



Newsletter January 2021

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Chat

Welcome to 2021

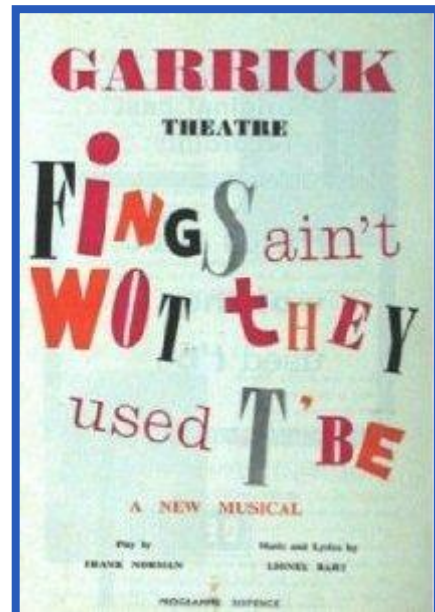
Never has a New Year promised as much as the coming twelve months!

However, this January will be a continuation of uncertainty both in our relationship with Europe and of living through the strangest of times which none of us foresaw this time last year. But here we are in 2021, still resilient, still compliant, each one of us trying to cope with it all in our own way. It really is a case of

*“Fings Ain't Wot
They Used T'Be !”*

This musical comedy was about Cockney low-life characters in the 1950s, including spivs, ladies of the night, teddy-boys and corrupt policemen.

It has been described as more of a play with music than a conventional musical. The original play, by Frank Norman, who though born in Bristol lived his adult life in London, was intended to be a straight theatrical piece, but was supplemented with music and lyrics by Lionel Bart.



Norman initially wrote the piece as a play (with no music), but after Joan Littlewood read it, she asked Bart to write the music and lyrics. It was first performed by her Theatre Workshop in February 1959 at their home, the Theatre Royal, Stratford, East London. It subsequently played at the Garrick Theatre in London's West End, starting on 11 February 1960. It ran for 886 performances; the cast featured amongst others the late Dame Barbara Windsor.

The title song, "Fings ain't wot they used t'be", was memorable and the original version was hard hitting and reflected the issues of that time. It was substantially rewritten to make it more acceptable when recorded by Max Bygraves. Reviews were mixed but the play won the Evening Standard Award for best musical in 1960.

So, suffice to say, while things are not what they used to be in SMu3a, we remain cheerful and optimistic and continue to believe in the words of another song, this time from 1993.

*“Things can only
get better”*

Best wishes and Happy New Year
Liz

Members' Corner

Bert's 90th Birthday Jokes by Barry Holmes

For their Dad's 90th birthday his family had arranged a bit of a spread, and it was decided that in order to give him a bit of a laugh they would invite a STRIPPER to brighten things up.

At the party old Bert was chatting to his old pals and family when the door opened and this blonde woman in a plastic mac walked in. She stood in front of Bert and slowly peeled off her plastic mac. Not a stitch. She looked Bert up and down slowly and said to him, 'Well old timer, do you fancy Supersex?' Bert looked her up and down even more slowly and said, 'I'll have the soup thanks.'



Do better to sell the pub



This fella had a pub, but it was not a moneymaking place, in fact it was eating money at a rapid rate so this fella said to his friend that he thought that he would do better if he sold the pub and opened a brothel, to which his friend replied that if he couldn't manage to sell beer then he certainly wouldn't manage to sell soup.

January's RECIPE

Malcolm continues his cooking duties in the Week's household for this month's recipe. He says it's easy and serves two.

Baked salmon with fennel



Ingredients

2 medium fennel bulbs
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
Zest and juice of one lemon
175 g cherry tomatoes
1 tablespoon olive oil
2 salmon fillets (about 175g each)
Few black olives.

Heat fan oven to 160c

Trim fronds from fennel and set aside

Cut bulbs in half and each half into three wedges. Cook in boiling salted water for ten minutes. Drain well

Chop fennel fronds and mix with parsley and lemon zest

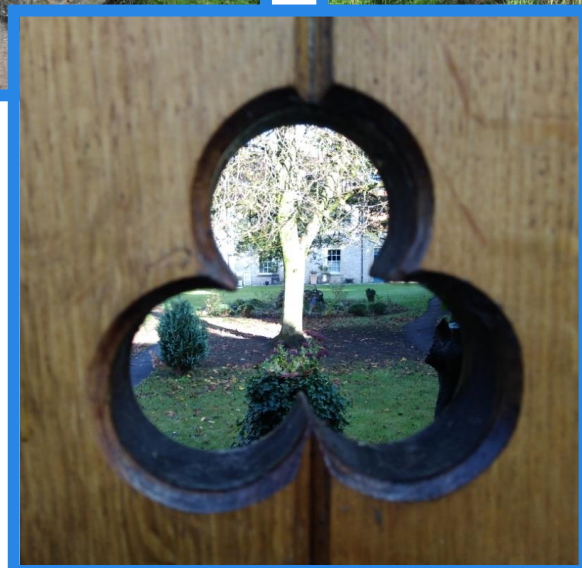
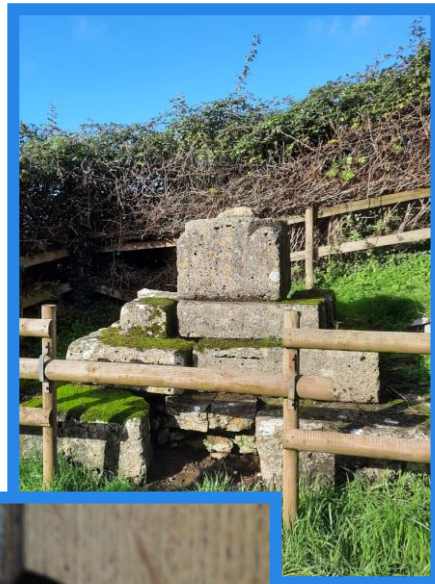
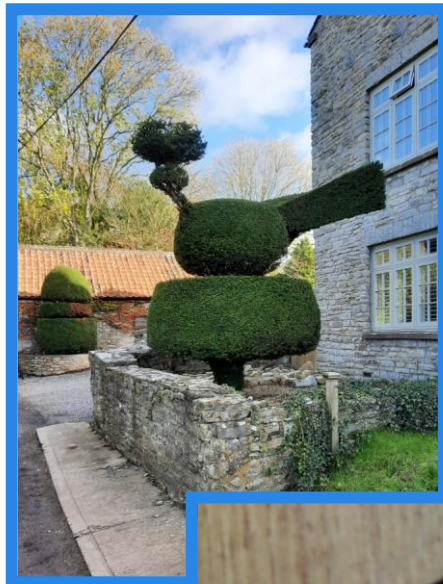
Spread the fennel and tomatoes in shallow dish and drizzle with olive oil and bake for ten minutes

Serve with mashed sweet potato.



The pink flowering hedgerow plant featured last month is a Spindle Tree or Euonymus

The topiary peacock and remains of an ancient wayside cross can be found at Fenny Castle, near Wookey. The trefoil cut-out is in a garden gate in Commercial Road, Shepton, near Beech House



And this fine beast is a White Park



Do you know where these photos were taken by Janet?
Answers next month





Lyn has sent us a lovely reminder of summer

CRICKET

For the 'uninitiated' here are some simple notes to get you up together on rules of the great game of CRICKET. Then, if it ever gets off the ground next year, you can enjoy The Ashes in Australia – maybe!

There are two sides, one out in the field and one in

Each man/woman that's in the side that's in goes out and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out

When they are all out the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in out

Sometimes you get men/women still in and not out

When both sides have been in and out including the not outs

THAT'S THE END OF THE GAME HOWZAT!

See – Simple!

December Mirthy Talk Morecombe and Wise

Steve Short brought to life the story of how a young Eric Morecambe met a young Ernie Wise with photos and clips. Steve told us the journey they had to become Britain's best ever double act. In a partnership that lasted from 1941 until 1984, Eric and Ernie were regarded as Britain's best loved double act. Their career together began when they were booked separately to appear on the Jack Hylton revue, 'Youth Takes a Bow'. From then on Eric and Ernie appeared in a series of shows over the next 20-years. The duo also starred in four feature films. In 1976 Eric and Ernie were both awarded the OBE. This entertaining presentation will bring back many memories of a much loved comedy partnership. The enjoyable talk lasted just over half an hour.



Next month's Mirthy Talk

William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement

Thursday 14 January at 3pm

Mark Lewis celebrates the life and work of this illustrious poet, artist and social reformer, who pioneered a movement that reacted against the soulless machine production of the Industrial Revolution. Morris attempted to promote joyful labour, the enjoyment of fine craftsmanship and simplicity of expression.

Here's how to join in

- Go to the Shepton Mallet u3a registration page
<https://mirthy.co.uk/u3a-shepton-mallet/>
- Click on Register for your Free online Talk

- Enter your name and email address
- Click to register your place

You will receive an email noting your registration from Alex Ramamurthy, the online host. He will send two emails, one a reminder a couple of days before containing the talk's the unique link and again 15 minutes before the talk is due to start.

Why not look at the [Mirthy website catalogue](#) and suggest a topic that you think others (and yourself!) might find interesting.

If you are having problems registering or would like more information please contact Jane Burman.

Group News



Walking

This is our snack break by the eco house at Holcombe en route from Whitstone Hill to Chesterblade. It started off bright and sunny but later mist descended and spoilt beautiful views. Great to chat to one another again after our November lockdown and we had plenty of exercise as it was about 9 miles.

u3a National News

Sign up to the [u3a National Newsletter](#) to keep informed on the latest government advice concerning the coronavirus. It is also filled with information, stories and advice from across the u3a movement on how to keep safe and occupied during this difficult time.

Group Contacts

Art	Gill Davies
Books	Sue Dunne
Bowls	Frank Booth
Bridge	Graham McCartney
Bus Pass	
Trippers	Janet Murray
Collectables	Liz Nash
Discussion	Malcolm Weeks
Family History	Keith Taylor
Flowers	Freda Briars
French	Contact
conversation	Sue Dunne
Munch Club	Maggie Fowle
Music	Catherine Wylie
Appreciation	Sandra Freeborn
Needlecraft	Di Gommo Liz Weeks
Photography	John Law
Recorders	Sandra Morris Julie Newman
Scrabble	
Singing for Pleasure	Val Sherring
Shorter Walks	Jenny Wehrfritz
Short Tennis	Eric Wehrfritz
Solos	Janet Murray
Strollers	Lyn Hook
Table Tennis 1 and 2	Peter Howell
Walking	Liz Weeks
Woolcraft	Pam Mitchell
Writing for	Catherine Wylie

Pleasure

Committee Members

Chair	Liz Nash (Interim)
Vice Chair	Jeanette Marsh
Secretary	Maggie Hardy (Interim)
Treasurer	Jane Burman
Groups Coordinator	Sue Dunne
Membership Secretary	Maggie Fowle
Newsletter	Julia Goddard
Outings	Janet Murray
Publicity	<i>Vacant</i>
Speakers	<i>Vacant</i>
Website	Keith Taylor
Co-opted Member	Janet Sherwin

Thank you to all our contributors this month. Please send your items for the newsletter by 20th of the month to Julia Goddard, Editor. Coronavirus restrictions may have changed by the time this newsletter is published.

