



A Message from your Committee

Dear members

In an extraordinary year, we would like to say a big thank you to all who have done their best to keep things going by whatever means possible, including contributions to newsletters and the website.

If you have returned your membership forms – thank you. If you haven't and wish to remain a member of BDU3A, it is important that you complete it and return it asap. We need to know so that we can order magazines from head office, and so that we can send AGM materials. To comply with General Data Protection Regulations, your details will be deleted from our database if you are not officially a member of Bolsover U3A.

Some groups are starting to use Zoom occasionally, which has proved to be an exciting new way to continue activities. If any members are interested in Zooming but would like some more information, please contact Peter Coombs. National Office is also offering free tutorials – for more information look on the National Website.

The national office also circulates a monthly newsletter, which individuals subscribe to by e-mail. If you are not already signed up for this and would like to receive it, again check on the website.

For those of you who are looking for opportunities to learn new skills, there are some excellent online courses offered by Derbyshire Adult Community Education. Go to the DCC website to find out more.

Not on the internet? Receiving this newsletter via the post? Why not team up with another member of BDU3A who does the internet and keep up to date with what is happening?

Finally, a huge thank you, from all of us to Geoff Cutts who has been paddling furiously beneath the surface to keep our website operating smoothly. We really appreciate your generous input of time and energy.

“We, bdu3a, will continue to follow the Government “road map” Guidelines, and truly hope that we can get together before the year is out. One step at a time. Until we can all meet again, Stay Safe”

Hopefully

We are getting our Covid Jabs sorted and are getting towards the point where the majority of us have been inoculated.

Spoiler alert...Having had the jab we are not immune to catching Covid 19. Just that you will (hopefully) not be as ill and will not need the Hospital.

So as the glimmer of spring brings with it the hope of greater freedom, our thoughts will be turned outwards, and we will be making plans of how to spread our wings after the winter gloom.

I wonder how our priorities will have changed and what will be your first item on the spring to-do list?

I am sure there is a backlog of haircuts, dye jobs, and manicures, and that's just the men!

I will be looking forward to finding a few new togs to wear, I have certainly had my money's worth from this onesie! Fleece is so wash and wear.

How are all our waistlines doing? I have been to the Doctors and had the eyebrows raised at the extra poundage and the higher blood pressure but looking out of the window I know nothing is moving me away from this radiator!

Talking of the cold weather, I trust that the hospital has seen fewer fractures this winter because we have all stopped at home and not gone ice skating on the path.

bdu3a member.

[OUR WONDERFUL WORLD](#) by Josie Cornock.

Spring is on its way -

All the birds, wildlife say!

Daffodils, Snowdrops colour the earth,

Our "Trees of Life" stretch out their branches with "new birth"

New Moon starts a new journey -

Followed by the warm sun,

For a new start for our Wonderful World.

Design and Create

Our group has been keeping in touch mainly via WhatsApp during the past year and on 6th February 2021 attempted our first Zoom meeting. There were a few blips i.e., voice but no video, internet ups and downs but in the main, it was successful and was nice to see everyone. Having WhatsApp on a mobile phone open for contact was useful to help anyone out if needed.

We talked of a recent BBC4 programme, **Craftivism Making a Difference**, which is a very interesting concept, worth a watch. *(Still available on iPlayer)*

We also discussed Grayson's Art Club and thought we may enter something; however, the entry dates were too close to do this.

There is also a competition running through until the end of March, accessed through their website - King Lear Art.

We decided to each start an individual Art Journal, YouTube has lots of different ideas on this subject to suit all tastes and styles, also Facebook has art groups that people can join. WhatsApp has been a good way to keep in touch, share ideas, etc and this month we have welcomed 2 members to the group.

Julie. Interest Group Leader

Lunch Clubbers

I have missed our lunches and the opportunity to socialise as I'm sure you all have. Who knows when we will meet again? I hope that you are all involved with other groups who are doing things remotely.

I did wonder if any of you have used the takeaway options offered by some local pubs/restaurants, and if so, have they been satisfactory?

I had a Sunday lunch, from the 'Twin Oaks', with my stepson and his wife. It was excellent and there was so much food, there was enough for a second meal, the next day. Do let me know if you have tried any others. Maybe we could put something on the website and share experiences?

I hope you are all well and look forward to being able to meet up again whenever that may be!

Jean. Interest Group Leader

Books & Reading

Lockdown Reading

We are still being asked to remain at home so Rose from the Creative Writing group and Jean from the Book Club have come up with some interesting suggestions for a good read.

Jean writes: My absolute favourite is 'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens.

It is beautifully written. The location, the characters and the relationships between them are mesmerizing and the story pulls you in so that you can't bear to leave it.

Rose writes: Richard Osman: The Thursday Murder Club. I was hooked from the very first page. His characters are very believable and funny. Still reading this. Marks 9.5/10 out of 10

The full articles with suggestions enough for another year (God forbid) of lockdown are on the bdu3a website.

Here is a shortlist of some of the books they have been reading: -

1. Tracey Chevalier: Remarkable Creatures
2. Muriel Barbery: The Elegance of the Hedgehog
3. Richard Osman: The Thursday Murder Club
4. Robert Galbraith: Troubled Blood

5. Anita Shreve: The Lives of Stella Bain
6. Mike Jackson: The Underground Man
7. Dean Koontz: Devotion
8. Hilary Mantel: The Mirror and the Light
9. Alex Michaelides: The Silent Patient
10. Simon Montefiore: Shashenka

For a longer, more detailed list go to the Books & Reading Group webpage.

I understand the library is still functioning but its best you speak to them

Carol Briggs

email: Carol.Briggs@derbyshire.gov.uk

General enquiries

email: Bolsover.Library@derbyshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01629 537800

The BBC has recently made a reading of the Richard Osman book so it is currently available on the website on [BBC Sounds](#).

BBC Sounds are packed with an assortment of things from the radio.

Jean. Interest Group Leader.

Village Gardeners

Although we were due to receive some free trees and hedgerow plants from the Woodland Trust in March to plant up at Hillstown, unfortunately, they have had a computer hacking of their delivery database. All deliveries will be postponed until April.

The government is looking at relaxing the lockdown in a few months allowing up to groups of six again outside. If this comes to fruition, we will be donning our bobble hats again soon weather permitting.

Kevin. Interest Group Leader

THE MUSINGS OF AN AMATEUR GENEALOGIST

Past, present and future

Soon March 21st 2021 will be here and I will be required by law, whether online or by paper copy, to fill in and return my decennial census form. There will be questions on my sex, age, work, health, education, household size and ethnicity, any military service plus voluntary questions on sexual orientation and gender identity.

As my pen is poised, I wonder at my present view of such things in comparison to what they were when I belligerently filled in my first form in 1971. As an anti-establishment activist I thought it was an invasion of my privacy and no-one's business but my own. I gave no thought as to why the census was devised, what the Office of National Statistics would use it for or how I might come to rely, in later years, on information given in returns as I came to be searching for my ancestors.

The questions asked now are a far cry from the first census of 1801 (when the population was circa 8 million) and the ensuing 3 decades when parliament was only interested in whether there were enough men of fighting age to swell the ranks of the military and navy during the Napoleonic wars and that there were enough people, predominately males, engaged in agriculture making thus feeding ourselves sustainably.

It is accepted that, as the population increased both nationally and globally, there was a shift in emphasis, albeit slowly and much more personal information was required. Eventually, women and children were more in focus and after 1841 the information given was used to determine parliamentary and social change according to the needs of the nation at the time.

Now I eagerly await the release of the 1921 census which will be available initially through Find My Past in January 2022. The 1920 Census Act determined that no personal information would be made public until over one hundred years had passed but statistics showed that there was an understandably huge drop in the male population following WW1 and the ensuing flu pandemic. Something that might be replicated in this year's census just one hundred years later.

My attention now is drawn to the realisation that the 1921 census will be the last that I will be able to access. The 1931 census was destroyed in an unexplained fire in Dec 1942 and there wasn't a 1941 one taken due to WW2 though the 1939 Registration Act "for the issue of identity cards" gives us a welcome substitute and isn't subject to the hundred year rule. I wasn't even a twinkle in my parents eye in 1951 and don't put in an appearance until 1961 when I was an impish scholar aged 8. I don't think I will be around to see my name in print!

I am forever grateful to my ancestors who took part in their questionnaires as I have learned so much from them. Who they were and the society in which they lived, through wars, pandemics, shifts in employment, migration and peacetime. From reluctant to being dutiful I am now about to return my 6th Census Form. I hope that whichever of my family descendants who might one day be searching for me they will be proud that I was an integral part of their history and with the information I will provide helped to shape their future.

Now Boris, get our Library Learning room open. I'm ever hopeful.

Pam. Interest Group Leader.

Bovered?

Are we, are you? You can't see my face, but I certainly am getting less bovered. Windows, carpets, dog, myself ...all need cleaning, but can I be bovered?

The winter weather hasn't helped, either too cold or too wet.

Somehow, we must turn our faces to the future, which at the moment looks shaky. However, the bulbs we planted before winter will bloom, colour and hope will come.

Are we ready in our turn to burst forth and take advantage of the loosening of restrictions?

There are some groups which by their nature will be first...the walker and gardeners for instance, for the rest of us we will have to wait and see.

Has anyone had an idea for a new group or activity?

I feel the need to shake my dowdy feathers and do something different...

How do we feel about a good boogie, getting to strut all that stuff in the wardrobe?

Anyone for dance, music, or film appreciation?

Anyone fancy being in a flash dance or maybe our own version of a Rugby Hookah? ***Maybe an idea for the June u3a Day***

Can you imagine all staggering out of a bus trip to perform a Hookah to the horror and amazement of the car park attendant?

How shall we start?

Get those grey cells working and the grey hair (if not coloured) then artfully arranged, with a spritz of perfume/aftershave.

Plan something and get ready to get your bums off that sofa!

(Restrictions allowing)

Fingers Crossed it won't be too long until we see you all again.

bdu3a member.

A Kind Gesture.

As Hillstown Village Hall was increasingly being used for a number of our interest groups and meetings before the current lockdown, a problem became more evident. A number of members had pointed out difficulties in picking out speech with the echo in the main hall, particularly with smaller groups meeting and having to spread out.

Unfortunately, this is a common problem with the acoustics of a large hall with many hard surfaces.

The trustees of the Hillstown Village Hall have noted this and preliminary sound testing has been carried out over the last few months to decide if anything could be done to improve the acoustics.

Sound testing the Hall Sept 2020.

This has led to a bdu3a member to kindly make a donation to the hall, meeting the cost of the special material required to dampen the echo. This will help all clubs and groups to benefit from a more pleasant environment when we return. Work will start when possible.

Secretary Hillstown Village Hall.

Bolsover gets Covid Test Centre.

Bolsover gets its own test center from the 1st of March 2021. It has been announced on Derbyshire.gov.uk

This will be a walk-in centre at Hillstown Village Hall, Nesbit Street, Hills Town, Bolsover. Opening hours 9 am to 7 pm. Seven days per week.

For full details go to Derbyshire.gov.uk. Community testing for Covid-19

AGM 2021

A Brief Notification and Information re bdu3a AGM 2021

In April you will receive the official AGM notification and documents for approval, via email, or for those without email by Royal Mail

Later in April, you will receive via email (or Royal Mail) an electronic (or paper) voting slip to complete and return via the Internet (or post). These will be returned to two independent bdu3a members for counting.

All votes must be completed and returned by 3rd May to count. Results will be circulated on the AGM date, 5th May

bdu3a Committee.

u3a day

What will you be doing on u3a day?

The very first national u3a day – celebrating the learning, activity, and fun that happens every day in u3as across the country – will now take place on **2nd June 2021**.

We had hoped that we could celebrate u3a day in 2020 but the continued uncertainty in lockdown as to whether activities could be undertaken led to a re-think. We encourage all u3as to put **Wednesday 2nd June 2021** in their diaries - it is going to happen.

It is part of Volunteer Week and an opportunity to celebrate our activities, our contribution to the local community and the innovative ways members have responded to the restrictions under lockdown.

I'm sure your local u3a Committees will be planning and involving as many of its members to make it a great success. Get involved with our resources online [u3a](#)

u3a National Office.

u3a merchandise

u3a National office is almost ready to launch a range of its merchandise. As well as the usual, pens, diaries, offerings of fleeces, and t-shirts with the u3a logo are coming our way, under consideration is the 'Dog drying machine'

Well, that's about it for now, watch out for your AGM paperwork.
Our next Newsletter is planned for April 2021 unless Bolsover is struck by a sizeable random meteorite that wipes us out completely.

Kevin Bates. Editor

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