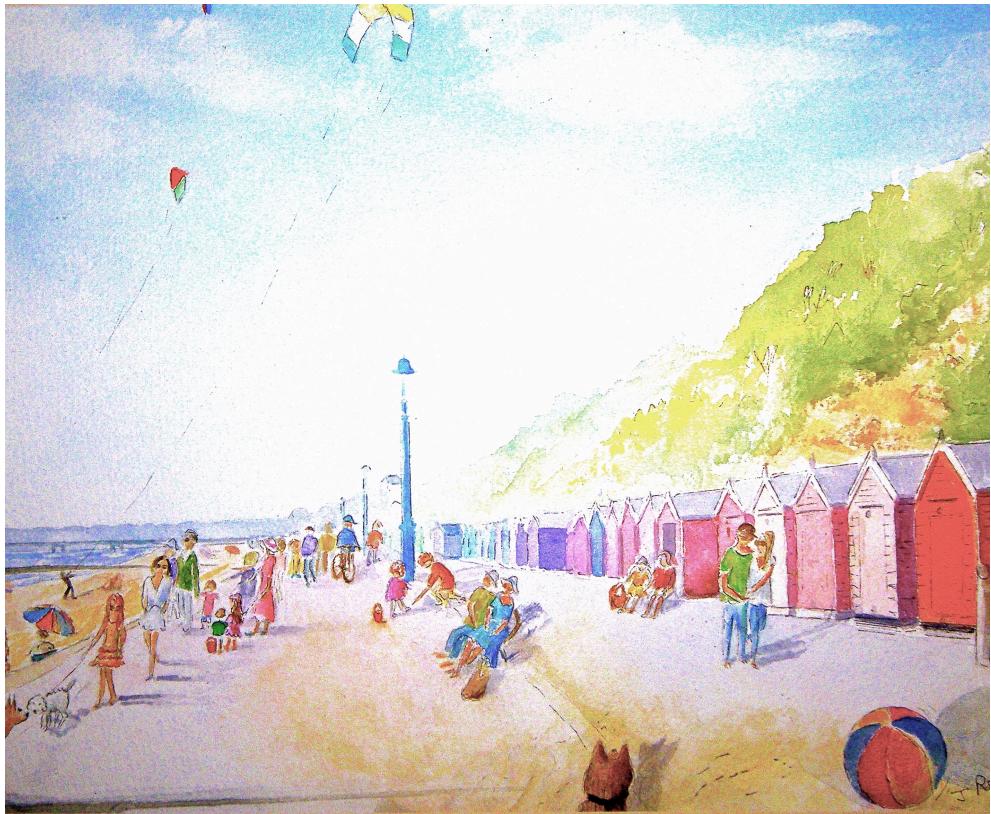


# Bournemouth u3a

learn, laugh, live!

## Spring 2021



**Dreaming of Summer**  
BOSCOMBE BEACH  
watercolour by J Reynolds (Arts Group)

**Have we got your current e-mail Address?  
Keep the Office up to date at  
[officemanager@bournemouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:officemanager@bournemouthu3a.org.uk)**

**As we come out of lock-down we need to keep you up to date  
with progress.  
See our regular 'Mailchimp' messages**

# The Roots of Social Change

## Life in Britain and the Empire 1815 - 1939



The short period of 124 years experienced phenomenal social change. It set in train factors shaping modern Britain - socially, culturally and aesthetically, as well as financially and attitudes such as equality. Published as a limited edition hardback, the book weaves together a kaleidoscope of well researched topics.

Take a rollercoaster ride through time. Explore how life was transformed, why and for whom. Analyse the triggers of social change in improving life quality for all. Find out why tensions existed, including preserving the status quo, and dip into daily life at all levels of society. What emerges is a sense of purpose, greater life opportunities and desire for a fairer Britain.

The painting in 1911 is by Malcolm Drummond of the Camden Town Group. It shows St James's Park, perhaps on a quiet Sunday, with offices of state to the left. Drummond captures the mood. Slightly pensive figures seem lost in their own worlds, amidst frenzied change and unrest in the helter-skelter of life.

The build-up in the Victorian & Edwardian eras, and events post World War 1, show how each decade informed the next. Overlaying this was innovation, new social mores, sense of liberation and expectations as Britain was propelled into the modern age - vibrant, exciting and dynamic, yet tinged with uncertainty.

Many might have felt that history does repeat itself. The war to end all wars exposed vulnerabilities and re-emergence of nationalism and territorial claims. The sun was beginning to set on the British Empire. Some started to question the purpose and beneficiaries, not least indigenous peoples with signs of clear discontent - and hopes for independence.

**Stuart Sherring**

See the excerpt on page 14

July 2021 - £21.99 For book reservations email:[stuart@ideascafe.co.uk](mailto:stuart@ideascafe.co.uk)

# Notes From The Chair

I hope you are all well and looking forward to Spring and Summer, I'm sure you would agree it's been a long winter and we're all in need of some sunshine and being able to spend more time outdoors.

The Committee have been delighted at the number of members who have renewed their membership for £10, allowing them access to our online groups as well as receiving future Mailchimp communications and Newsletters. We have also welcomed on board some new members, which is particularly encouraging, THANK YOU to all of you who have supported us.

Most of us are beginning to glimpse the opportunity to map out something like a 'new normal' pattern of living. So don't forget that one or two new roles in our u3a remain to be filled by suitable existing members. Current vacancies exist for a Vice-Chair and a Shadow Secretary. I'm available to receive informal enquiries about these (and any other matters) at [chair@bournemouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@bournemouthu3a.org.uk)

Just as a reminder, if you encounter anyone who needs some extra support in these unusual times, then do be aware that our BCP Council have a 'Help, advice and support' web page, which includes a helpline number 0300 123 7052 open 9.00am - 5.00pm.

Finally, and most importantly, thanks to the hugely successful vaccine programme, we now have light at the end of the tunnel. As a result, we are actively planning various face-to-face social events during the summer months, see page 5 for further details. We hope to be able see you again soon, in the meantime, stay safe and keep well!

**Pat Ley**

## Our Welsh Connection

There have been many awful things attributed to the Covid-19 pandemic, but there have also been some benefits ... people reconnecting with family now they are working from home, appreciating nature when we can get out for exercise and the introduction, to many, of Zoom.

Keeping in touch via a computer screen may not be our first choice of activity but it does have an upside. We can see and talk to people many miles away and group leaders can run discussion groups, book groups and singing groups, to mention a few.

Because of Zoom our Group Leader Ian Peters has a new member who lives in Caerphilly, Wales! This lady's sister is already a member of Ian's group and the two of them had been chatting about it.

The sister in Wales has now become a member of Bournemouth U3A just so that she can do T'ai Chi with Ian's group.

## **u3a Third Age Matters Magazine**

The following is an article from the February issue of the magazine.

### **FREE ACCESS TO ADVICE LINE**

Members now have access to a free and confidential advice line thanks to a new partnership between u3a and Independent Age.



Independent Age is a national charity providing expert and impartial advice on the issues that concern older people, their families and carers, such as money and benefits, health and mobility, and care and support.

The friendly and knowledgeable helpline team at Independent Age can give immediate advice or, if you need help on something more complicated, they can arrange a time for you to speak to one of their advisers.

Independent Age also has free guides packed with information to help you boost your income, find the care you need, remain independent, choose the right place to live and stay connected. These include advice on attendance allowance, pension credit, scams, council tax, caring for someone, getting help at home, money, living well with long-term health issues, paying for care and supporting loneliness.

To access the helpline call freephone number 0800 319 6789, or email your query to [advice@independentage.org](mailto:advice@independentage.org).

If you are clear what you wish to speak to an adviser about, you can use the codename u3a when you call or email and an appointment will be booked with an advisor.

Independent Age also provides support and regular phone calls to people who are lonely, particularly important during the Covid-19 crisis.

To find out more about Independent Age, visit their website  
[www.independentage.org](http://www.independentage.org).

***If you wish to receive a copy of the u3a “Third Age Matters” Magazine please contact Jennie Pudney at [accommodation@bournemouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:accommodation@bournemouthu3a.org.uk). Subscription costs £3.10 per annum, payable to Bournemouth u3a.***

# Social Report

## A RETURN TO SOCIAL EVENTS - FINGERS CROSSED!

In the hope that lockdown restrictions will be lifted in accord with the Government plan, we are thinking about the summer (and no longer just dreaming about it!).

We have in mind returning to some favourite events such as coffee mornings, “dining around the world”, walks and rambles, T’ai Chi, ten pin bowling, possibly a Quiz, and yes, looking even further ahead to the Christmas lunch!

The cycling group hope to meet at Kings Park at the end of Gloucester Road on Thursdays. The Petanque club plan meeting on Wednesdays at the Muscliffe Petanque club, Shillingstone Drive, BH9 3LR; new members very welcome.



A visit to Durmast House and garden is planned for August, to include coach, guided tour and a cream tea. Other visits to gardens are under consideration see page 10.

As a change from the annual beach BBQ, a midday picnic on the beach is in mind, with another picnic elsewhere a further possibility, and we quite fancy a crazy golf competition.

Although still at the embryonic stage, theatres are beginning to plan shows. Mitchell Robertson has identified three possibilities;

The Chichester Theatre – “South Pacific” 5 July – 28 August

Theatre Royal, Bath – “The Dresser” 9 – 18 September

and “Private Lives” 23 September – 20 October

If you are interested in any of these shows, please contact Mitchell on 01202 722171 so that he can judge which might be feasible for us.

Many of these events are firm favourites with a few new ideas. We like new ideas so how about giving this some thought? If you want to discuss your thoughts even if just to avoid dates clashing, feel free to call me on 07932 858 294.

Details of all events and any booking forms where needed will appear in the next Newsletter as well as being posted on our website and circulated by Mailchimp.

**John Oram**

# News from the Groups

## Reading in the Time of COVID

Since the book group started in August last year on Zoom we have met once a fortnight, except during Christmas week. Initially, we thought that we would only be running this group until Christmas but as we have had a good response from the enthusiastic group, we are hoping to continue for at least the next few months.

We swap the format once a fortnight with one meeting discussing a particular genre and the alternate meeting the chosen book. Up to now we have chosen to discuss our own choices of crime, children's and historical fiction, classics, biographies, travel biographies, short stories and books published in the 60's. We have also discussed a variety of books which have been democratically chosen by the group by suggestions made. The choices have included "Fludd" by Hilary Mantel, "Bone Readers" by Jacob Ross and "When the Crawdads Sing" by Delia Owens, together with "This Must be the Place" by Maggie O'Farrell and "The Woman in the White Kimono" by Ana Johns.

One of our favourite books so far was "When the Crawdads Sing". The group found that the descriptive passages and the author's deep knowledge of nature contributed hugely to setting the stage for the many-layered story. The theme of love and family, along with loss and betrayal, sits alongside the coming-of-age of a young girl and a murder mystery. The richness of the language also played a large part in creating the atmosphere of the novel. The racial situation in the southern states in the 50s and 60s and the different social strata are portrayed in the novel. The fragility of nature was another theme which was present throughout the book, which echoes the current climate change debate. There was much discussion about the ending of the book and about endings in general, with several people saying how unsatisfactory endings often can be. Most readers didn't solve the mystery and were really surprised to find the perpetrator of the crime.

In the coming weeks we are going to read "The Sea", by Iris Murdoch and "Bridge of Clay" by Markus Zusak, and discuss books made into films and psychological thrillers on the alternate weeks for our chosen genres.

It looks as though we will not be able to meet in person until at least the summer, so if you would like to join our discussions please e-mail [u3abookgroup392399@groups.outlook.com](mailto:u3abookgroup392399@groups.outlook.com)

**Julia Glassborow and Rosemary Chinchen**

# Your All Time Favorites



10 of us have been having a great 2 hours each Wednesday afternoon listening to both ours and others favourite songs and musical performances. Many are accompanied by videos of original performances.

Quote from one of our members "These are the single 2 hours each week which have most raised my spirits during lockdown"

Music chosen by members include nostalgia from the 50s, 60s and 70s right up to current day performances. We cater for all tastes with, as well as pop and rock and roll, classical and opera.

We have been introduced to an incredible performance of "O Mio Babbino Caro" from 9 year old Amira Willighaven. She was new to a number of our members and if you have not seen this video before and even if you are not into opera I recommend you type into google in your computer or iphone "[youtube.com/hollandsgottalent2013](https://www.youtube.com/hollandsgottalent2013) english". This will bring tears to your eyes. If you have problem accessing the video please email me and I will send a link.

As it is so enjoyable we are expecting that this Zoom group will continue online even after lockdown and when we are back to face to face U3A meetings.

If you are interested in joining us on Wednesdays at 2.00pm contact [rodjackson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rodjackson@hotmail.co.uk) Don't worry if you have not yet conquered Zoom, provided you have a computer, ipad or iphone it is free, very easy to get connected and we can talk you through the necessary steps.

**Rod Jackson**

## **Uni-Sing**

A shout out to all members and potential new members of the Uni-Sing group. Missing you all - the chats, laughs, concerts and of course the singing. I have some new songs on the go so can't wait to get started again. As U3A states: learn, laugh, live and above all stay safe and keep singing.

We will meet again!!

**Thelma Clothier**

## Online Classical Music Group

The second term is going as well as the first, with good feedback from my group members, sometimes so detailed I go back to relisten to some of the pieces I selected to hear what I missed! It was 'ladies first' in the first term with women composers, conductors and musicians, but this term it is the men's turn with British musicians and conductors taking front stage in the second half of term. I will not be doing a summer term but will be happy to resume in U3A's 2021-22 year depending on how things develop.

**Rex Bale**

## **New ! Online Music and Film Shows – Rex Bale**

My 'first Thursday of the Month' Music & Film Nights at the Colosseum Cinema, Westbourne, came to an abrupt halt in March 2020 as Lockdown Mark 1 came into force, but since last September I have run an online (not Zoom) version lasting an hour or so comprising mainly YouTube videos and background information. I am offering to expand my distribution list to cover any U3A members who may be interested. I send them by email on the first Thursday of the month but of course they can be viewed at any time. My programme at the moment is - Film Clip Selection – no music (April), Music through the Seasons (May), Music and Wildlife (June) and Jazz (September). The May and June ones are multi-genre – the last one comprised classical, jazz, and a little of both opera and pop but the proportions of each may change. If interested please contact Jennie at

[accommodation@bournemouthu3a.org.uk](mailto:accommodation@bournemouthu3a.org.uk)

## The Literature Group

**Companion Pieces**, working by circular and written responses if wished, has just completed its unit with a focus on 'Art and Artists', and from our text list we have looked closely at Tracy Chevalier's *The Lady and the Unicorn*, a historical novel based on the famous fifteenth century tapestries, and Clare Morrall's *Astonishing Splashes of Colour* about the family of an artist, written from the point of view of his deeply troubled daughter. It produced one of the most lively and appreciative of responses to texts for a while. For drama we studied *Red* by John Logan about Rothko's painting sequence for a New York restaurant. There were numerous poems inspired by works of art for us to enjoy, but we also looked at extracts of biography and letters connected with Van Gogh, Rembrandt and the architect Lutyens.

**The Drama group "Post Script"** works in rotating pairs for a fortnight at a time, using the phone or WhatsApp or Skype to rehearse monologues and duologues, some of which are being written by group members. We started with pieces on a seaside theme and have just enjoyed lively material from Ruth Jeary and Nigel Evans. We have our Shakespeare fortnight coming up, and will continue with locally themed pieces on famous residents or visitors to Dorset, such as Wordsworth and T E Lawrence. While the voice work is fulfilling, we long to be able to move around and stage things once more.

**John Hubbard**

My lockdown has been largely taken up with looking after my four groups on ZOOM.

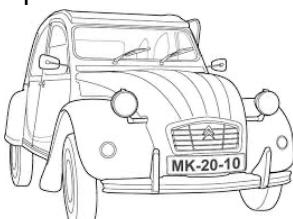
The first group I run is a choir, **For the Love of Singing** on Tuesday afternoons. We have around eight stalwart and loyal singers and my guitar. I've tried to introduce changes like audio tracks but was surprised to learn that they prefer to sing with guitar backing and I don't mute them; that's how they like it and we look at all types of popular, folk, soul, and country and western type songs.

My second group has really taken off. It is a first time for me, **For the love of Breathing** on Wednesday mornings. We examine how we breathe and how it is influenced by our moods, circumstances and how we can improve our quality of life through learning better breathing techniques.

Our third and fourth groups are **Qi gong** - energy exercise- and **Tai Chi** on Thursday and Friday mornings. They are really breathing exercises expressed in physical terms and based on our energy centres and Traditional Chinese Medicine. They are great fun, gentle and, yes, we practise them over zoom. I would never have dreamed it after having spent the last 12 years taking my groups in gyms and halls!

**Ian Peters**

I, just a (humble) Group Leader of Wednesday morning L'Atelier de français (French Workshop), am going to have an article published in French in the national magazine for improver-standard/ advanced learners of French, a publication called La Vie Outre-Manche.



It will be out shortly before Easter and it's about an iconic little car across the Channel for most of the final 40 to 50 years of the 20th century, la Citroën 2CV. 2021 marks the 85th anniversary of serious work beginning on the 2CV's design in response to marketing surveys amongst future target buyers: farmers and market-gardeners who wouldn't have to bring their produce to the local town any longer by horse and cart. The 2CV in the form we knew it, and produced between 1948 and 1990, was a bit different but still served that purpose, with strong roots from Pierre Boulanger's pre-war Toute Petite Voiture. 'C'est si bon' as Petula Clark and Mireille Mathieu once sang!

**Keith Penfold**

#### **LUNCHING ROUND THE WORLD - Bon appetit!**

Hopefully, when restrictions ease, we may be able to have a lunch out.



So, in early October Autumn Term we could go to  
**Bellaggio Pizza Restaurant**  
at 295-299 Wimborne Road Winton(BH9 2AA)

In November a visit to **Thai Smile** in Boscombe (BH7 6BT) might be in order.

Both restaurants are located on a local bus route.

**Bob Hucklesby**

# The Joy of Plants



"Without plants life on earth as we know it could not exist". Scientific research has constantly recognised the benefits that plants bring to our well-being.

The Human spirit is never more lifted than when it is in touch with nature. Whether it is enjoying a walk along the beach, in a garden or simply just pottering around at home with house plants. These actions will all prove beneficial to our health and well-being.

I am aware that many people have downsized their home and consequently no longer have a garden. Upon retirement I moved into a flat in Bournemouth, this was a complete change after managing a very large botanic garden in Sussex.

With limited space how to enjoy some house plants in the flat became the challenge. So where do you begin?

There is nothing more cheering than watching plants and flowers growing from our own achievements.

If you want to develop an interest growing plants in your home then I would recommend visiting garden centres or nurseries with a notebook listing those you like and current availability. With this plant list, research at home to identify which ones are most suitable for the environmental conditions in your home. Now you can begin to understand their cultural needs.

Key points to check include.....

height and spread, plant light requirements, e.g. will it need full sun or some shade? Knowing temperature range is important, remember homes with central heating can become very warm and the air very dry.

Watering and feeding regimes need careful consideration, generally more houseplants die from over-watering. Stay on the drier side when watering. You can always add water later since removing it is difficult!

When deciding, a good mantra I follow is, "Keep it simple".

Some considerations and suggestions:

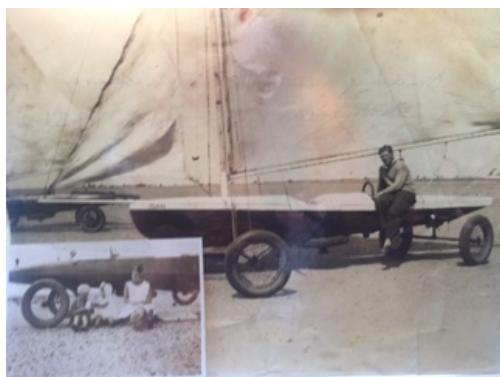
- Flowering plants - flowering period, longevity, colours and floral shapes  
e.g. Orchids (Phalaenopsis)
- Foliage plants - leaf colours, variegations, patterns and shapes  
e.g. Dieffenbachia, Ferns, Coleus
- Seeds and Young plants – can be fun to grow on to maturity
- Cut Flowers – useful supplement for scent, colour and immediate room effect.  
Do not be deterred from making impulse buys - they can be fun to try just accept the plant may not thrive. Do not be afraid to fail, it is all part of the learning process. It is not yet a punishable crime to kill a plant! Why not give it a go? Good luck.

When Covid-19 restrictions are lifted we are considering visiting Sussex and Hampshire Gardens. More details to follow.

David Hardman

## A Tale of Two Warriors, Tom & Sid.

I first heard the name of the almost mythological hero figure of TE Lawrence when, as an undergraduate and keen Dram Soc member, I was approached by a fanatical Lawrence scholar called Paddy Cosgrave to help him direct the play 'Ross' by Terence Rattigan with Paddy playing the hero. He bore a remarkable resemblance!



We had already done a short piece by Rattigan so I was immediately engaged by the challenge.

Ross was the name taken by our hero when he was working incognito at the Calshot flying boat base having a life-long obsession with machines and speed -which led ultimately to his death on his Brough Superior motorbike.

In the 'years 'tween the wars' it happened that another speedster Sydney Sturgeon, my father-in-law, was first based in Port

Aden. There he met my mother-in-law Alice Hughes, nanny to the children of an RAF officer.

They, of course, were not aware of the exploits of the legendary eccentric archaeologist who spent years walking the deserts of that place of mystery called Arabia, locating the ruins of Crusaders castles and evidence of the ancient Mesopotamian civilisations, learning the languages and cultures of the Islamic nations, by whom he came to be a trusted friend.

While that bit of history was being played out further north, made famous in the David Lean film, with only local skirmishes to keep him active, Sid Sturgeon, an engineer/gunner was building a sand yacht (see pic) from aircraft parts to race on the desert.

Alice related the occasion that he took her 'for a spin' in the yacht and flew through a Taureg camp chased by blood-thirsty wild dogs -" If we had burst a tyre they would have had us for dinner!"

Having used the Arab uprising orchestrated by TEL to defeat the Turks, the Allied Powers sidelined him and, thoroughly disillusioned, he gave up his commission and returned to UK incognito as Aircraftsman Ross to work at Calshot.

It happened that Sid Sturgeon also returned to Calshot to supervise the work of Lawrence and others maintaining the flying boats. He recognised the hero of Arabia but could say nothing, except when TEL was 'exposed' and transferred to the army at Bovington, living in his new home Clouds Hill under the name Shaw.

There he wrote 'The Mint' about the life of a 'squaddie' and much of 'The Seven Pillars Of Wisdom' while entertaining friends such as George Bernard Shaw, Maynard Keynes & EM Forster.

About my in-laws, Sid and Alice, there is another book to be written.

**Mitchell Robertson**

## Fame At Last!

I have been asked to tell you a story,  
Of how I basked in a little bit of glory,  
Last month in my bank was extra money  
To be quite frank I thought it was funny,  
A credit, of forty-seven pounds ninety-three,  
I read it twice, for it really was a mystery.  
I checked the source, found it was PRS,  
That's Performing Rights Society, I guess  
I said to myself, I must check my emails  
I get hundreds so often miss some details,  
Sure enough, I was paid in December,  
Didn't know why, couldn't remember.  
I looked at my statement on my PRS account  
And there it was that exact amount,  
Forty-seven pounds and ninety-three pence  
Now it was beginning to make sense,  
I checked carefully, I could clearly see  
One of my songs had been played on TV,  
A Christmassy song, that was sure to please  
Had been played on a channel for Japanese.

**MavisEllen Jackson**

That is a true story "*I'd Love To Keep A Little Bit Of Christmas*" was broadcast three times. I have since found that a song, 'It's Nearly Time For Jingle Bells To Play' that I wrote for my twin grandchildren when they were three, they are nine now, was played on Channel five on a children's comedy show. My folk songs are played quite regularly on Forest FM radio but TV that's something else! Both songs can be listened to and downloaded from here free

<https://www.mavisellenjackson.co.uk/pages/album-Christmas.shtml>

I only started to write songs when I was 58 and more seriously when I was retired. It is never too late and if you have a secret desire to write a song why not join my zoom song-writing group on Tuesday mornings.

### NATIONAL U3A DAY - Wednesday 2 June 2021

Unfortunately, plans we had put in place to celebrate  
"National U3A Day"  
have had to be shelved because of the prevailing  
COVID-19 restrictions.

We will keep the situation under review in the hope that  
we can hold some form of celebration as and when we come out of  
Lockdown later in the year.



## **Zooming into Art.**

Leader's report on the Wednesday afternoon art group

### **Jacqui Gush**

We are nothing if not resilient and inventive! Over the last year we have learnt to stretch our bodies in front of a screen, sing our hearts out to a screen and play games with others over an interactive screen. If we can successfully continue hobbies and interests that are essentially practical and face to face, we must surely be able to add art to that list!

I am sure all of us would agree that transferring normally shared activities into our homes, being linked only by the computer screen is not ideal and adjustments have to be made, but I hope we have a scheme that works as best it can. We meet over Zoom to kick off each session and chat through what we are going to do that afternoon, as well as taking the opportunity to check in with each other. Too many participants means it can become unmanageable and impersonal, so we meet as a group of 12 which is really a comfortable maximum, with only 40 minutes of free Zoom time.

The participants all disperse to get on with the exercise for an hour or so and then we meet again to share our work over our screens. This takes longer so each person regrettably has only a few minutes to show and share work and discussion. So, as a follow up we share and discuss using email.

The technology has worked surprisingly well for everyone. The usual glitches occur, for example one person came in sideways on screen for 2 weeks! She did a great job of displaying her work so we could see it without us having to contort our heads!

The really satisfactory finding has been that the standard of everyone's work is so extremely high! Is it working in a relaxed environment at home? Or pent-up emotions and inspiration desperate for an outlet? Perhaps June Arthur, a participant could tell us more about her experience of attending an art class over Zoom.....

### **The Participant Viewpoint**

As a participant in Jacqui's U3A 'Art Via Zoom' I can fully concur with everything that she has said above. I had already attended her art group for a couple of years and missed it when lockdown came into force. I had thought I would do all the practice that I had been putting off but sadly, I didn't do much at all until Jacqui invited us to the zoom experience. This gave me the motivation and inspiration I had needed. Wonderful to see old friends appear on my screen at home and have them share their art in the second part of the session. We receive an email from Jacqui in advance and therefore we have an idea of what we will be doing and have our ideas and equipment ready. Do I prefer the face-to-face experience from the old days? Yes, I do but as lockdown is inevitable I am really enjoying this weekly session as a very positive substitute.

## **Memories of Schooldays**

The timeline is 1913 and the setting Beamish, north-west of Durham. It had a village, drift mine, miners' houses, rail station, farm, manor house, school and shops. The flagship store was a Co-op, transplanted from nearby Anfield Plain. Children left at 12, ideally clutching a Labour Certificate which meant passing a test in the 3R's and having a good attendance record. Most parents encouraged their children, lads in particular. This was the passport to working on the surface at the colliery, earning 10s a week until 14, the age at which they went down the mine. The lure was double wages.

Bright ones stayed on at school and became pupil teachers. Male teachers earned £179 per year, almost 50% more than the £126 for females. The large classroom had long desks, set out in rows that could seat up to 90 pupils aged six or seven, and older ones too. They were taught by a trained teacher with the support of a pupil-teacher who earned 10s a fortnight, half the pay of colliery surface work. An economic choice had to be made as much depended on future teaching prospects. Girls had limited choices, usually factory or domestic work.

Monday was the designated washday that for large families took up most of the day. Mothers often insisted a daughter stay home for at least part. The ritual was 3 R's in the morning and Empire subjects of history and geography in the afternoon. There might be time for girls to learn sewing, useful in making a future home and for domestic service.

Many children came to school literally starving and went home at lunchtime to minimal food, if any. This prompted a school strike in 1906. The introduction of free school meals later that year for the 'deserving poor' raised the issue of who received meals and who did not. Hunger for learning had real meaning. David Livingstone and Dr Barnardo had made the same point about 'ragged schools'.

From the dark recesses of a cupboard, a Punishment Book was extracted. A record was kept of punishments meted out, usually a caning and the name of the person administering it. This record makes for compelling reading a century later with the abolition of corporal punishment. Two strokes were given for misbehaviour and being repeatedly late. One stroke was for careless and dirty work, 'signals in assembly', deliberate indifference, insubordination of some description and, more ominously, 'indifference' that might infer issues about learning, including fear.

Failure to understand, remember or recite amounted to the same thing if a child did not comprehend in the first place. It mattered not as all learning was parrot-fashion. Learning by rote helped mask dyslexia and a whole spectrum of barriers to learning not recognised or overlooked. Castigating pupils in front of others was normal, using words such as imbecile, cretin, nincompoop, idiot, dunce, dimwit and dunderhead. School for most was to be endured rather than enjoyed.

**Stuart Sherring**



Under lashing rain  
Windblown, weathered and wet  
The Snowdrop appears  
Delicate white petals  
Reaching towards the light  
Wild among grasses and parklands  
A reminder time will move on  
The seasons will change

**Deirdre Foster**

### **Coming out of Lockdown - Is there light at the end of the Tunnel?**



We are all hoping for better news on the COVID front and the opportunity to get our lives back to normal. The committee is making tentative plans for the next academic year starting in September. We are opening discussions with the "Queens Hotel" in the anticipation that we might be able to hold a Christmas Lunch in December - Watch this Space.

### **Fun Photography Group**

#### **Lockdown Through the Lens, Take 3 - Focusing on the Future!**

This time last year, our lives were turned upside-down by the CoronaVirus. However, now, in a relatively short time, with the wonders of science and our magnificent NHS, the massive vaccine roll-out is underway. Gradually we are waking up to a safer life and all the joys of Spring, bringing a glimmer of more normal times. Not least also the hope of resuming our greatly missed classes!

With this prospect in mind, one of our recent weekly themes for the Fun Photography group (which has been active all through 2020 to now) was 'Spring Shoots' and shown here are two of the Group's uplifting favourite photos:

1. Sue Allibone's robin on the branch of a shrub and,
2. Andrea Furie's crocuses covered with rain droplets.

More photos on this theme and others taken by our evermore enthusiastic, innovative and talented members can be seen on our u3a website (News page).

Enjoy and keep smiling!

Pat Gibson & David Cox

Leaders, Fun Photography Group

