



The Annual General Meeting  
of Higham and Rushden u3a will be held at the Goods Shed  
on Wednesday 20 October 2021 doors opening at 1.30pm

**NOTICE:**

It has been agreed by the Committee that all members who renewed their subscription in the year March 2020 to end February 2021 will receive a year's free membership, commencing when their next renewal is due. This is a gesture of thanks to all who kept the faith and appreciated the work going on behind the scenes. You will be notified by e-mail at the beginning of the month in which your renewal is due, with a reminder of your next renewal date. Those who do not have e-mail will be contacted by phone.

With effect from 15th September 2021 there will be a small charge of 50p for each paper copy of the Newsletter. Paying visitors will still receive a free copy.  
*Newsletters are always available at no charge on the Higham and Rushden website and can be printed from there.*

**APPEAL:** Those of you who were at the August monthly meeting will be aware that the Chair put out an appeal for anyone who can use British Sign Language to come and interpret at future meetings. We are aware that growing numbers of our members are struggling with hearing and would like to address this if possible. If you use sign language and would be willing to spare a couple of hours per month, please contact any of the committee members or your group leaders.

**Front of House**

It was really good to see so many people, bit of a surprise 160 attended. But please do not turn up before 1.30 this gives us time to set up chairs.

Please take care in the car park although there is plenty of room you need to be tidy and have an awareness of those around you.

We may need Stewards in the car park as the Goods Shed is concerned.

Thank you to John Sugars and his team for all the work they put in.

Regards Steve Evans



## Chair's Chat

I feel that this year has been about 'dates':

12<sup>th</sup> April - we could go shopping and to the hairdresser!

17<sup>th</sup> May – we could see friends and family outdoors!

Then 21<sup>st</sup> June which became 19<sup>th</sup> July – back to 'normal' whatever that may be.

For me Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August was the one I was looking forward to,

We had our first monthly meeting after lockdown. The committee were excited to say the least – looking forward to seeing you all after such a long time.

I could hardly believe that 159 of us attended at our new venue. Despite lots of planning for this event various things went wrong. I won't list them – but I'll never forget my introduction to a microphone that kept switching itself off!!!

We are aware that the speaker at this meeting raised concerns among some of the members while others found it inspiring how he dealt with his illness.

We endeavour to provide interesting and unusual speakers but realise that not all topics are popular with all members. I can only apologise if some members were upset with content.

I attended my first 'special event' – Covent Garden and the Royal Courts of Justice. An excellent day out.

Our recruitment day outside ASDA was a great success.

I look forward to meeting and chatting with you at our next monthly meeting.

Trish

Chair



### HOME DINING:

I live in Stanwick, and my suppers start at 7.30 pm and usually finish around 10.00 pm. I offer a choice of two starters, two mains and two desserts, (all pre-booked), a glass of wine and a cup of tea or coffee for £12.50.

Please email me at [peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com](mailto:peterandjeanmole@btinternet.com) or telephone 01933 626 608 if you would like to reserve a place at my table for an enjoyable evening with good company (*and no washing up!*).

Jean Mole



## Special Events Group:

Although the day coach trips are full, we always have some last-minute cancellations; if you would like to put your name on the reserve list and we have a cancellation, we will contact you. All prices are inclusive of tickets, coach fare and gratuity to the coach driver.

Thursday 30 Sept;	Hampton Court Palace, guided tour	£42 pp
Wednesday 27 Oct:	St Albans (free time, market day, Cathedral etc)	£19 pp
Tuesday 7 Dec	Thursford Christmas Spectacular, matinee 2pm	£55 pp
Wed 13 April 2022	Singing in the Rain Show, Milton Keynes matinee	£57 pp

On 1st September we ran our second trip to Highclere Castle, having run the first one in July. We were very lucky as Lady Carnarvon was giving a private viewing to just two people, and we were able to listen to her as she moved from room to room, it was very interesting to hear her explain about the rooms and the Castle. She has written several books. We also saw Lord Carnarvon in the grounds. All the 2021 trips have been well subscribed and have run smoothly so we are looking forward to the remaining trips during Sept, Oct, and Dec and even into next year with the theatre booking for April 2022. More trips will be added on the H & R website Special Events group page. Contact Jean Mole or Sylvia Wright for more information/booking.



**Mindfulness and Meditation Group:** I have recently joined and am also a member of Wellingborough where I have been running the Mindfulness and Meditation groups. I would like to start a group for beginners if there is sufficient interest. I have practised and studied meditation for years and, after leaving the teaching profession, became a holistic therapist. You may be

aware of my Island of Peace download that was made available on your website during the first lockdown which will give you some idea of what I do. I'll be at the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> and I propose to have a table where I will be available to take names of anyone interested.

Judy Cooper 01604 83483 [judy.c990@btinternet.com](mailto:judy.c990@btinternet.com)

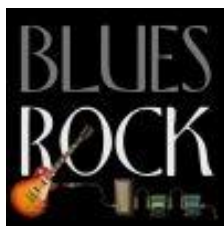


## Wine Appreciation:

For the August wine tasting we had two white wines: Cotes du Rhone – white from Boutinot blended grapes from normally a red wine area, purchased from an online company called All About Wine - also White from Northern Spain (Rioja area) Albarino grape, Bienbebido purchased from Majestic last year. Most people enjoyed them but thought the Spanish one was a bit acidic. We did not enjoy them as we are Red Wine People.

**September:** hope to have two different Rosés. See you all there. We have spaces if anyone is interested.

Salute Steve and Denise [dsgangeway@sky.com](mailto:dsgangeway@sky.com)



**Rock & Blues Group:** Our next meeting is on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 14:00 hours. The topic is US States and Cities. If you are thinking of joining us please contact me first as we have a limit on numbers.

Jim Morrison



**Computer Groups:** We are waiting for the Church to reopen its hall to us following which we hope to restart straight away. Days and times may be different, however, depending on availability.

Jim Morrison



### **Country Dancing.**

The group has been very successful since the onset of our u3a. Over the years around 40 members have supported the group at various times with an average of 12 during 2019/2020.

Unfortunately, some of our members have been unwell, others with disabilities preventing them dancing. Everyone has been very supportive over the years and my thanks to all the regulars.

It is appreciated that many folks are understandably concerned about Covid and would rather keep away. Fortunately, we use a large hall with opening windows and hand gel is available. At a local dance club some members wear white gloves. I have two pairs available, and they can be purchased at a chemist. As regards dancing, members need to feel comfortable, so no need to hold hands. All movements, including a ladies can be done without physical contact. The hall costs £20 so we need ten attending to cover cost. With low numbers the variety of dances is also reduced. Although two other u3a dance groups in the county may have had to stop meeting I hope we can keep going. Our next meeting is on September 20th. We only had two members on Sept 6th with others possibly on holiday.

If there are insufficient numbers on the 20th will have to suspend meetings until the New Year. Please ring if you have any concerns or thoughts.

Happy dancing George. 01933 622827.



**W.A.L.T. (Would Anyone Like To?):** This group gives members the opportunity to find someone to share an activity or event with. Something you fancy doing - but probably won't because you don't want to do it alone. It can be anything - a walk, a bike ride, fishing, bird watching - or maybe an event of some sort. If you want to do it and want some company, this is the place to find it!

The success of this group relies solely on members being proactive. Suggestions are made via email or at the monthly meeting, where you can swap ideas with everyone else. Every W.A.L.T. member has access to everyone else's email details (subject to the signing of our Data Protection form) and we have a Buddy system in place to ensure technology doesn't exclude anyone. So please don't be put off because you don't do emailing.

You will find more information on the U3A website, or you can contact Janet on 01933 317715, [janandpoppy@gmail.com](mailto:janandpoppy@gmail.com) or Ken on 07725055865.



### **Ten Pin Bowling:**

Ten Pin Bowling is back!

Under the new leadership of Colly, Martin and myself we are planning to recommence from 1st October 2021 at 11:00am, playing 2 games per session with a total charge of £6:50 pp/session. We are planning to reserve 4 lanes initially and need to be advised if you DO NOT wish to attend each session as the date arrives. (Inform any leader by email, phone or verbally).

Looking forward to seeing everyone back on Friday 1st October.

Kind Regards

Alan Nixon, Group Leader (Shared).



Knit & Natter

**Knit & Natter:** Unfortunately, the Knit and Natter group have been unable to restart the meetings until now but I am planning to recommence in September. I now have a short waiting list, and if anyone else is interested in joining please

let me know. I will consider running a second group if I get a few more people interested. Details for contacting me can be found on the Higham and Rushden u3a website. Thanks.

Kathy Arnold



### **HISTORY GROUP:**

Gillian and I would like to thank everyone who came to the History Group meeting on Thursday 2nd September at the Masonic Hall and a big thank you to all of the volunteer helpers who were fantastic in making the afternoon flow so well, we couldn't have done it without you

Gillian's talk on Yelden was very interesting; she is a knowledgeable historian and who would think that a little village like Yelden has so much history. Today we had 80 attendees with 48 members putting their names down as interested in the trip March 2022 to Lincoln Castle (this is also flexible, so if anyone would like to come on the trip to Lincoln for free time without going to the Castle, just let me know as we will probably have spare capacity on the coach). Also 48 put their names down for the Oliver Cromwell Museum at Huntingdon, combined with Ely for April 2022

The History group meetings at the Masonic Hall will always be on the 1st Thursday of each month, and we look forward to seeing you again on Thursday 7th October (the hall will only hold a maximum of 80 attendees) when Mike Petty will regale us with stories and people from the Castle Hill area of Cambridge, taken from Pickwick's Cambridge Scrapbook, he is a fictional character and the main protagonist in The Pickwick Papers (1838) the first novel by author Charles Dickens. Mike Petty is a well-known Cambridge Researcher, Lecturer and Historian

Sylvia Wright

**Notice of  
Annual General Meeting 2021**

Dear Member,

The Annual General Meeting of the Higham and Rushden u3a is to be held on Wednesday, 20th October 2021, 1.30pm for 2.00pm start at the Goods Shed, Rushden NN10 0AW

The Nomination form is printed below, and further copies are available from the Secretary. All nominations must be received by the Secretary before 8 October 2021.

Note: In the event that a vote is required only those members who have renewed and have a membership card for the 2021/2022 year are eligible and entitled to cast a vote.

Any items for discussion at the AGM must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary by 08 October 2021.

Denise Evans  
Secretary  
58 Grangeway, Rushden, NN10 9JG

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Nomination Form 2021-2022

Nominations for Committee membership.

Name (print)

Signed

Name and Signature of Nominee:

..... / .....

Name and Signature of Proposer

..... / .....

Name and Signature of Seconder

..... / .....

Annual General  
Meeting  
Wednesday  
20<sup>th</sup> October 2021  
2pm  
The Goods Shed,  
Rushden  
NN10 0AW

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*of Higham and Rushden u3a*  
will be held at the Goods Shed  
on Wednesday 20 October 2021  
doors opening at 1.30pm

### **AGM Agenda 2021**

Introduction and Welcome by the Chair

Apologies for Absence

Minutes of the February 2020/21 AGM to be approved.

Matters Arising

Chairman's Report

Treasurer's Report

Adoption of Accounts

Nominations for Committee

Any Other Business



**PILATES GROUP:**

Classes at the Masonic Hall, Wellingborough Road, Rushden NN10 9YJ.  
 Class A-1pm,  
 Class B -2pm, and  
 Class C - 3pm

We have an external qualified body Pilates instructor, Paula Donovan who makes the exercises enjoyable as well as beneficial. The class details are on the Higham & Rushden website Pilates group page. All of the classes are full, but please put your name on the reserve list and I will let you know when there is a space.

The 1pm is a beginner’s class, and has mostly chair exercises, the 2pm has more freestanding exercises, but you can use a chair for extra support and balance, and the 3pm class is floor mat exercises for those members who are experienced in Yoga or Pilates Website, Pilates Group Page, and contact details.

Sylvia Wright

**Linda Walker is the Groups Coordinator.**

Group leaders should contact her. Has your group lapsed? Please let her know.

Linda’s own groups are:

	<p><u>Popular Music Appreciation.</u> Will resume on 1<sup>st</sup> Friday in October (4<sup>th</sup>) at leader’s home. With a free choice theme.</p>
	<p><u>Sunday lunch Group.</u> Is reverting to Bi-monthly lunches on the 4th Sunday of the month. Please see calendar for details. Ideal for new to u3a and singles we will make you most welcome. Booking essential with Linda Walker  <a href="mailto:Grpscord@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk">Grpscord@highamandrushdenu3a.org.uk</a>.</p>
	<p><u>A Little Aloud</u> meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4th Friday at leader’s home between 10.00-12.00 or on Zoom 10.00 &amp; 10.45-11.30. New members welcome. Please contact leaders for more information.</p>
	<p><u>Non-Fiction Group:</u> Next meeting is on 20th September 2pm, at leader’s home. An opportunity to share books we can recommend for future reading.</p>
	<p><u>Days out/car share group.</u> At present we will not be arranging any trips this year. Keep safe.</p>
	<p>Linda and Chris Walker</p>





## CONTINUED NEW LEADERS REQUEST.

New leaders required for the following groups.

Bridge  
Family History, Genealogy  
Handicrafts



### Driving:

Are you feeling a bit rusty or cautious about driving after lockdown. I am a retired Driving Instructor, Advanced instructor and RoSPA trained so if you need any help or advice, please email [dsgrangeway@sky.com](mailto:dsgrangeway@sky.com) and leave a phone number and I will be in touch. There is no charge, and it can be as little as a phone call or several hours in your car as required.

If you have not used your car for a while, make sure tyres, brakes, oil, and water are checked before you set out, as cars do not do well parked for long periods.

Steve Evans



**Walking Football:** Now restrictions have eased this is to remind everyone that walking football is on every Tuesday 12 till 1pm - open to everyone - £3 per session Qualified Coach and referee supplied by the Pemberton Centre.

For information please email Bob Eames @ [Roberteames142@gmail.com](mailto:Roberteames142@gmail.com)

### Beading:

We are starting up again (Tuesday, 14th September) now that restrictions have been relaxed. We are a small group, meeting in the home of one of our members. Future dates and times are still to be finalised. If you are interested in joining or need more information please contact. [sherry\\_calvert@msn.com](mailto:sherry_calvert@msn.com)

Sherry Calvert.



## u3a MONTHLY MEETINGS

**Please note there is a small charge for non-members. Details can be found on our website or call 01933 522934 for further information.**

### Speakers for 2021

*If you, or a friend, have had experience as a speaker at other groups on topics which you think would be of interest to our u3a members then please contact the Speaker Secretary. **Note: - The Speakers may be subject to change.***

15 <sup>th</sup> Sep	David Sweeney, Forensic Detective	Every Body Tells a Story
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Michael Long	TV Licencing Officer
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Lucy Swales	History of Madame Tussauds
15 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Singing for fun group	Carols & Other Seasonal Songs

<b>2020</b>		
19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Dr Michael Leach	Animals behaving Badly
16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dave Eagle	Astronaut Tim Peak & ISS
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Craig Fisher	Stranded in Gambo
20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Charlie Haylock	The History of Spoken English.
18 <sup>th</sup> May	John Hope	Time Through the Ages
15 <sup>th</sup> June	Neil Hanson	Ghost Writer for Celebrities
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Paul Robbins	Great British Eccentrics
17 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Rev Kevin Woolmer	Nicker to Vicar
21 <sup>st</sup> Sep	Sandy Leong	Black Cats, New Moons & Ladders
Oct	TBA	
6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Danielle Handley	I Did Not Know That

Due to Covid and the retirement of some Group Leaders, it is unclear how many of the following groups will need to change venue/time or will indeed continue at all. The table will be updated as and when the I am advised of changes.

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>VENUE/DAY</b>	<b>TIME</b>
A Little Aloud	Alternate Fridays	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday on Zoom 10.00 & 11.00
Badminton Beginners & Improvers	Pemberton Centre	Wednesday 1400-1500
Badminton for fun	Pemberton Centre	Tuesday 09.00-10.00 & Friday 11.00-13.00
Bookmarks	Zoom	10.00-11.00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday every month
Canasta	Saxon Hall, Raunds	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 10.00-12.00
Computing & Technology Grp A	St Peters RC Church Hall Rushden	Afternoons 13:00-15:00 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday every month
Computing & Technology Grp B Beginners		Afternoons 13:00-15:00 2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday & 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday every month
Country Dancing	HF WMC	Alternate Mon 14.00-15.30
Country Park Walks	Various Parks	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 10.30
Cycling multi-Groups	Rushden Lakes	Every Monday
Days Out Car Share	Ad hoc	No Fixed Venue
Digital Photography A	Rushden Hall	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Wed 10.00 to 12.00
Driving	On the Rd	
Garden	Rushden Hall & Visits	Garden visits Summer. Otherwise Hall 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thu 14.00-16.00
Golf	Various	Alternate Wed & Fri
Guitar Improvers	ASDA Training room	Tue 17.00-19.00
History	Masonic Hall, Rushden	1 <sup>st</sup> Thu 14.00-15.30
Holiday Spanish Beginners	Alternate Mondays	10.00-12.00
Holiday Spanish Intermediate	Alternate Wednesdays	10.00-12.00
Home Dining	Various	Twice per Month varying days
Jewellery Making	Members' Homes	1 <sup>st</sup> Mon 13.30-15.30
Knit & Natter	Leader's Home	Alternate Mon 10.00-12.00
Mah-jong for fun	Windmill Club	1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday 19.00 – 21.00
<b>Continued...../</b>		

<b>GROUP</b>	<b>VENUE</b>	<b>TIME</b>
<b>Mindfulness &amp; Meditation</b>	<b>TBA</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Non-Fiction Books</b>	<b>Leader's Home</b>	<b>3rd Monday 14.15-16.00</b>
<b>Painting for Pleasure</b>	<b>Coleman's Craft Warehouse</b>	<b>Alternate Mon 14.00</b>
<b>Pilates Grp A</b>	<b>The Masonic Hall, Rushden</b>	<b>Fridays 1pm – 2pm</b>
<b>Pilates Grp B</b>		<b>Fridays 2pm – 3pm</b>
<b>Pilates Grp C</b>		<b>Fridays 3pm – 4pm</b>
<b>Play Reading</b>	<b>To be advised</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Tue 13.15-</b>
<b>Popular Music Appreciation</b>	<b>Leader's Home</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Fri 10.00-12.00</b>
<b>Reading Bookmarks</b>	<b>Waitrose Community Room</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>
<b>Rock &amp; Blues Appreciation</b>	<b>Leader's Home</b>	<b>Last Thursday 2-4pm</b>
<b>Scrabble</b>	<b>Residents Lounge, Kilburn Place Higham Rd Rushden</b>	<b>Alternate Tue 14.00-16.00</b>
<b>Settlements</b>	<b>Vestry Hall, St Mary's Church Rushden</b>	<b>4th Tue 14.00-16.00</b>
<b>Singing for Fun</b>	<b>Rushden Hall, Hall Park</b>	<b>Alternate Thu 14.00-16.00</b>
<b>Special Events</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Sunday Lunch</b>	<b>Every two Months</b>	<b>Venue varies</b>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	<b>Pemberton Centre</b>	<b>Wed at 13.00</b>
<b>Ukulele</b>	<b>Rushden Transport Club</b>	<b>13.30-15.30 Every Monday</b>
<b>Video Editing</b>	<b>Leader's Home</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 4th Tues 10.00-12.00</b>
<b>W.A.L.T.</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Walking</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Walking Football</b>	<b>Pemberton</b>	<b>Tuesday 13.00-14.00</b>
<b>Wine &amp; Dine</b>	<b>Various</b>	<b>Various</b>
<b>Wine Appreciation</b>	<b>Leader's Home</b>	<b>4th Tues &amp; 4th Thurs 14.00-16.00</b>

## GOD'S WILL

Most seniors never get enough exercise. In His wisdom, God decreed seniors should become forgetful so they would have to search for their glasses, keys, and other things, thus doing more walking.

*And God looked down and saw that it was good.*

Then God saw there was another need. In His wisdom He made seniors lose coordination so they would drop things, requiring them to bend, reach, and stretch.

*And God looked down and saw that it was good.*

Then God considered the function of bladders and decided seniors should have additional calls of nature, requiring more trips to the bathroom, thus providing more exercise.

*God looked down and saw that it was good.*

So, if you find, as you age, you are getting up and down more, remember it's God's will. It is all in your best interest even though you mutter under your breath.

### **NINE IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER AS WE GROW OLDER:**

- 1 Death is the Number One killer in the world.
- 2 Life is sexually transmitted.
- 3 Good health is merely the slowest possible rate at which one can die.
- 4 Men have two motivations: hunger and hanky-panky, and they can't tell them apart. If you see a gleam in his eyes, make him a sandwich.
- 5 Give a person a fish and you feed them for a day. Teach a person to use the Internet and they won't bother you for weeks, months, maybe years.
- 6 Health nuts are going to feel stupid someday, lying in the hospital, dying of nothing.
- 7 We could all take a lesson from the weather. It pays no attention to criticism.
- 8 In the '60s, people took LSD to make the world weird. Now the world is weird, and people take Prozac to make it normal.
- 9 Life is like a jar of jalapeño peppers. What you do today may be a burning issue tomorrow.



## HEDGEHOGS

Hedgehogs are in serious trouble in the UK as fewer hedgehogs are seen every year. Recent surveys show that their numbers declined by approximately a third between 2002-2012 and sightings fell by 4% in 2014 alone. Rough estimates put the hedgehog population in Britain at roughly one million, compared with 30 million in the 1950s.

Previously, gamekeepers killed hedgehogs because they predated gamebirds' eggs. Today they are regarded as beneficial and are gardeners' friends as they munch their way through large quantities of slugs, snails, and other garden pests.

Although in decline and receiving some protection from the Wildlife and Countryside Act of 1981, it is not officially a threatened species. Thousands of hedgehogs die every year for a variety of reasons, most of them caused by humans.

Here are some hazards faced by hedgehogs:

- Road traffic.
- Habitat loss.
- Chemicals; (garden chemicals)
- Drowning; (in garden ponds)
- Cattle grids.
- Hibernation.

## Make a simple hedgehog house

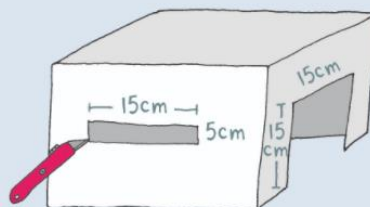
wildlife  
watch



### You will need:

- Medium-sized plastic storage box 
- Stanley knife 
- Leaf litter 
- Dry grass or straw 
- Carrier bag 
- Twigs and dry leaves 

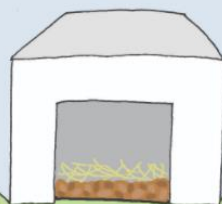
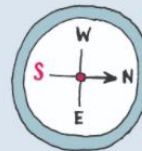
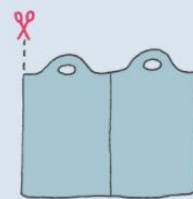
- 1 Cut two side air vents and an entrance into the plastic box.



- 2 Put some leaf litter inside the box, with clean, dry grass or straw on top.

- 3 Tuck the box near a hedge (with the entrance facing south if possible).

- 4 Put an opened-up carrier bag over the top of the box, then cover with twigs, dry grass and leaves.



## Heteronyms and Homographs

**Homographs are words of identical spelling but with more than one meaning. A homograph that is also pronounced differently is a heteronym.**

1. The bandage was *wound* around the *wound*.
2. The farm was used to *produce* *produce*.
3. The dump was so full that it had to *refuse* more *refuse*.
4. We must *polish* the *Polish* furniture.
5. He could *lead* if he would get the *lead* out.
6. The soldier decided to desert his *dessert* in the *desert*.
7. Since there is no time like the *present*, he thought it was time to *present* the *present*.
8. A *bass* was painted on the head of the *bass* drum.
9. I did not *object* to the *object*.
10. The insurance was *invalid* for the *invalid*.
11. There was a *row* among the oarsmen about how to *row*.
12. They were too *close* to the door to *close* it.
13. The buck *does* funny things when the *does* are present.
14. A seamstress and a sewer fell into a *sewer* line.
15. To help with planting, the farmer taught his *sow* to *sow*.
16. The *wind* was too strong to *wind* up the sail.
17. Upon seeing the *tear* in the painting, I shed a *tear*.
18. I had to *subject* the *subject* to a series of tests.
19. How can I *intimate* this to my most *intimate* friend?

I take it you already know of *tough*, *bough*, *cough* and *dough*? Others may stumble, but not you on *hiccough*, *thorough*, *laugh* and *through*.

Beware of *heard*, a dreadful word that looks like *beard* and sounds like *bird*, and *dead* – it's said like *bed* not *bead*, and for goodness' sake don't call it *deed*! Watch out for *meat*, *great* and *threat*. They rhyme with *suite*, *straight*, *debt*.

A *moth* is not the moth in mother, nor *both* in bother, *broth* in brother and there is not a match for *there* nor *dear* and *fear* nor *bear* and *pear*. Then there is *dose* and *rose*, *lose*, and *goose*, *choose*, and *cork*, *work*, and *card*, *ward*, and *font*, *front* and *word*, *sword* and *do*, *go* and *thwart*, *cart*.

Let's face it. English is a crazy language. There is no egg in eggplant, nor ham in hamburger, neither apple nor pine in a pineapple. English muffins weren't invented in England nor French fries in France. Sweetmeats are candies while sweetbreads, which aren't sweet, are meat.

We take English for granted. But if we explore its paradoxes, we find that quicksand can work slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

Plus, why is it that writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham? If the plural of tooth is teeth, why isn't the plural of booth, beeth? One goose, two geese. So, one moose, two meese? One index, two indices?

Doesn't it seem crazy that you can make amends but not one amend? If you have a bunch of odds and ends and get rid of all but one of them, what do you call it? If teachers taught, why didn't preachers praught? If a vegetarian eats vegetables, what does a humanitarian eat?

Sometimes I think all English speakers should be committed to an asylum for the verbally insane. In what language do people recite at a play and play at a recital? Ship by truck and send cargo by ship? Have noses that run and feet that smell? How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same, while a wise man and a wise guy are opposites? You must marvel at the unique lunacy of a language in which your house can burn up as it burns down, in which you fill in a form by filling it out and in which an alarm goes off by going on.

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which, of course, is not a race at all. That is why, when the stars are out, they are visible, but when the lights are out, they are invisible.

Come, come I've hardly made a start. A dreadful language? Sakes alive, I'd mastered it by the time I was five!



## **EDITORIAL**

This is a new feature addressing current issues normally compiled by the News Editor. (These are my own personal thoughts, not necessarily those of the u3a).

Our first meeting after all the lockdowns was a success with quite a few visitors and several new members joining on the day. We all had a chuckle as the Chair had a problem with the microphone battery dying on her several times. Once the battery was changed it was fine and the acoustics were surprisingly good. We will be trying a different projector next month to see if it gives a clearer picture. It was quite a steep learning curve, and we can learn from it – baby steps into the future. A slight disappointment was the speaker. His talk was very long, and some members found it a little upsetting. As a first talk it was not ideal but who knows, the next speaker may be riveting.

Parking was also a bit of a problem, with many expected spaces being occupied by RHTS vehicles. Maybe some of you can car-share if possible.

Before lockdown we collected used postage stamps and I am busy trying to find someone who will take them for charity. If you want to bring any you have to the next (and subsequent) meeting I will take them from you for now. Maybe you collect them for charity yourself. If so, please let me know and we can arrange to have a collection point at future meetings.

The news that paper newsletters will now cost 50p per copy did not raise as many complaints as I expected which was encouraging.

### **ANSWERS TO “BEFORE THERE WAS SLICED BREAD?”**

Sliced bread created was created in 1928

The first use of the word “Robot” was in 1920.

Traffic Lights first appeared in 1923.

Superman appeared in 1938.

The BBC came into life in 1922

JRR Tolkien wrote The Hobbit in 1937.

Lie Detectors were invented in 1921.

The Wizard of Oz was written in 1939,

Leeds United appeared on the scene in 1919.

Well done if you got them right without Google or Bing.

## GROUP LEADER CONTACT DETAILS

In accordance with GDPR we do not publish contact details for group leaders, on a publicly available website or newsletter. There is a contact form on the website which can be used to email group leaders and u3a officers. If you wish to telephone a group leader you will need to log into Beacon at

<https://www.u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=118&sc=LUDE>.

You do not need a password or username just your own personal details.

Your membership continues until 1st March 2020

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Clicking on the Higham & Rushden u3a groups link opens a page listing all our current groups and gives telephone numbers for each leader.