 12<sup>th</sup>, unless national restrictions are changed; having tried the click and collect, pre-order and return system they worked very efficiently providing 3 pre-ordered books within 10 days and a bag of 10 books from the genres suggested.

Hopefully Bookwise will reopen again on the same date providing an opportunity to browse through the hundreds of books. Those of us who take grandchildren in will know that there is a good section for all ages too.

### Worried about online security?

Your email and social media accounts contain a wealth of personal information about you, which makes them a lucrative target for cyber criminals. **Between February 2020 and February 2021, Action Fraud received 15,214 reports about email and social media account hacking.** The majority of reports (88%) were made by individuals, with 12% of reports being made by businesses. Analysis of the crime reports revealed that Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat were the most affected social media accounts, with phishing messages being the most common tactic used by cyber criminals to lure unsuspecting victims.

Secure your email and social media accounts in just a few minutes. Here's what you need to do:

- 1: Use a strong and separate password for your email, as well as other important accounts, such as your banking or social media accounts.
- 2: Enable two-factor authentication (2FA). It will help to stop hackers from getting into your online accounts, even if they have your password.
- 3: If you can't access your account, search the company's online support or help pages. You'll find information about how to recover your account.

For detailed instructions on how to reset your password or enable 2FA on your accounts, visit: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/secureyouraccounts>

### Changeword Puzzle 3

The rules are simple in this puzzle; in each line there are five simple definitions the answers of which form a sequence of five letter words in which one letter changes each time.

#### Example:

**Clues:** NHS Worker – Scandic – Domestic Animal – Place to Live – Small Animal

**Answers:** NURSE – NORSE – HORSE – HOUSE - MOUSE

Now you try it (Answers on the Back Page):

#### CLUES

Smooth – Bad Tempered – Overweight – Overbearing Person – Spoil

Type of Transport – Scottish Lord – Old Measure – Furniture – Singers

Window Fixative – Sandwich – Potty – Ragged - Delicious

Keep – Get on an Aircraft – Male Animals – Wild Animals – Male Characteristic

Part of Theatre – Condition – Flood – Ill Will – Hit Hard

Resistant to Cold – Useful – Confection – Golf Assistant – Evil Character

Herb – Oxfordshire Town – Disgrace – Oil Bearing Rock – Will

Not Big – Aroma – Enlarge – Pig Food – Spin Round

Wedding Official – Surrey Town – Anaesthetic – Not This One – Water Mammal

Joyous – Cruel Woman – Ravage – Deflect Attack – Fruit Based Alcoholic Drink

**BROCCOLI, STILTON & CELERY SOUP – serves 4**

Here's a substantial soup from our latest CDWM meeting. Add some croutons, watercress or even cooked bacon or ham and it would work perfectly well as a main course. One of our members reports that it also freezes well.

**Ingredients**

40g butter 3tbsp plain flour  
1 onion – peeled and chopped  
4 celery sticks – trimmed and chopped into 2cm chunks  
1 head broccoli – cut into bite-size chunks and keep stalks & florets separate  
1 medium potato – peeled and cut into 2cm chunks  
300ml milk 600ml chicken or vegetable stock  
175-200g stilton cheese – crumbled or grated  
Salt and pepper

**Method**

Melt butter in a saucepan and soften onion for 5 mins on low/med heat. Add celery and broccoli STALKS and cook gently for a further 5 mins until softened. Add the potato and cook for a further 1 min.

Stir in flour and cook gently for 1 min, stirring all time.

Remove from heat and gradually stir in milk and stock.

Bring to boil, cover and simmer for 15-20 mins, until potato is tender. Add broccoli florets for last 3-5 mins.

Crumble or grate half the stilton and stir in until melted.

Blend (eg with stick blender) until smooth – may then pass through sieve into a second saucepan to remove any residual fibres, if desired.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Crumble in remaining stilton and warm through without boiling. Serve with crusty bread and/or the optional additions mentioned above. Enjoy!

**Changeword ANSWERS**

1. SILKY – SULKY – BULKY – BULLY - SULLY
2. TRAIN - THAIN - CHAIN - CHAIR – CHOIR
3. PUTTY – BUTTY – BATTY – TATTY - TASTY
- 4 HOARD – BOARD – BOARS – BEARS - BEARD
5. STAGE – STATE – SPATE – SPITE - SMITE
6. HARDY - HANDY - CANDY – CADDY – BADDY
7. THYME – THAME – SHAME – SHALE - SHALL
8. SMALL – SMELL – SWELL – SWILL - SWIRL
9. USHER – ESHER – ETHER – OTHER - OTTER
10. HAPPY – HARPY – HARRY – PARRY - PERRY