



## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members

Well here we are again in lockdown and to be honest I am not surprised but at least, hopefully, it will only be for 4 weeks. A lot of us lived through the war years and we had hard times then but the youngsters today won't listen but let's talk about the future. We have been notified by Stoke Mandeville Stadium that our bookings are safe for next year as they will not be doing any new building. Hurrah!!! That is one worry dealt with.

My excellent committee and I, also Derek Ayshford, were so pleased that you could join us on Zoom for the monthly meetings in October and November. We had a few hiccups—hopefully they have now been ironed out. We think there were about 100 people who attended. We received some very nice comments and, if a few things go wrong, does it really matter as long as we can have a get together.

We are also glad to note that the Sounds of the Sixties meeting on Zoom was well attended so let's hope some more groups can do the same. Currently there are 20 active groups on Zoom. Obviously for groups like the walkers and bowlers Zoom doesn't work, but the walkers still meet up and split into groups of six and remain socially distanced. I miss ten pin bowling but then I always did miss hitting the pins so I dare not try at home or I would smash the furniture!!

Mary Singleton's mum, Betty Plumbley, celebrated her 97th birthday in November, that is some age. Many of you will know Betty who, until fairly recently, was a member of the outdoor bowls group for many years which is why I have mentioned her. She now resides in Fremantle Court care home.

Mary organised a virtual coffee morning in November which went well with about 20 people. She is hoping to organise another during December.

I have been told that the Editors of the Newsletter have had a good response for material this time so on their behalf I will thank you all.

Let's hope we all have a good Christmas and a healthy one. I look forward to seeing you all at the December meeting. I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Sheila Satterthwaite*

## MEMBERSHIP

Total members 452

Members with internet/email 420

NB 38 members did not renew their membership in August and 20 resigned.

Ken Roberson

Comments received from members following our first monthly meeting on 14th October, since March 2020 which was held on Zoom:

"I can just about use Zoom, as Mary and Sheila (Spanish Conversation group) will tell you, but I couldn't make either the try-out or the meeting the following day. I think it's a really good idea and am glad that it went so well. It's great that you are making the effort to keep things going and I'm sure everyone appreciates it."  
Barbara Whitaker.

**Thanks so much. I really enjoyed Stephen's talk and it was so nice to see everyone's faces!**  
**Diane House**

What a successful first meeting, wonderful to see so many people logged in. I'm looking forward to trying our first 60's session using Zoom.  
Phil Davies.

**Jean and I thought the meeting went well, despite the minor snags. Steve is to be congratulated for his very interesting and informative talk. Peter Ashton**

Just want to thank you for being so helpful and setting up a zoom USA meeting yesterday. I have not been too successful with other zooms but had no trouble at all. Very much enjoyed the talk, thank you Stephen. I do hope you will be able to continue this way with future meetings for as long as necessary.

Anne Emery - Poetry Group

## AVU3A GROUP DETAILS—SEPTEMBER 2020

<u>GR OUP</u>	<u>GR OUP L E A D E R</u>	<u>TEL:</u>	<u>E M A I L</u>	<u>ACTIV E GR OUP S</u>
Camping & Caravanning	Lynne Dawson			YES
Canasta	Ann Walker			
Crafts	Heather Edwards			YES
Creative Writing 1	Viv Makin			YES
Creative Writing 2	Bobby Cadwallader			YES
Cribbage & Dominoes	Alan Brialey			
Current Affairs	Alan Robinson			
Gentle Walks	June Thomson			YES
German Conversation	Margrit Kennedy			YES
History	Paul Rosentall			
Ladies Cards Group	Daphne Shearer			
Lets Talk French	Pat Skeggs			YES
Mah Jong	Dan McGregor			
Military History	Ken Satterthwaite			
Music I like	Gerard Boyle			
Opera Appreciation	Lois Robinson			
Out and About	Jean Coussens			YES
Painting	Sue Goodband			
Photography for Pleasure	Dan McGregor			
Play Reading	Cherry Jefferson			YES
Poetry 1	Jenny Corton			YES
Poetry 2	Sue John			YES
Psychology	Lynne Dawson			
Quiz Group	Mike McCabe			YES
Railway Group	Chris Lowe			
Readers Circle 1	Jean Hennessy			YES
Readers Circle 2	Brenda Daniel			YES
Readers Circle 3	Joy Neave			YES
Scottish Dancing	Sheena Swinburn			
Scrabble	Ann Walker			
Sounds of the Sixties	Phil Davies			YES
Sounds of the 50's & 70's	Phil Davies			YES
Spanish	Sheila Page			YES
Summer Bowls	Elinor Paterson			
Swimming For Pleasure	Pat Tomkins			
Tai Chi	Joan Lewis			
Ten Pin Bowling	John Harwood			

Cont overleaf

## GROUP DETAILS CONT

Transport	Roy Knight	
Ukulele	Andy Carter	YES
Walks exploring London	Peter Harding	
Local Walks	Roger Fox	YES
	Roger Walker	
Wine Appreciation 1	Michael Meacham	
Wine appreciation 2	Dorothy Chater	
	Jenny Corton	
Write and Ramble	Phil Rance	

Due to the pandemic this year, not all groups have been able to meet up. However, there are several groups that have done so, using Zoom, e-mail, and YouTube. This situation may well change and we will keep everyone up to date on a regular basis

Any changes please let me know straight away: Jane Trow: [jane.trow@yahoo.com](mailto:jane.trow@yahoo.com)

## The AVU3A website

The website has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic in that many sections have been dealing in cancellations. However one section has been created and managed by Derek Ayshford for all to enjoy and contribute to named 'Confined to Quarters' (CTQ) which currently has 8 areas:

**A vibrant place where all members can add activities, articles, quizzes, etc that will hopefully keep you informed and entertained during the current uncertain times. Contributions always welcome.**

1. Quizzes—the new quiz group provides a weekly quiz with answers the following week
2. Music - All the presentations from the Sounds of the 60s and 50s/70s groups and other various YouTube videos suggested by members
3. Members' Writing - including reflections in prose and poetry on our current situation
4. Photos - a vast array of stunning old Aylesbury photos as well as many worldwide shots and some Railwayana
5. Sing Along - Andy and Sandra Carter and Ken Roberson provide the leads
6. Art and Craft -The painting and craft group show us some of their work during lockdown
7. For amusement – a collection of cartoons, stories, videos from various sources
8. Other interesting links as the name suggests

The carousel of local pictures appearing on the front page is growing as we get contributions. Send to: [webmaster@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@avu3a.org.uk)

## AYLESBURY REMEMBERED

A few weeks ago, I joined a Zoom meeting held by Bucks Archaeological Society entitled 'Aylesbury Town to County Town; Images of Victorian Aylesbury'. After the meeting it was suggested that we might be interested in the book called 'Aylesbury, A Personal Memoir from the 1920s' by W.R.Mead. I thought that I might be interested, so I sent off for the book and it duly arrived a few days later. I was not disappointed as it brought back floods of memories. Much that was referred to in the book existed up to the late 1950s and early 1960s which I was able to recall.

I found W R Mead's wonderful description of old Aylesbury and its inhabitants very stimulating. Memories of travelling by train to school from Quainton to Aylesbury and working in Aylesbury began to surface the more I read. When I was fifteen, I had a Saturday and school holiday job at Jowett's, the ironmongers of Kingsbury. I worked there for two and a half years, and it is the experience of working there and reading the book that reignited my memory. I was particularly thrilled to read W R Mead's description of Jowett's:

*"There was a contrasting gloom in Jowett's (sometime, Bradford's) the ironmongers next door. It was unique in Aylesbury – a minor emporium filled with countless tools, pots and pans, fire irons, locks, catches and shelves of boxes containing every type of screw, nail and hook imaginable. It was an Aladdin's cave for the 1920s handyman. There was a lurking oily smell in summer and in winter a strong smell of paraffin. In keeping with the trade there was a man in brown overalls who dealt in a ponderous and deliberate manner with customers – quite different from the brisk white-coated pharmacist next door."*

I could relate to this description and so I started writing down everything I could remember about this pivotal experience. I spent much of my time delivering goods, mainly on a bike with a carrier on the front and often dangerously overloaded. Many of the places described in the book, I had either walked to, biked to or biked past at some time or another, so found the descriptions of places a great 'aide de memoire'. Five pages later I keep thinking of a few extra things to include. I don't know what I will do with my manuscript but If any of you have any experiences of shopping at Jowett's or meeting Mr and Mrs Philbey, the proprietors, I would be pleased to know.

For those of you who remember old Aylesbury I would recommend this book to you without reservation to just see what memories it stirs up. For those of you who only know of Aylesbury since the advent of Friars Square, the Inner Ring Road and housing estates of Bedgrove and Elmhurst etc this book will describe what Aylesbury and the surrounding district was like in the first half of the twentieth century.

A photo of Jowett's shop front, in late 1970s, by Ron Adams is shown below. Ron has lots more photos of old Aylesbury on his 'Flickr' page that are worth a visit. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/dlanorsmada/albums/72157622694321063/>

Peter Harding



## THE AYLESBURY DAIRY COMPANY

Twenty years ago I noticed in a book by Bernard Watney a picture of a champagne tap with 'Aylesbury Dairy Company' engraved on the handle. When Mr Watney died his collection of corkscrews and champagne taps was sold at Christies and I was able to buy this most unusual tap.

Ever since then I have been asking the good people of Aylesbury where the Aylesbury Dairy Company used to be and nobody has been able to tell me.

No wonder. It is in Swindon! In Aylesbury Street!

In Victorian times the quality of milk in London was very poor due to lax standards of hygiene. After a devastating plague in 1865 an enterprising farmer from Quainton, Mr. George Mander Allender, formed the Aylesbury Dairy Company to provide Londoners with milk of the highest quality from the healthy and well-managed farms of Buckinghamshire.

In 1870 the company expanded into new premises in St. Petersburg Place, Bayswater, London. The company was so successful that new purpose-built premises were constructed in Swindon in 1876 near the railway station so that milk and other dairy products could be delivered quickly into West London.

Eventually the company purchased a farm and dairy in Sussex and the building in Aylesbury Street became redundant. It was used by the Paragon Steam Laundry until 2005 and it is now used as a garage. The only evidence of the Aylesbury Dairy Company in St Petersburg Place are the plaster cows' heads built into the corner walls above the windows but the building in Aylesbury Street, Swindon, which is grade 2 listed, is still very clear to see.

### ***But why The Aylesbury Dairy Company Champagne Tap?***

A champagne tap is a device that was developed in Victorian and Edwardian times to allow a glass of champagne to be released from a bottle without having to remove the cork thus retaining the fizz over a period of many days. Champagne was thought to have medicinal qualities and a glass a day was prescribed by doctors for their patients.

Champagne taps were also used to dispense the very fashionable Koumiss which was described as "a spirituous liquor made by Tartars from fermented mare's milk"! It was expensive and an alternative made from cow's milk was developed and made by the Aylesbury Dairy Company. It was known as Galazyene. So the champagne tap was used to dispense a type of Koumiss!

And what of the enterprising Buckinghamshire farmer Mr George Mander Allender from Quainton? He was born in Quainton in 1831, was married in London in 1860 and was murdered in Monte Carlo in 1893, but that is another story!

Richard Stevenson

Member of the Poetry Group





## TREADING WATER

I suspect like most of you, our lives have been on hold since last March and many of the plans Marg and I had had to be postponed or cancelled. But as one door closes another opens and I have been thrown into the world of jigsaws. At first, I started with one sent to Marg by her son. She assured me that she would help me with it but, whilst I struggled with this momentous task, Marg suddenly remembered that she had five recordings of “Holby City” to watch. Being a steadfast soul, I plodded on and have now completed over eighteen puzzles. “Is this humanly possible” I hear you cry; considering some of them had no picture to work from I amazed even myself.

As well as puzzles Marg and I have read well over forty books pushing Amazon’s profits through the roof. As these are both sedentary occupations, we have tried to keep fit by both walking the dog every day and using the exercise bike - one gives you sore feet whilst the other affects a much tenderer part of the anatomy.

At the beginning of this ordeal we tried to shop locally but over time we got into home deliveries and then “Click and Collect”. At the start I made a few errors whilst ordering online, so if anyone can use eighteen pounds of flour, twelve boxes of cornflakes and twenty-three tins of pilchards, please give me a call.

Marg recently got into baking in a big way and, as she hadn’t baked for a while, there were a few disasters - fortunately I like sunken fruit cakes! During these last months we both have celebrated birthdays and whispered “Happy Birthday” across a restaurant table!

A high spot during past months was my “virtual” speed awareness course. I chose to do this sitting in my son’s kitchen in case I couldn’t work it on my own. After completing the course, I received the usual request to fill out a survey concerning the course. The questions started out asking what I thought of the course but then slowly began asking me my political leanings e.g. did I think we would be better off after Covid19? and what did I have for breakfast? At that point I hit the “clear” button.

For my last birthday Marg bought me a helicopter flight for two over Oxford. Due to Covid the flight was constantly postponed but, eventually we got it booked. It was a champagne flight and sounded quite sophisticated. When we got there the landing pad was in the middle of a muddy field, the champagne was out of a plastic cup, and to see Oxford you needed binoculars. When I posted details of our flight on “Facebook” lots of my friends responded by saying how they’d flown over Niagara Falls, New York City or the Pyramids. The only thing that we’d booked that we actually did! A muddy field in Oxfordshire didn’t really match up but at least it was done!

Despite the restrictions we wish you all a merry Xmas and a happier New Year



*John and Marg Harwood*

## AN OUTING

As I walk through the door the mist starts to swirl around me. It closes in, oppressive and suffocating. The background fades and softens, like using a camera filter. Dark shapes stumble round hidden corners, knocking me, leering at me and shouting obscenities when I fail to distinguish them as the human form. Sounds are muffled and I am unable to make out what they are saying. I reach out indiscriminately, blindly grabbing items at eye level. What they are I do not know; whether I need them is another question. The world is so distant I can barely recall what I am here for. Did I hear someone call my name? I peer into the fog but am unable to make out if one of the shadows is a friend, or foe. Looking down I start to feel giddy; some ghostly obstruction shifts my spectacles, turns bifocal lenses skew whiff, blurring the view even more. I hesitate to try to retrieve some stability. In the winding, snaking line another form falls against me, gasping with horror, accusingly. Now all I want is an escape route.

I see it coming closer, through a long fuzzy tunnel, and tap my card on the impersonal machine. Daylight beckons and I make for the door to freedom. Reaching up I make a grab, pulling off the mask covering my mouth and nose. Relief comes as I take a deep breath. My glasses start to demist. I can see again - smiling, friendly faces greet me in the bright sunshine. I can actually hear a friend calling my name. All my senses return to normal.

I wear a mask to protect all these people, to reassure me. However, a trip to the shops is pretty hellish. Perhaps a return to online shopping is called for.

Hazel Burgess

## HOLIDAYS

A wonderful week in Sicily in May staying in a villa with 11 others, strangers but soon to become firm friends. This was a holiday of dreams - the beautiful island with so much history to explore, great weather, good food and wine. What more could a girl wish for?

Meeting up with fellow guests for drinks and dinner before retiring to bed ready for our first cookery class in the villa's spacious kitchen next morning with time to relax by (or in) the pool in the afternoon. The rest of the week was comprised of trips to Siracusa, Modica and Ragusa where we sampled the local ice cream, chocolate and, of course, wine tasting and meals out in local restaurants plus, what the name implied, a cookery class each day.

I'm sure we all returned home (or would have) with larger waistlines as well as happy memories.

I can only dream for now but hopefully it will actually happen next May.

Mary Rogers



*The only Christmas related item I can supply is that my birthday is on Christmas Day, hence my name Chris. I would be curious to know how many other Christmas babies there are in the Group. The Scottish Country Dancing unfortunately cannot hold meetings via Zoom, but Sheena Swinburn does drop us the occasional note.*

*Chris Quirke*

## THINGS THAT DON'T MAKE SENSE

1. If poison expires, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?
2. Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?
3. Do twins ever realize that one of them is unplanned?
4. Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.
5. The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".
6. 100 years ago everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.
7. If you replace "W" with "T" in "What, Where and When", you get the answer to each of them.
8. At a movie theatre, which arm rest is yours?
9. If people evolve from monkeys, why are monkeys still around?
10. Why is there a 'D' in fridge, but not in refrigerator?
11. Who knew what time it was when the first clock was made?
12. Why isn't a Fireman called a Water-man?
13. How come Lipstick doesn't do what it says?
14. If money doesn't grow on trees, how come Banks have Branches?
15. If a Vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a Humanitarian eat?
16. Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO and those sent by truck SHIPMENT?
17. Why do we put cups in the dishwasher and the dishes in the cupboard?
18. Why is it called 'Rush Hour' when traffic moves at its slowest then?
19. How come Noses run and Feet smell?
20. What are you vacating when you go on a vacation?
21. Why do they call it a TV 'set' when there is only one

Be kind, Stay safe, Keep smiling!

*Mary Rogers*

At a time when everybody started clapping to show their appreciation for the NHS, I thought it would be an opportunity to have a project, get the old grey matter going and make my own illuminated NHS sign. I spent many hours in my garage so much so my wife was beginning to think I had left home! I also kept ebay going at that time. Once finished it looked quite a feature at the front of our house. Thursday evenings, when we all showed our appreciation for the NHS, became quite a thing as we have two families of musicians in our street who play a variety of musical instruments including saxophone, violin and cello. My wife and I and other neighbours contributed with our tambourine and maracas and saucepans/spoons etc. It was our highlight of the week



Jim Cartwright

### A SIGN OF THE TIMES



From Richard Clark

## Christmas Poems provided by Ron Adams

### Christmas Thank You's

Dear Auntie,  
Oh, what a nice jumper,  
I've always adored powder blue  
And fancy you thinking of  
Orange and pink for the stripes,  
How clever of you.

Dear Uncle,  
The soap is terrific, so useful  
And such a kind thought.... and..  
How did you guess that  
I'd just used the last of  
The soap that last Christmas  
brought.

Dear Gran,  
Many thanks for the hankies  
Now I really can't wait for the flu  
And the daisies embroidered  
In red round the M for Michael,  
How thoughtful of you.

Dear Cousin,  
What socks!.... and the same sort  
you wear  
So you must be the last word in  
style  
And I'm certain you're right that  
the  
luminous green  
will make me stand out a mile.

Dear Sister,  
I quite understand your concern  
It's a risk sending jam in the post,  
But I think I've pulled out all the  
big bits of glass  
So it won't taste too sharp spread  
on toast.

Dear Grandad,  
Don't fret, I'm delighted  
So don't think your gift will offend,  
I'm not at all hurt  
That you gave up this year  
and just sent me a fiver to spend!!  
Mick Gower

### Christmas Visitors

It's eight in the morning, ring, ring goes the phone,  
You'd better come quickly, it's our Auntie Joan.  
Hello there, my darling, are you busy at all?  
Uncle Bob's on the mend, so I thought I would call.

You remember last year when you said that you  
missed us?  
We're putting that right.... we are coming for  
Christmas!  
Don't go to no trouble, seeing you is what matters,  
Just a nice bit o'turkey and a few roast tayters.

Erm... no cranberry sauce, we much prefer  
mustard,  
And served with our pud.... we'll be happy with  
custard.  
Can we bring Uncle Fred and his poor sister Mabel?  
Their dogs are no trouble.... eating scraps from the  
table.

As for sprouts... I can tell you, it's best if you fry  
them,  
Uncle George will come then, for he does like to try  
them.  
Have you room in your kitchen? Should we bring  
extra chairs?  
You won't mind, after dinner, if George sleeps  
upstairs?

So lovely to talk, dear, there are tears in my eyes,  
That you phoned to invite us..... such a lovely  
surprise.

Claire Baldry, East Sussex. Daily Mail



St Mary's Square Aylesbury taken by Ron Adams

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### DRAWING GROUP

"I haven't been doing much of interest to other people but our drawing group has met for coffee at the Watermead Inn and are going to do so again.

I have mainly been painting and chatting on the phone. I miss our monthly lunch at the Watermead Inn and the other U3A activities such as the Psychology group and Out and About. Don't know when things will be back to normal. Not until they get a vaccine I suppose."

*Val Tomlinson*

October 27th saw the first Zoom meeting for Sounds of the 60s, to be followed on 10th November for the Fifties70s group. Previously presentations, (which can be viewed on the U3A website), have been shown by uploading on to You Tube, but this is fraught with copyright issues resulting in blocked presentations.

The first meeting was co-hosted by Richard Clark who presented "What happened to these well-known names of the 60s", followed by my presentation "Pirate Radio". This was all overseen with the help of Derek Ayshford.

We had an audience of 21, of which some log ins were two or three participants, so I'm sure the total viewing was over 26, not bad for our first effort!

The usual gremlins appeared with Richard's presentation locking out after 15 minutes before getting back online and mine locking up a few times, but we got there in the end, all part of the learning curve we are all going through.

What really mattered was that during the 15 minute interval everyone had the opportunity to view and talk to each other.

Until life comes back to normal, Zoom meetings are proving to be a valuable way for all of us to "facetime" each other.

Phil Davies—Group Leader  
Sounds of the 60s and Fifties 70s





## LOCAL WALKS

Twelve U3A walking group members walked from Coombe Hill to Dunsmore and back on Monday 17th August. The group was led by Roger Walker. We formed two groups of six to comply with the Government's guidelines. Whilst on Coombe Hill we looked towards Aylesbury to see it submerged in a large black rain cloud. We were very fortunate and had no rain, and had some sunshine. At the end of the walk we enjoyed a picnic lunch and the sun shone on us. I have attached a photo of the group, taken at Dunsmore by Steve Edwards. Note the social distancing.



Roger Fox

Our recent U3A walk on the 14th September was, for me, the jewel in the crown. It was the top of the list for views, sleepy villages, history and interest. Nine of our members attended and we split into two separate groups of four and five to comply with the Government's rules of a maximum of six.

The walk started at Skirmett a village consisting mainly of quaint cottages, a pub called the Frog (Skirmett the Frog) and the village hall. The name Skirmett comes from the Norse meaning "Shire meeting place". We walked a short distance through the village before turning on to a track where we climbed gradually into woodland at the top. From there we could clearly see Cobstone windmill on an opposite hill which sits above our next village on the route—Turville. The windmill was once owned by Hayley Mills and her husband Ray Boulting and was used in the film "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang".

We continued through woodland descending to our next village Turville. The Anglo – Saxon chronical of 796 describes Turville as Thryefield (Dry Field). As we approached the village, we passed a row of cottages. The last cottage before the village green is called 'Sleepy Cottage'. This cottage was used in the film 'Goodnight Mr Tom' and was Mr Toms cottage. Turville is a very pretty village with brick and flint cottages, Saint Mary's church and the Bull and Butcher pub. Next to Mr Toms cottage is the cottage used by the Vicar of Dibley. Next to that is another cottage used in the T.V series Miss Marple. The church was used in filming both Goodnight Mr Tom and the Vicar of Dibley. I am not sure if it was used in the filming of Miss Marple.

Cont overleaf

Continuing on we climbed a short distance before entering woodland. We then descended into our last village Fingist. The name Fingist derives by gradual change from 'Tinghurst' which tells us it's on a wooded hill. The village consists of pretty cottages, Saint Bartholomew's church and the Chequers pub. The church has a unique Norman tower with twin gables dating back to the early 1100's. The church has an Italian feel about it.

From Fingist we proceeded uphill into woodland before finally descending back to Skirmett. To finish our day, we drove off and found a lovely village green at Ibstone where we enjoyed a picnic lunch and had a good chat.

I hope to organise more walks in that area in the future. I am told the wild flowers are glorious in spring and the woodland a picture in Autumn.

Thanks to Len and Chris Greaves for providing me with the information of this walk.



Jill, Mary, Diana and Roger outside  
Vicar of Dibleys Cottage



Miss Marples Cottage



Judy, Roger, Franz and Jenny outside  
Vicar of Dibleys Cottage

**On 19th October, the Local Walks Group** met on The Ridgeway above Chinnor. There were 18 of us in total and we walked in 3 groups of 6 in order to follow COVID-19 Rules. Two groups walked clockwise separated by a few minutes and a third group walked anti-clockwise. We followed The Ridgeway for a short distance then dropped down to walk around the chalk pits which are now lakes where we stopped in a children's play area for our halfway break for a biscuit and a drink. We then went through the centre of the village of Chinnor. From Chinnor we proceeded up and back towards the Ridgeway over the old steam railway line and along a footpath which runs parallel to the railway line to Lower Wainhill. Then up the hill to join The Ridgeway again and back to our cars where we had our picnics, socially distanced, in the local playing fields where there were a few picnic tables. We were once again lucky with good weather. The walk was about 4 miles, mostly flat with no stiles so quite easy.

Diana Lewis



## THE CRAFT GROUP

Please see below two photos of work done by Diane House. The crochet rose was done while on the last Craft Group chat. The tea towel is block printed. Diane was away for the original project but finally caught up in a socially distanced class before we all got locked down again.

Several members of the group continue to meet on Zoom twice a month. Rosemary Meadowcroft has joined us a couple of times. Many of you will remember Ron and Rosemary doing a great job of running outings and study tours prior to their move to Yorkshire.

Heather Edwards



## FROM A MEMBER OF THE GERMAN GROUP

A few pandemic jokes might just take your mind off the apocalyptic state of the world.

1. Why did the chicken cross the road? Because the chicken behind it didn't know how to socially distance properly.
2. Ran out of toilet paper and started using lettuce leaves. Today was just the tip of the iceberg, tomorrow romaines to be seen.
3. My mum always told me I wouldn't accomplish anything by lying in bed all day. But look at me now, mum! I'm saving the world!
4. If I keep stress-eating at this level, the buttons on my shirt will start socially distancing from each other.
5. Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.
6. Being quarantined with a talkative child is like having an insane parrot glued to your shoulder. I never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch them with a six-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!
7. This morning I saw a neighbour talking to her cat. It was obvious she thought her cat understood her. I came into my house, told my dog – we laughed a lot.
8. Nothing like relaxing on the settee after a long day of being tense on the settee.
9. Day 121 at home and the dog is looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!"
10. Why do they call it the novel coronavirus? It's a long story....
11. What's the best way to avoid touching your face? A glass of wine in each hand.
12. What's the difference between COVID-19 and Romeo and Juliet? One's the coronavirus and the other is a Verona crisis.
13. Back in my day, you would cough to cover up a fart. Now, with COVID-19, you fart to cover up a cough.
14. Why don't chefs find coronavirus jokes funny? They're in bad taste.
15. What should you do if you don't understand a coronavirus joke? Be patient.
16. The grocery stores in France look like tornadoes hit them. All that's left is de brie.
17. I'll tell you a coronavirus joke now, but you'll have to wait two weeks to see if you got it.
18. What do you tell yourself when you wake up late for work and realize you have a fever? Self, I so late.

Don't know why but my Sunflowers reached my record height of 15ft this year. Not bad for a £2 packet of seeds from Wilko.

Greig Sneddon



## PUZZLES (answers in next issue)



## ANSWERS to last puzzle

1. Windsor
2. Letter M

**Last date for copy for the Spring 2021 Newsletter will be 1st February 2021** so please send any items you may like to share with us to [newsletter@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@avu3a.org.uk). Thanks as always to all of you who contribute to our newsletter. Please continue to send in news of your activities within the U3A and for any other items which you feel might interest our readers. Our very productive photographers are reminded that under the new Privacy Laws, members featuring in the very welcome photographs submitted for publication should have given permission for their image to be so used. If you do not want your photo reproduced please make that clear! Our thanks go to Derek Ayshford for his ongoing support! Don't forget to look at our website [avu3a.org.uk](http://avu3a.org.uk) where you will find up-to-date news and details of all our activities.

*If you do not use internet/email then please send your contribution, either typed or handwritten, by post to Mary Singleton, 6 Redwing, Aylesbury HP19 0WB.*