



And the  
winner is . . .

# Chat from the Chair

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

**O**ur Christmas Party was great fun meeting up with friends - the buffet table was groaning with members' contributions and I noted that Min's two Punches went down a treat!



Many thanks to Phil for arranging the Quiz – luckily I was on the winning table

I felt the short sing song brought the party to a very happy conclusion.

Now we have moved into 2024, we will again be having a programme of Group activities and interesting Speakers.

As mentioned in our December Newsletter, Chris Davies from the Ascot Brewing Company will be with us on 18<sup>th</sup> January. I hope to see you there.

Over a cuppa, have a read of your Newsletter and see what's in line for 2024. Do come along and support Blackwater u3a. I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Regards  
BARBARA

THE BOOK TABLE is now up and running and appears to be successful with a good range of fiction and non-fiction books. Any cash raised will go to BV u3a Group funds to help with running costs.



# Forthcoming Meetings

## January 18th

**Chris Davis:** *Ascot Brewery Today*

## February 15th

**Paul Whittle:** *The Venetian Connection*

## March 21st

**Mel Rees:** *"Further Thoughts"*

## April 18th

**Sarah M. Slater:** *The Ghosts of Hampton Court*

## May 16th

**Paul Barwick:** *'White Mouse' Nancy Wake*

## June 20th

**Malcolm Wells:** *So Far So Good*

## SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW GROUPS & ZOOM CLASS

Can you play Chess? If so, would you be interested in helping to form a Chess Group. If so, please have a word with Barbara 01252 871333

Yateley's Mary Lyons would like to reach out to any in BVu3a who might be interested in her forthcoming 'Guitar Busking for Absolute Beginners' class (starting on Jan 15th. How best can she do this please? Anyone interested please email contact Mary at: [guitar@yateleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:guitar@yateleyu3a.org.uk).

Tony Edens is currently running an online lip-reading class using Zoom. It's free and its offered to u3a members. They meet (virtually) every Friday morning from 10am to 10.40am. If interested, please contact Tony: [oajedens@btinternet.com](mailto:oajedens@btinternet.com)

# Catching up with the Groups

## MOTO

Eleven of us enjoyed our Christmas lunch and get together at The Crown & Cushion in December. The next MOTO meeting in January is for a business meeting followed by lunch at The White Lion in Yateley. We will be planning our programme for the Spring/Summer of 2024. Fingers crossed for lots of new ideas.

Best wishes to all members of Blackwater Valley u3a for the New Year.

JUDITH SHAW (Phone: 0118 973 2724 Mobile: 07508 724876 Email: [jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk))



The next meeting of the Photography Group will be in the Gallery of the Tythings on Tuesday January 23rd starting at 14.30 hrs.  
The subject matter is: In the Water.

Contact: Philip Rowling 01252 870879  
[rowlingphilip@g.mail.com](mailto:rowlingphilip@g.mail.com)

# The Book Group

**W**ell here we are in 2024 so Happy and Healthy New Year to you all.

This months book read is a bit of a difficult one as it is a rape case, and very befitting of the title, *He Said, She Said* by Erin Kelly.

The book does not dwell too much on the actual rape itself, but develops more into the story of what happens after.

The rape happens at a Festival in 1999 when there was a total eclipse of the sun.

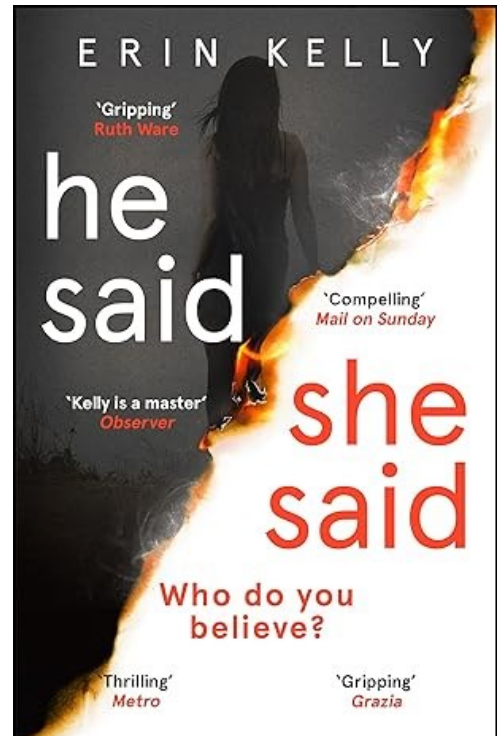
A young couple come across the rape victim almost immediately after the attack. The story then develops, over the next 15 years and many more total/partial eclipses of the sun, into the relationship between the victim and the couple who found her.

Don't know much about eclipses, but Mr Google tells me that during the 21st century we will have 224 solar eclipses. 77 partials, 73 annular, 68 totals and 7 will be hybrids. The next partial will be 24 April 2024. A full eclipse will not happen in the UK until 2090!

However, back to the book, cleverly written on a sensitive subject, with lots of interesting reading away from the actual rape.

Next meeting is Thursday 18th January at 2pm.

Once again anyone interested in joining our book club, please contact Chris Bowen.



**Wendy Dauven  
Chris Bowen**



# Walking Together

WITH MIN GARDINER AND ROMY WHITE

**T**he Walking Together group had a lovely walk round Hawley Lake followed by a delicious Christmas lunch at the *Crown and Cushion*.

The rain held off, we found fungus for Tony to identify\* and met the cattle being used for conservation grazing so altogether an excellent walk.

Thanks all round to Rosemary for leading the walk and organising the lunch.



\**Hypholoma fasciculare*, commonly known as the sulphur tuft or clustered woodlover.



# The Art Group

## *From the Christmas Display*



**The Art Group restarts after the Christmas and New Year break from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. Meetings are as previously scheduled, held at the Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall in Frogmore Road on Mondays at 11am unless otherwise advised.**

**All BVu3a members are welcome to come and see if you would like to have a go at a little creativity, within a friendly environment with like-minded folks.**

**Contact; Martin Brooks 01252 871333 or [thebrookies73@gmail.com](mailto:thebrookies73@gmail.com)**



# On a Musical Note

**A**s previously mentioned, we meet at the Tythings the first Wednesday afternoon of each month 2pm – 3.30pm. You don't have to be a great singer – chat with friends, sing popular songs from a screen and enjoy the refreshments!

Wednesday 2pm—3.30	17th January	7 Sandhurst Lane
Wednesday 2pm—3.30	7th February	The Tythings
Wednesday 2pm—3.30	21st February	7 Sandhurst Lane

BARBARA

# The Gardening Group

**A**n inaugural meeting of the Group will be held at my house at 2.00 pm on Tuesday 16th January to discuss plans for the coming year.

All members are welcome and those wishing to attend who have not yet contacted me can either phone or e-mail me at the addresses below.

My best wishes for a successful start to our Gardening Year.

CATHARINE AIREY

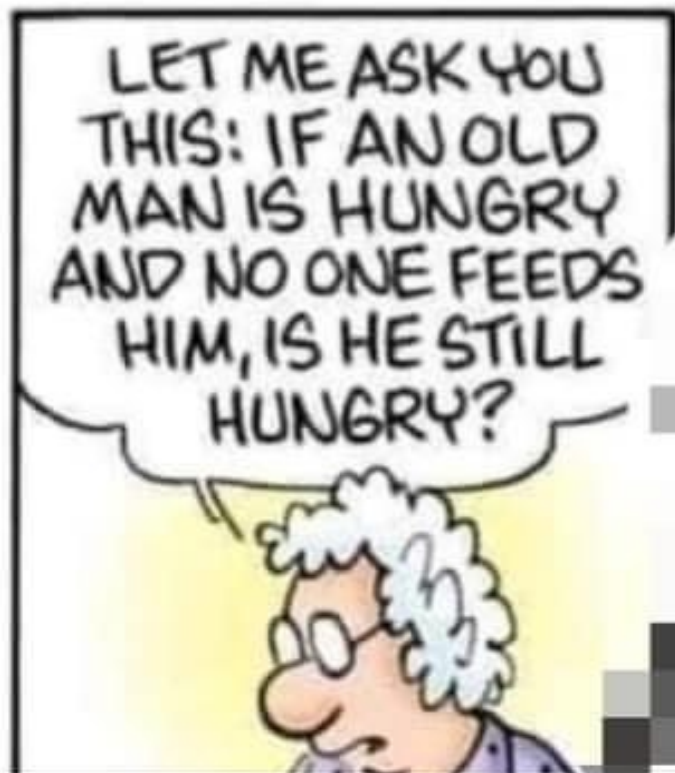
[catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk)

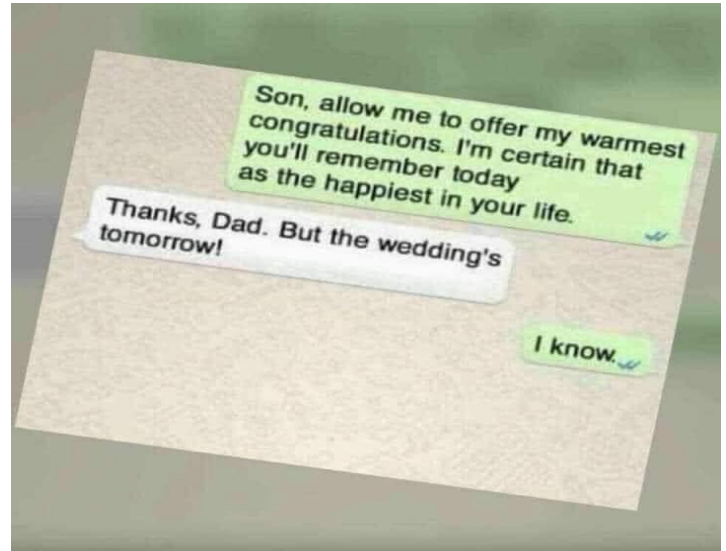
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# About time for some laughs

*Laughter pages by Diane and Ken Middleton*





## WHEN NURSES HANG THE TINSEL



I was in Tesco's earlier, and I saw a woman crying because she'd lost £200 so me being me, I gave her £50 out of the £200 I had just found. When you get blessed, you have to bless others

## BENEFITS OF A GOOD VOCABULARY!

I recently called an old Engineering buddy of mine and asked what he was working on these days.

He replied that he was working on "Aqua-thermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed until, upon further inquiry, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision.

## They said bring a dessert and a game to the party...





## ***It snowed last night so...***

8:00 am: I made a snowman.

8:10 - A feminist passed by and asked me why I didn't make a snow woman. 8:15 - So, I made a snow woman.

8:17 - My feminist neighbour complained about the snow woman's voluptuous chest saying it objectified snow women everywhere.

8:20 - The gay couple living nearby threw a hissy fit and moaned it could have been two snow men instead.

8:22 - The transgender man/women/person asked why I didn't just make one snow person with detachable parts.

8:25 - The vegans at the end of the lane complained about the carrot nose, as veggies are food and not to decorate snow figures with.

8:28 - I was being called a racist because the snow couple is white.

8:31 - The Middle Eastern gent across the road demanded the snow woman be covered up.

8:40 - The Police arrived saying someone had been offended.

8:42 - The feminist neighbour complained again that the broomstick of the snow woman needed to be removed because it depicted women in a domestic role.

8:43 - The council equality officer arrived and threatened me with eviction.

8:45 - TV news crew from Sky showed up. I was asked if I know the difference between snowmen and snow-women. I replied "Snowballs" and am now called a sexist.

9:00 - I was on the News as a suspected terrorist, racist, homophobic sensibility offender, bent on stirring up trouble during difficult weather.

9:10 - I was asked if I have any accomplices. My children were taken by social services.

9:29 - Far left protesters offended by everything marched down the street demanding for me to be arrested.

By noon it all melted

***Moral: There is no moral to this story. It is what we have become, all because of snowflakes.***

# How about a Quiz?

'24 is now here

After 2023! Now ain't that queer?

- 1) How high is Mt Everest in feet?
- 2) Sneezzy, Doc, Grumpy, Happy, Bashful, Dopey. Who else?
- 3) Identical twins have the same fingerprints? True or false?
- 4) What is a loop of electrical conductors called?
- 5) Where is the seat of government in the Netherlands?
- 6) What is Easter Island famous for?
- 7) What is the modern name for Tiddlywinks?
- 8) Who wrote the "Just So Stories"?
- 9) What instrument did Chopin play?
- 10) What is the capital of Pakistan?
- 11) What is another name for a Puma?
- 12) Royal Navy sailors get a daily rum ration. True or false?
- 13) Which of coal or oil is a fossil fuel?
- 14) How many players in a hockey team?
- 15) In which century was the Taj Mahal built?

Questions by Allie Kat

Remember December and 2023? It's gone!

Anyway, December's quiz answers are here!

- |  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| 1) What countries made up the Axis powers in WW1?          | Germany/Italy/Japan |
| 2) What is the first number that contains the letter 'a'?  | 1000                |
| 3) What animal is on the Porsche car badge?                | Horse               |
| 4) How long did the first commercial plane flight last?    | 23 minutes          |
| 5) What letter never appears in any USA state names?       | Q                   |
| 6) In which country does MacDonalds serve spaghetti?       | Philippines         |
| 7) Demolition of the Berlin Wall began in which year?      | 1989                |
| 8) What is currently the biggest music single of all time? | Candle in the wind  |
| 9) Who was the first gymnast to score a perfect 10?        | Nadia Comaneci      |
| 10) What was the tiny jean's pocket designed to carry?     | Pocket watch        |
| 11) What is the fastest land animal?                       | Cheetah             |
| 12) What country has the most natural lakes?               | Canada              |
| 13) What can be broken but never held?                     | A promise           |
| 14) What comes down but never goes up?                     | Rain                |
| 15) How many colours in a rainbow?                         | Seven               |

Answers by Pee + Kuwes



# More from Martin

As we've had a change of year  
Perhaps we could have a change of gear.  
For this month may we be released  
And take a rest from rhymes at least.

As I've grown older, I've learned that pleasing everyone is impossible, but annoying everyone is a piece of cake. I'm responsible for what I say, not what you understand.

Common sense is like deodorant. The people who need it most never use it.

So you've been eating hot dogs and McDonald's all your life - but you won't take the vaccine because you don't know what's in it. I guess that's called 'choice'.

It's not my age that bothers me; it's the side effects. I'm not saying I'm old and worn out, but I make sure I'm nowhere near the curb on dustbin day.

As I watch this generation try and rewrite our history, I'm sure of one thing: It will be misspelled and have no punctuation.

As I've become older, people think I've become lazy. The truth is I'm just being more energy efficient.

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world. Then he made the earth round. . . and laughed and laughed and laughed.

Apparently sending RSVP to a wedding invitation "Maybe next time" - isn't the correct response.

## **Did I read that right?**

### **Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife And Daughter**

I read this in the paper the other day so called the Editor and asked who wrote this. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!!

### **Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says Really?**

### **Miners Refuse to Work after Death**

What good-for-nothing' lazy devils!

### **Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant**

See if that works better than a fair trial!

### **'If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile.'** **Really?!**

### **Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures**

Who would have thought!

### **Couple Slain; Police Suspect Murder**

They may be on to something!

### **New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group**

Weren't they fat enough?!

### **Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft**

That's what he gets for eating those beans!

### **Kids Make Nutritious Snacks**

Do they taste like chicken?

### **Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half**

Chainsaw Massacre all over again?

### **Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors**

Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is...

### **Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead**



## Our Ann Atkins has set these puzzlers.

*(Adding a letter will give you the answers (which are printed below)).*

- 1) A group of acrobats who live in Walford.
- 2) Amphibians telling us what is happening in the world.
- 3) A vicar's domain in capital of France.
- 4) Sounds like a pop singer shaving the coat off a child's bedtime toy.
- 5) Oh no! 007 has used peroxide on his hair instead of shampoo.
- 6) Is this piece of land off the coast of Hampshire where obese people go on holiday?
- 7) Did one of this duo get out of breath when he hit his partner, and the other one fell to the ground?

1, Eastbenders 2, Newts 3, Paris 4, Ted Sheeran 5, Blond  
6, Isle of Wight 7, Pant and Dec

### EARLY WARNING NOTICE:

The monthly Prize Draw for 2024/25 is being compiled be sure your joining fee is with the Treasurer as advertised in next month's Newsletter.

### COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Catharine Airy	07518745736	<a href="mailto:catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk">catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Barbara Brooks	01252 871333	<a href="mailto:Thebrooksies73@gmail.com">Thebrooksies73@gmail.com</a>
David Dickinson	01252 879056	<a href="mailto:Daviddickinson9@btinternet.com">Daviddickinson9@btinternet.com</a>
Marilynne Gardiner	01252 877510	<a href="mailto:xansamaz@aol.com">xansamaz@aol.com</a>
Carol Pascoe	01252 651872	<a href="mailto:capascoe@ntlworld.com">capascoe@ntlworld.com</a>
Sue Puxley	01276 513031	<a href="mailto:suepuxley@virginmedia.com">suepuxley@virginmedia.com</a>
Philip Rowling	01252 870879	<a href="mailto:rowingphilip@gmail.com">rowingphilip@gmail.com</a>
Meg Thomson	01276 33727	<a href="mailto:megtho@ntlworld.com">megtho@ntlworld.com</a>

# Group Meetings

## **Art**

**Meetings:** Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall  
**11:00 – 13:00 on Mondays**  
**Group Leader:** Martin Brooks 01252 871333  
[thebrooksies73@gmail.com](mailto:thebrooksies73@gmail.com)

## **Books**

**Meetings:** Private House at 14.00 on the last Thursday of the Month  
**Group Leader:** Wendy Dauven 01276 513984  
[wendyandpaul53@gmail.com](mailto:wendyandpaul53@gmail.com)

## **Bowls (Summer)**

**Meeting:** Hawley Bowls Club, Blackwater & Hawley Leisure Complex  
**10:30 to 12:00 every Wednesday between April and September**  
**Group Leader:** Dave Dickinson 01252 879056  
[daviddickinson9@btinternet.com](mailto:daviddickinson9@btinternet.com)

## **Canasta**

**Meeting:** Private House  
**14:00 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays**  
**Group Leader:** Clive Singer 07901568126  
[clive.singer1@gmail.com](mailto:clive.singer1@gmail.com)

## **Gardening**

**Meeting:** Private House  
**t.b.a.**  
**Group Leader:** Catharine Airey 07518745736  
[catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk)

## **MOTO A group for 'members on their own'.**

**Meetings:** Arranged monthly times various  
**Group Leader:** Judith Shaw 0118 9732724  
[jmshaw17@hotmail.com](mailto:jmshaw17@hotmail.com)

## **Photography**

**Meetings:** The Tythings, Yateley  
**14:30 on every 4th Tuesday of the month**  
**Group Leader:** Phil Rowling 01252 870879  
[rowingphilip@gmail.com](mailto:rowingphilip@gmail.com)

## **Rummikub**

**Meeting:** Private House  
**To be arranged**  
**Group Leader:** Lyn Sado 01252 872221  
[sadlyn@ntlworld.com](mailto:sadlyn@ntlworld.com)

## **Singing Group**

**Meetings:** The Tythings Yateley  
**14:00 to 15:30 on the first Wednesdays of the month**  
**Group Leader:** Barbara Brooks 01252 871333  
[thebrooksies73@gmail.com](mailto:thebrooksies73@gmail.com)

## **Various Sports**

**Table tennis, indoor curling, etc.**  
**Meetings:** Frogmore Leisure Centre  
**13:00 on Fridays**  
**Group Leader:** Val Green 07990 584571  
[greenvalley2043@gmail.com](mailto:greenvalley2043@gmail.com)

## **Walking Together**

**A guided walk of about 5 miles**  
**09.30 Meeting in the car park of Potley Hill Campus**  
**Mornings Second Thursday of the month**  
**Group Leaders:** Min Gardiner 07450256948 [xansamaz@aol.com](mailto:xansamaz@aol.com)  
Rosemary White 01276 503813 [romyandjohn@hotmail.com](mailto:romyandjohn@hotmail.com)