

On the Bright Side March 2021

Thank you all once again for your support. We're pleased to say that we've been given the go-ahead for another edition of "On the Bright Side" which should reach you in May. We are hopeful that a July issue will also receive approval. This means that the ball is now in your court; we need your articles and pictures. 200 - 250 words plus 1 or 2 illustrations will fill one page, while about 450 words with pictures makes a double page spread. Some short pieces are probably better without pictures as you'll appreciate when you read Pete Morris' contribution!

We're happy to publish anything which exemplifies the U3A philosophy, learn, laugh, live. What interests you and which you think other members might find informative, amusing or useful? It's also been suggested that a book review would be a useful addition. Could you provide a review of an old favourite or a new release?

Bob, John & Sue

Please send your contributions to bob@carvey.org
or ring 01793 525746

**We don't stop playing because we
grow old; we grow old because
we stop playing.**

George Bernard Shaw



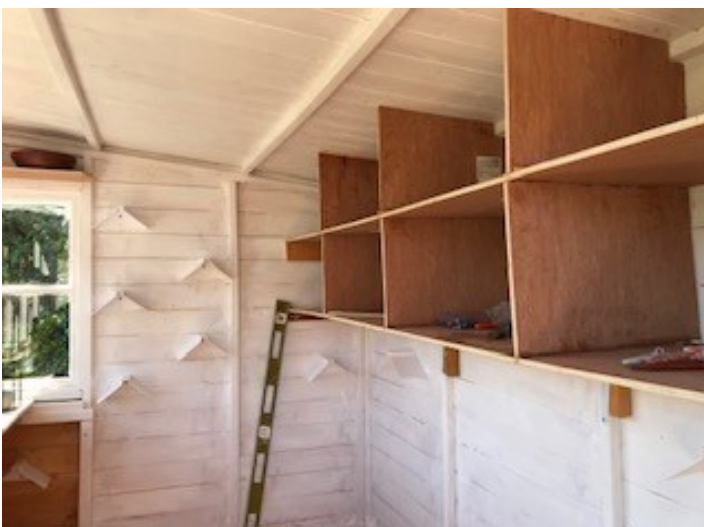
You've heard of Changing Rooms, Tony Farrell has been Changing Lofts.



During the last lockdown I looked at my old pigeon loft and decided that it needed renewing.

I went ahead and bought a new potting shed which I converted into a luxury 5 star pigeon loft. I was pleased with the results and so were my birds!

Here are the results of my labour!



It was very tempting to include a recipe for pigeon pie but this recipe from Mary is much tastier.

One Pan Sausage and Bean Casserole

Serves 4

Use a large saucepan or frying pan for this recipe

8 sausages, fresh or frozen

2 tins baked beans in tomato sauce

1 clove of fresh garlic or a tsp of easy/lazy garlic (optional) – more or less to taste

1 large onion, peeled and chopped

3 carrots, peeled and chopped

400 ml (just over $\frac{2}{3}$ of a pint) vegetable stock

Seasoning to taste (salt, pepper, cayenne pepper, Worcestershire sauce, etc.)

Mashed potato, bread, etc, to serve

1. Fry the sausages in a little oil until browned all over, around 10 minutes – allow a little longer if cooking from frozen
2. Add in the chopped onion, carrot and garlic (if using) and continue to fry for a further 4-5 minutes, until veggies begin to soften and colour
3. Add in the stock and bring to the boil
4. Lower the heat, add in the baked beans and mix everything together
5. Add any additional seasoning to taste
6. Allow to simmer for about 45 minutes, stirring occasionally
7. Season with additional salt/pepper/seasoning to taste



Mary Turner

What to do in the garden in March and April

If you have only just woken up from hibernation and have not ventured into the garden recently, March is the time to catch up with pruning your deciduous shrubs. The lack of leaves means that you can see the structure, so if it's overcrowded take out some of the older stems to encourage new growth. This applies to winter flowering shrubs like viburnum and dogwoods. One good rule to remember is that new growth will form from dormant buds where you cut so if possible make your cut above a bud. This is also a good time to prune your buddleia, again cut back just above a pair of buds to keep your shrub to a manageable size. Buddleia is a wonderful nectar plant for moths, bees and hoverflies... so if you don't have one in your garden make a trip to the garden centre to buy one... not enough space you say, then there are new smaller varieties available that you can grow in a pot.

If you leave the stems on your perennial plants over winter as a shelter for insects now is the time to cut them back as the new buds begin to grow at the base of the plant. This applies to plants like sedums, hardy geraniums and Michaelmas daisies. If they are attempting to take over the whole flower bed you can dig them up, split them into smaller pieces, replant what you want and give the rest away to friends.

In April plants with Mediterranean origins like lavender, santolina and rosemary can be pruned as long as they are showing signs of growth. Regular trimming avoids the development of woody bare stems, keeping them in a neat shape and prolonging their life. Don't cut into wood where no new growth is showing as it won't regrow. Any of the clippings about 2-3 inches long can be used as cuttings to create replacement plants.

If you get fed up with all this pruning and tidying up, now is the time to sow seeds of vegetables and decorative plants such as poppies, marigolds and cosmos. Follow the instructions on the packet unless experience has taught you otherwise. For example I have found it more successful to sow plants like cornflowers into individual modules in my greenhouse as you can protect them from the attentions of slugs. However it is also more work as you have to pot on and nurture the seedlings.

(cont.)

As the weather warms it's time to check any dahlia tubers that you are over wintering for new growth. Discard any that are rotting and repot any that are showing signs of growth in some new peat free compost. Any small pieces of tuber which have fallen off that don't appear to have buds can be put into a container like an egg box on a sunny window sill and with luck some of them will eventually sprout, giving you more plants. There should be tubers available to purchase in March if you've had a disaster.

Happy Gardening!



Helen Senior

Apologies to Michael Thomas that his by line for *The Kindness of Strangers*, An account of a train journey in India was omitted from the January on line version.

A New Year Reflection 2021

Into the record book the past year will go
As one we were hit by a hidden foe
A virus spread from east to west
Putting humans to their greatest test
Shops devoid of the new year throng
Motorways blessed by constant bird song



Wildlife breathed a sigh of relief
But most of us felt but fear and grief
Often parted from those we love most
Their earthly form more like a ghost
The virus has left a lasting impression
A legacy of a lasting recession

Furloughs have offered relief to some
But others hear but a distant drum
One that sounds a diminishing beat
A spectre of life on the street



A vaccine opens a hopeful gate
But for many it will open too late
For the hungry the gate is barely ajar
Born on a feather that floats from afar
Another gate remains fully open
Releasing a threat now rarely spoken
A catastrophe that is quickly dawning
From the rising effects of global warming
Cascades will emerge in various forms
From rising seas and terrible storms

The virus triggers a global recession
Set to leave a lasting impression
Can we escape from a future so bleak?
This depends on the solutions we seek
Everyone has a role to play
In a journey to that wonderful day
A world with less conflict and pain
And all their basic needs can attain
On the natural world we all depend
To the dustbin of history our waste we must send
Build a future without adversity
Understanding the need for biodiversity
No vision from which we seek to hide
But one our descendants can look back on with pride

Michael Thomas



A conversation between...

"You have to go."

"I know, but not just yet."

"You should go now."

"I'm busy, I'll go later."

"You really ought to go now."

"Look, I am trying to concentrate, shut up!"

"You have got to go; you can't put it off forever."

"I'm trying to get this finished."

"You know you must go very soon."

"It is not convenient just now; I will go in a bit"

"If you don't go soon you will be too late."

"Just a bit longer I'm almost done."

"You can't just ignore it; you have to go now!"

"OK, OK, I'm going."

...between me and my bladder.

Pete Morris

U3A Italian post beginners : Learning in Lockdown

Unable to meet for our Monday afternoon sessions in Lawn Community Centre we continued on individual pathways with varying degrees of diligence, reworking parts of the course book, revising vocabulary and using online websites. It was in the summer that we began to meet again using Zoom and through that we have continued to evolve.

As a group we have moved away from the regular regime of exercises in the book and weekly email reminders of our “homework” dwindled as the format changed over the months. Now it's mainly “bring something that you found interesting to share with the rest of the group”, whether it's “la settimana scorsa”^{*} or items culled from various bookshelves, websites or the news. Topics have included instructions from different sources such as assembling cooker hoods and coffee making, popular sayings, proverbs and phrases, the cinema, tv, books, stories, poems, songs (popular, opera, children's), recipes and many, many more. Sharing material is in fact much easier on Zoom and we're getting more confident with the technology.

Language interests still include verbs and vocabulary. Individuals still sometimes devise little tests, quizzes and activities for the group and those more assiduously working with greater discipline at home share material and ideas on some of the free sites, such as: **Easy Italian News.com**, **Duolingo**, **Ankiweb Italian**, **Busuu** and **Easy Italian on YouTube with Katie & Matteo**. From some of Katie & Matteo's posts we also tried such conversational topics as: Who from the past would you invite to dinner and why? What makes you happy? What have you missed during lockdown?

Not everyone has been able to join in every week and some have had to take a break for a while, but the current format means that if someone has “stepped out” of the group for a while, they can return without feeling that everyone but themselves are on the same page of a course of study. The free sites may be of increased interest to other language groups now that we are facing fewer opportunities to leave the house.

* the last week

Pam Golding

Travel group G Holiday to Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2021

Monday 8th November to 12th November 2021

Staying at Palm Court Hotel, Great Yarmouth for 4 nights bed, breakfast and evening meal, the hotel has an indoor swimming pool.

We will visit Cambridge on the way there, a day visiting surrounding area, visit to Thursford for matinee performance, visit to Ely for Cathedral Christmas Gift and Food fair, visit to a place of interest on way home.

Cost £425 includes Deluxe ticket for show, entrance to Christmas market, single supplement £44, Sea view £28.

Deposit £90 by Monday 26th April Balance by Monday 14th September. There will be no bookings taken for show tickets after 1st September as this is the deadline for booking show tickets.

There will be full refunds, as happened last year when deposits had been paid. Lionel Barnes has always been very good about refunds. Deposits are not due until 26th April, and people can put their names down before they send the deposit.

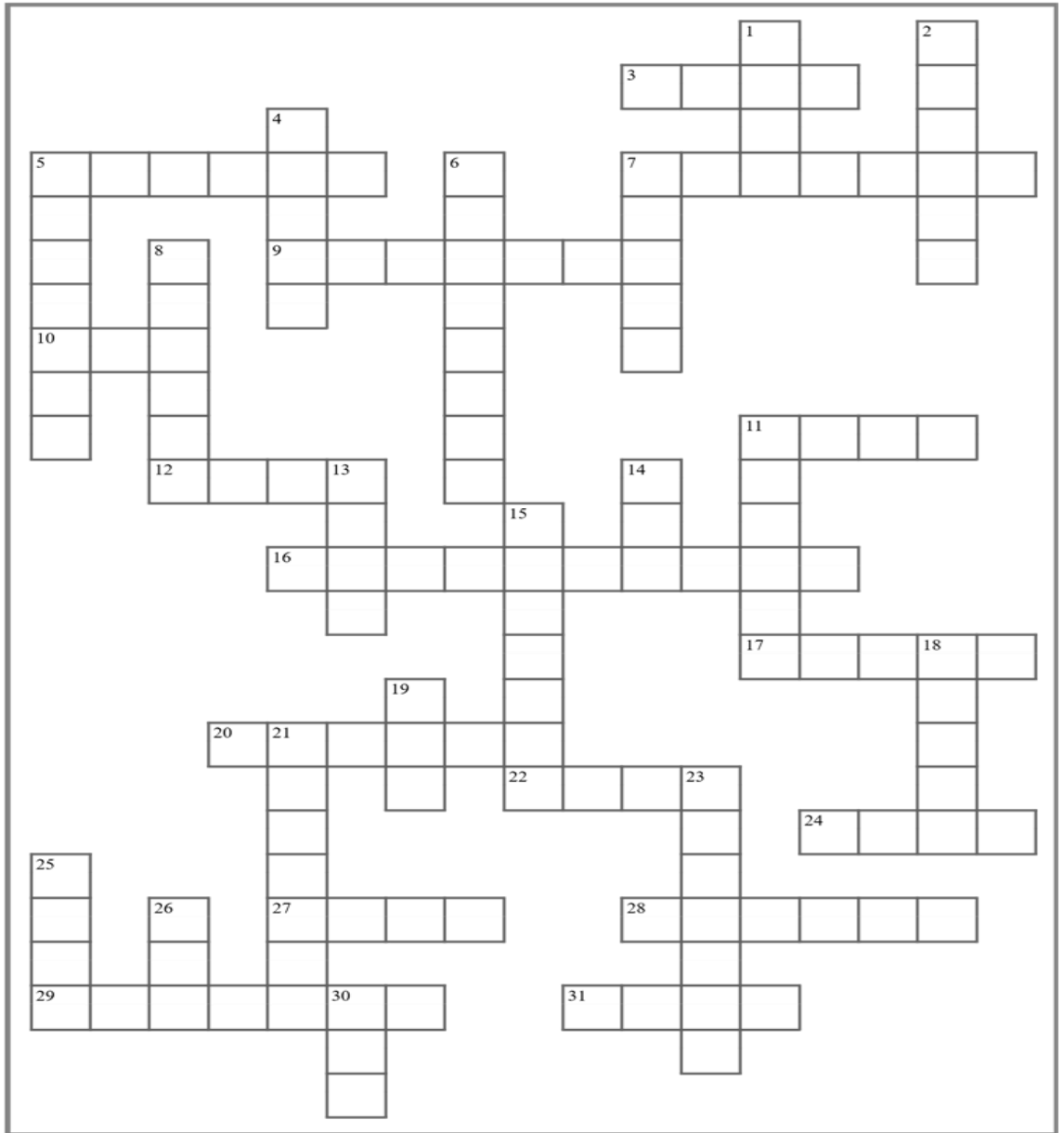
Sue York

If you are interested in going on this trip please click or tap on the link below. It would be helpful if you could let Sue have the names and addresses of those wishing to go together with your phone number and email address. Please indicate what type of room you require; Single, Twin, Double or Seaview and if you have any special requirements. Sue will get in touch with you.

[Click here to contact Sue York](#)

**S
p
e
e
d
y

C
r
o
s
s
w
o
r
d**



Across

- 3 Engage in games
- 5 Real / genuine
- 7 Ultra
- 9 Jury's decision
- 10 Generation
- 11 Night time
- 12 Therefore
- 16 Joy and glee
- 17 Human trunk
- 20 Martial art
- 22 Tailed amphibian

24 Ukraine capital

- 27 Forehead
 - 28 Dark red
 - 29 Warm before
 - 31 Search for prey
- Down**
- 1 Go hungry
 - 2 Universe
 - 4 Simplistic
 - 5 Swimming aid
 - 6 Prop up / support
 - 7 Laud / acclaim

8 Savage

- 11 Expel
- 13 Burden
- 14 Groove
- 15 Egg white
- 18 Manner
- 19 Standard
- 23 Despotism
- 25 Cut with an axe
- 26 Anger
- 30 Beer type

A Dozen Questions

All 12 answers have something in common

1. A street in Swindon Old Town
2. "Hippy" Music Festival 1969
3. Directed the film "Annie Hall"
4. Where is Llareggub?
5. Elvis body part
6. A Thomas Hardy novel
7. Where there was something nasty
8. Lancashire-born comedian and actor died 2016
9. No longer in trouble
10. Mummy, Daddy, Jenny, Willy and Baby assisted by Spotty Dog, Mrs. Scrubbit and Buttercup
11. US President
12. Pooh's patch

Ken Stimson

A Sudoku with Character . . .

Just like a normal sudoku but using the letters A to I

D	A				G			E
		C	B		I			H
		H		E	A	I	D	
F	C	E	A				G	
		B		G		A		
			F		C	H		B
	I	D	G			F		
C			D		F	B		
H			I				C	D

All answers on last page

Follow your heart, but take your brain with you.

Alfred Adler

This page has been left blank.

If you **don't** want to see the
answers stop now.

If you **do** want to see the
answers please go to the next
page.

Speedy Answers

Across 3 play 5 actual 7 extreme 9 verdict 10 age

11. dark 12 ergo 16 jubilation 17 torso 20 karate 22 newt 24 Kiev
27 brow 28 maroon 29 preheat 31 hunt

Down 1 fast 2 cosmos 4 naïve 5 armband 6 underpin

7 extol 8 fierce 11 deport 13 onus 14 rut 15 albumen

18 style 19 par 21 amiable 23 tyranny 25 chop 26 ire

30 eat

A Dozen Answers for A Dozen Questions

1. Wood Street
2. Woodstock
3. Woody Allen
4. Under Milk Wood
5. Wooden heart
6. The Woodlanders or Under the Greenwood Tree
7. In the Woodshed
8. Victoria Wood
9. Out of the Woods
10. The Woodentops
11. Woodrow Wilson
12. 100 Acre Wood

A Solution Full of Characters

D	A	I	H	F	G	C	B	E
E	F	C	B	D	I	G	A	H
G	B	H	C	E	A	I	D	F
F	C	E	A	B	H	D	G	I
I	H	B	E	G	D	A	F	C
A	D	G	F	I	C	H	E	B
B	I	D	G	C	E	F	H	A
C	E	A	D	H	F	B	I	G
H	G	A	I	A	B	E	C	D