

Editorial

Correction

The ukulele limerick was not **written** by Sandra Haynes – she just **submitted** it. Sandra is concerned that she is taking undue credit for writing something which she actually found on the internet.

The second limerick was written by Paul West.

Please note that there is no editorial policy insisting that you write everything you submit. We don't mind where you find it, as long as you send it in for publication and it is likely to be of interest to our readership.

Events

Ballet

We need a few more to make this trip viable: Click this link for a short clip:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BT9naCq0fdE>

Birmingham Royal Ballet Theatre Royal Plymouth Saturday October 12th. 2.00pm

“La Fille Mal Gardée” - Sir Frederick Ashton - 14 stalls tickets booked at £32 each

I need a response by the end of April. I envisage a minibus at about £30pp. Leave Crewkerne at around 10.30. Arrive in time for leisurely lunch and show. Home by about 7.00pm.

Reply to: jdbart45@gmail.com

Trip to Sidmouth during Folk Week 2024.

Proposed trip leaving from Crewkerne at about 9 am to Sidmouth, dropping off at the seafront. Return leaving Sidmouth at 4 pm.

There will be a range of music, dancing groups and craft stalls on the seafront to entertain spectators. Within the town there are shops parks quiet riverside areas and if you venture up the hill beautiful gardens. In addition, it is possible to book on to a range of concerts or workshops in advance or on the day.

Cost will be approximately £18 per seat depending on numbers. Many thanks to those who have responded, I need at least 30 people to make this viable. Contact me on 07834232350 for discussion and expressions of interest.

Vivien Wiles

Future Events

Here is a list of events for the rest of 2024. This is **updated** every month. Please **check** and, if you haven't already done so, put them in your diary or on your calendar **now**.

There is plenty of space for more entries. Come on Group Leaders, what are your plans? Tell me and I'll list them.

Monday 13th May: Sisters Mary Cooper and Catherine Bacon will give an illustrated talk about all their work with “Crewkerne in Bloom” which makes our town so beautiful every year.

Monday 13th May: Folk Dance group meets at 2pm at the Speedwell.

Saturday 18th May: Concerts in the West at the Dance House: details to follow

Monday 27th May: Opera Appreciation: Dance House: Puccini “La Boheme”

Monday 27th May: Folk Dance group meets at 2pm at the Speedwell.

Monday 10th June: Folk Dance group meets at 2pm at the Speedwell.

Saturday 22nd June: Concerts in the West at the Dance House: details to follow

Monday 24th June: Opera Appreciation: Dance House: Bellini “I Capuleti e I Montecchi”

Monday 24th June: Folk Dance group meets at 2pm at the Speedwell.

Monday 1st July: Ashley (Ash) Jones will talk about Group Captain Sir Douglas Bader, a WW2 icon. Ash will provide illustrations and slides, video clips and animation. Not one to miss!!

Monday 8th July: Folk Dance group meets at 2pm at the Speedwell.

Saturday 20th July: Concerts in the West at the Dance House: details to follow

Monday 22nd July: Opera Appreciation: Dance House: Mascagni “Cavalleria Rusticana”

Monday 22nd July: Folk Dance group meets at 2pm at the Speedwell.

Monday 5th August: Helen Baggott, Editor, Speaker, Author and Postcard Detective, will talk about her book called “Posted in the Past” which has Somerset connections. There will be post card illustrations. This talk will be using Genealogy and shares stories of families researched.

Monday 26th August: Opera Appreciation: Dance House: Thomas “Hamlet”

Monday 2nd September: David Beckley is a member of The Magic Circle and has performed in front of Royalty. David will tell us about The History of Magic. He will fascinate us with some of his magical demonstrations.

Saturday 7th September: Concerts in the West at the Dance House: details to follow

Monday 23rd September: Opera Appreciation: Dance House: Donizetti “Don Pasquale”

Monday 7th October: Ian Banks... “Caffeine, chaos and everything in between. Your life in our hands”. Ian explains that Para-medicine is a vocation in the disguise of a job. Sit down buckle up and prepare to step inside the minds of those that shine on your darkest day.’

Committee

Group - Co-ordinators

As new Group Coordinators we want to say a big thank you to all of the group leaders who give up their time to run the groups.

The list of current groups is Ancient History, Badminton, Two Book Clubs, Craft, Digital Technology, Discussion, Family History, Folk Dancing, Jazz Appreciation, Local History, Mah Jong, Opera Appreciation, Photography, Play Reading, Poetry Appreciation, Shakespeare, Short Tennis, Snooker, Table Tennis, Trips/Visits, Ukulele and Whist.

Acting from Scratch is temporarily inactive as the search for a new meeting place continues. The Photography group, with Teresa Bond as the new leader, is planning some interesting trips to local places. Their latest visit was to Lamberts Castle.

Sue Melville is starting a Sunday Lunch Club at the end of May; she has already booked the meal. Other groups that will hopefully be starting soon are Scrabble and a Wednesday Lunch Club.

Are you interested in joining any of the groups? Or are you interested in starting a new group? If you feel you don't want to run a group on your own perhaps you could join forces with some other like-minded person.

Would anyone like to start a language group? We know there are U3A members who speak French, German and possibly Spanish. What about a Gardening Group? There are lots of keen gardeners in Crewkerne U3A.

Look on the Information and Policies section of the U3A web site for more information about the groups or contact us through the U3A web site.

Susan and Norman Irving

Secretary

Calling all Crewkerne & District U3A members? Do you know we have our own Facebook page? Are you a Social Media addict or like me, feel overwhelmed and so only use a few websites?

It would be great to get your feedback on our current Facebook profile. At our first meeting of the new U3A committee, we discussed how we could increase our membership and how we could better communicate with our existing U3A members. One of the ways suggested was that we could encourage use of and improve our Facebook web page. Ann Bright and subsequently Val Warren were our administrators. Now Susan Irving, Vivien Wiles and myself, Jo Lawrence have volunteered to look into this subject.

We need your help! We will be at the next Tea at 2 on Monday 13th May 2024 so please do catch up with us then. All comments Welcome!

Jo Lawrence

Groups

Folk Dance

The Folk Dance Group meets the 2nd and 4th Monday afternoons of the month in the Speedwell Hall in Abbey Street from 2pm to 4pm.

On Saturday 27th of July the Group some of the group will be performing 2 short dances at Music in the Garden at the Speedwell Hall in the delightful walled garden. This will be the 3rd time we have performed and our dances are always enjoyed by the audience. Last year Norman, one of our male dancers, was brave enough to dance in both dances and was loudly applauded by the audience. We were also very lucky to have local musician Chris Edwards play for us.

New dancers are always made most welcome so don't be shy, come dance with us on a Monday afternoon as it's a lovely way to start the week.

Leslye Stansfield

Opera Appreciation:

Opera Group now meeting in The Dance House. More members welcome. Next date: Monday May 27th from 2.00pm for Puccini's La Boheme. Bring tissues!

jdbart45@gmail.com

Programme for the rest of 2024:

Jan	Mozart "Die Zauberflote"	July	Mascagni "Cavalleria Rusticana"
Feb	Strauss "Der Rosenkavalier"	August	Thomas "Hamlet"
Mar	Weber "Der Freischutz"	September	Donizetti "Don Pasquale"
April	Handel "Rinaldo"	October	Verdi "Un Ballo in Maschera"
May	Puccini "La Boheme"	November	Open choice
June	Bellini "I Capuleti e I Montecchi"	December	

John Bartholomew

Science

There was some talk about someone who wanted to start a Science group . . . then it all went quiet. Is there someone out there who wants to start or join a Science Group? If there is, please contact the group co-ordinators via the website page: <https://u3acrewkerne.org.uk/groups/>

See the contact button at the bottom of the page.

Sunday lunch club

The Sunday lunch club will start on the last Sunday in May. We will visit a different venue each month for a social lunch where you can meet new friends and enjoy a good meal. There will be no upfront payment everyone will pay at the venue.

The first venue be the Cricket St Thomas Golf Club which is a carvery. Anyone wishing to attend should let Sue know on or before the 10th May so that she can make the booking

If you are interested in joining us contact Sue Melville on 01460 77298 or sue.melville@hotmail.co.uk where you can find out more details.

Sue Melville

Contributions from Members

Celia Shears

Celia Shears and Doreen Allred got together to start the U3A Folk Dance Group shortly after Crewkerne U3A was formed. Doreen had been a Scottish Dancer and Celia was very well known as a dancer and 'caller' on the Somerset Folk Dance Circuit. Celia, along with her musician husband Trevor were regular dancers at Crewkerne Folk Dance Club and also visited local Folk Dance Clubs where Celia 'called' folk dances whilst Trevor played the accompanying music.

Their daughter Alison and son Steve are also well-respected musicians and play at local folk dance clubs as A Pair of Shears and attached is a photo of Celia with Ali and Steve which was taken some years ago at Crewkerne folk Dance Club which was held in St Barts Church Hall.

I joined the U3A FDG several years after it was formed and thoroughly enjoyed learning the dances and after several years Celia encouraged me to start calling, giving me instruction cards along with several music CDs. I started by calling just one dance each meeting always helped in every way possible by Celia. Celia's enthusiasm for folk dancing is the main reason that the U3A Folk Dance Group has proved to be such a successful group.

Due to health problems Celia decided to retire in July 2016 and asked me to lead the Group which I have done since then. The Group gave Celia a wonderful send off in the Speedwell Hall in October 2016 and various members have kept in contact with her since then. Very sadly, on Sunday 14th April Celia passed away aged 95. Celia's memorial service is at St Barts on Tuesday 21st May at 12.30pm and everyone is most welcome to attend.



Leslye Stansfield

Crewkerne Letter Boxes

I am a member of the Letter Box Study Group (Web site lmsg.org.uk) which was started in 1976 by a group of enthusiasts. Post boxes come in three different types - pillar, wall and map styles. Generally, the pillar and wall boxes are the more interesting.

The first post box was erected in 1852 at St Peter Port in Guernsey in the Channel Islands. One of the earliest mainland boxes made by John M Butt is at Holwell near Bishops Caundle in Dorset which is still in use and well worth visiting.

In Crewkerne our oldest post box is a Victorian wall box in Pople's Well. Wall boxes ceased to be manufactured in 1980 so are getting rarer.

At the entrance to Falkland Square and outside the old Post Office at the Crooked Horn are the Elizabeth II K Boxes. The design was supposed to be leading edge but the operation of the hinges of the K box were not considered universally successfully. Also the box was not totally waterproof. Introduced in 1981 production ceased in 2001.

A G6R pillar box can be found in Severalls but Crewkerne does not have many pillar boxes.

In Misterton High Street is a sheet metal G5R cipher box known as a Ludlow. These were usually placed at post office so post could only be collected from inside.

For more information the web site has more details and photographs.

Linda Fawthrop

Organising Your Family Treasures.

When we start building our family trees, at first, there can be an overwhelming sense of exactly how do I begin & how do I store all the data in its various forms?.

Our treasures can include photos, letters, postcards, diaries, scrapbooks, certificates, and random notes from all over. Truth be told, there is no standard method-

a lot of the time it's really what's best for you! There are lots of 'Help' guides on the internet plus suppliers of all things genealogical but the best approach is one of simplicity (and not spending lots of money). Of course, with the advent of the internet, much can be stored electronically, but there is still the question about original

documents, how to pass it all onto future generations or indeed an appropriate archive.

Here are some top tips to get you going:

1. Gather your supplies

- . 3 Ring Binders
- . document sleeves or sheet protectors (acid free protectors for original material)
- . tabs or dividers
- . blank templates (e.g. Family Trees)
- . A good strong box to store unusual documents & resources

2. Gather your research

- . Make an assessment of what you have & how it is currently stored

3. Choose your filing system

Here are some ideas

- a) Basics or a single family line.

One binder per surname. Each binder begins with a pedigree chart or simple Family Tree outline, followed by a section for each ancestor in that chart.

In each section records are organised chronologically

b) Surname Method

Binders arranged A-Z by surname with separate sections for types of records eg Lawrence - Censuses- Lawrence- Education - Lawrence-Military Records

c) Married Couples

Begin with a binder for each married couple with Family Tree outline plus Family Group Sheet. Sections could be arranged by significant events eg Childhood, Working Life, Marriage, Starting the Family..

Once you have decided on your methodology, here are some useful reminders:

Surnames should be in Capitals,

Don't forget to include middle names and nicknames

List women under their maiden not married name (s)

Use month's abbreviations rather numerals which can be misinterpreted e.g. 09 Sep 1958 rather than 09/09/58

A brief Fact Sheet for each ancestor eg Vital Statistics, Birth, Marriage, Death plus photo (if you have one) is good practice. You may also wish to have a short synopsis of your ancestor's life but use a format of consistent length & style. You can build additional sections too. Maps, Timelines, and personal recollections are just a few examples.

Assemble Your Binder!

1. Gather documents relating to that binder
2. Place Pedigree chart/ Family Tree in front
3. Label dividers by ancestor or family group
4. Sort documents into tabbed sections, including an inventory of those documents at the start.
5. Build your additional sections e.g. maps, timelines
6. Consider keeping originals in protective folders and make photocopies or typed transcriptions
7. Label Binder.

Finally, if you are thinking about donating your material to an archive, do check their acquisitions policy first.

Good Luck and Best Wishes

Jo Lawrence

Tail Pieces

Tail Piece 1

I used to tell a joke about Orpheus and Eurydice but, looking back, it was not a great idea.

Tail Piece 2

Please when using the stairs, stay on the right when going up and stay on the left when going down. This will keep people from running into each other.

Recipes

Non-chocolate Nut balls

These nut balls involve:

NO cooking,
NO sugar,
- and they take next to NO time!

Ingredients

400 grams soft pitted dates

300 grams. mixed nuts

4 tablespoons Cacao powder (NOT cocoa)

2 tablespoons coconut oil

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

2 - 3 tablespoons water

Method

Simply blend in a Magimix or whatever. Then roll the mixture into balls and refrigerate. They're DELICIOUS!

Carol Jay

Devilled Chicken

Ingredients

Meat	2 chicken breasts
Coating	2 oz olive spread or butter 1 level tsp mustard powder 1 level tsp caster sugar 1 level tsp curry powder 1 level tbsp flour 1 rounded tbsp Branston pickle 1 tbsp Worcester sauce
Sauce	$\frac{3}{4}$ pint chicken stock 2 level tbsp flour

Method - Chicken

Skin the chicken and cut it into large chunks/strips and put them into a roasting tin.

Mix the coating ingredients together and coat the chicken with the mixture.

Cover with foil and cook for about 20 mins to half an hour or until chicken is cooked, basting if necessary.

Remove the chicken pieces from the residue in the tin and wrap them in the foil to keep warm whilst you make the devilled sauce

Method - Sauce

Gradually mix flour into residue in roasting tin

Gradually stir in stock and bring to boil, stirring all the time

Serve poured over chicken pieces (with rice or mashed potatoes carrots and peas)

Jean Pritchard