



Chair Chat

I am sure many of you will agree that family history is very important. It is so interesting to discover our roots and places of importance to family members who came before us. This was brought home to me recently, when I discovered a small paperback book (just 77 pages), published in 1946. It tells the story of Honor Oak Estate during the war. I was born on the estate and lived there until I was 7. The book tells the story of three conscientious objectors who, after being discharged from prison, where they were sent because of their views, were sent to the estate. Their mission was to look after the families during the bombing raids, and to set up a community centre and youth club.

This youth club is very significant in my family history, because two of my sisters went to the youth club, ostensibly the older one to make sure the younger one didn't get into any kind of trouble!

Of course, the older one fell in love with one of the leaders and subsequently married him, and they had a long and happy marriage.

My mother looked after, and sometimes fed the 3 guys even though she had one daughter in the WAAF and two son-in-laws fighting the war in the RAF. She had white feathers put through the letterbox as well. So these are the family stories talked about when I was a little girl.

I think it very important to remember these stories and if possible to write them down.

My family tree was researched and written down by my sister-in-law who was compiling it for her husband, my brother, and as we have the same grandparents and lots of other "greats", ours are the same.

I wouldn't have the patience to do it myself; I have great admiration for all of you who are doing it yourselves.

One thing I did do, only because I was nagged by said sister-in-law, was to write down some basic facts about my early life, parents, position in the family, schools, first job etc.

Who knows in a hundred years some researcher (like a lot of you) will be grateful for some clues to help them.

So please do it for future generations. Mine is just one A4 sheet, but of course once you start you might write a mini book! It is an ideal opportunity at the moment, as so many of our usual activities are suspended.

Hope you are all keeping well

Sandra Goulding

ALL MONTHLY MEETINGS CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

From Terry:

Hi Everyone. I hope you are all keeping well & Safe.

On a Warm but cloudy Tuesday afternoon in September at Hall Place Gardens another strange sight of 25 people (social Distancing of Course) in a great Circle enjoying a Picnic then bursting into song. Yes, it was The Evergreen Revellers U3A Choir Meetup2.

There were 23 members of the Choir plus two guests including our Chair - Sandra Goulding enjoying our second meetup Picnic.

No Cake or Birthdays this time, but Great Company. It was really great to see everyone again. After a chat with each other, Song Sheets out and bit of a Sing Song. Sadly, my little "Boom" speaker did not have the "Boom" expected so it was singing without a backing track.

Despite a False start by my good self, we managed to keep up and finish almost together! Hey, what matters was we had a good time together. Time to catch up and have a laugh.

In case you want to know what the Songs were: 1. What a Wonderful World, 2. Hey Baby, 3. Blue Moon, 4. Sunny Side of the Street (this encouraged the Sun to come out !) and of course 5. Ugly Bug Ball. This seems to have become our Signature Tune.

I was asked if we are going to have a Meetup3. Well I cannot see it happening. I do not fancy sitting in the Cold ,rain ,wind and eating a soggy sandwich ! Dressed in Hat, gloves, warm Jacket and a Colourful Scarf. All we can do is hope we get back together as we did before all this kicked off. This sadly I cannot see until Next Year. Such a Shame,

Keep Well, Safe and Keep Smiling

Terry

From our Choir Leader - Jan Prendeville:

'It was lovely seeing so many of the choir in Hall Place Gardens. We had a picnic then a singsong. Above all we had a natter and caught up with all the friends we have made along the way. I thoroughly enjoyed it and can't wait for the choir to resume.'

COVID STAYCATION

As a treat for my 94th birthday my daughter took me to Devon for a short holiday in early September. We motored in her new car and after four hours reached our destination - CLYST ST MARY, a few miles from Exeter. We stayed at EASTCOTE LUXURY B/B on Sidmouth Road, where we had a few comfortable days. The rooms were big, carpeted, well furnished with a good service included: private bathroom and toilet, free

toiletries, TV, electric kettle, tea and coffee maker and biscuits, hairdryer and with the views of their nice garden and nearby countryside, including a few sheep grazing.

On arrival, we had a cup of tea, unpacked and had a rest. In the evening we walked to the local village pub THE HALF MOON for dinner. It was about a mile walk, which was a welcome exercise. It was a pleasant establishment with panelled walls, smiling staff and good food.

The following day we planned to visit the nearby POWDERHAM CASTLE, home of the Duke of Devon but it was closed. Instead we walked around and through a huge shop well stocked with just about everything. We then motored to STARCROSS to meet my step-son and his wife, whom I had not seen for years. They took us for lunch to LYMPSTONE MANOR HOTEL near Exmouth. The hotel is situated on the estuary and offers wonderful views of the river and the countryside. We spent the afternoon with them in a reminiscence of the past.

Day three started with a cup of tea and a plan for the day. We visited a locally well-known DART'S FARM SHOP, a huge area with a variety of goods from garden furniture to the food stalls and Christmas decorations. Later we motored through DARTMOOR NATIONAL PARK. It was interesting to see various spots along the route like a lama farm, an old stone quarry, a golf course, and a house where Sir Anthony Eden lived. At well-known POSTBRIDGE we stopped to take pictures. At one spot three small deer crossed the road in front of our car. Sheep and long horn cattle were seen here and there, as well as black and white cows and ponies. Our destination for the day was LEWTRENCHARD MANOR at Lewdown near Okehampton which I had visited sixty years ago. It is an old Jacobian house with ancient oak panelled walls, situated in its own beautiful grounds. We enjoyed having scones and cream tea, yet not sure what to spread first: cream or jam!

The last day was left for EXETER. We took local bus No 9 which delivered us to the centre. My bus pass came handy! It was disappointing that the cathedral was closed due to an induction; also the Information Centre so there were no maps and leaflets. While walking along HIGH STREET we noticed the signs stating "Pedestrians one way", which not many followed; we did. We had a long walk and across two bridges to get to EXETER QUAY where we had a lunch at RIVERSIDE CAFE. We sat outside, under an umbrella on the banks of the river Exe watching the water birds diving in and out. It was a lovely sunny day, and overall we had been lucky with the weather. However, as the miles were accumulating on my pedometer (covered four and a half miles) we took a taxi back to our rooms.

In the evening we motored to EXMOUTH and had dinner in the garden of THE GROVE restaurant. Returning to the car we noticed an unusual sight at 8 pm on an empty beach, a dozen or so people sitting on the sand around a camp fire. Behind them was a pile of logs obviously to keep the fire going, and on a side was a small bar, lit like a Christmas tree. - I only hope that the police did not spoil their evening!

A long walk along the promenade with a view of the English Channel and fresh sea air completed the day and our holiday. It was a staycation at its best!

Tomira Carson

LITERARY CHARACTERS IN LONDON

"I've been walking about London for the last thirty years and I find something fresh in it every day" - Walter Besant, Novelist and Philanthropist 1800s

Many famous literary characters have been based in areas of London. Here are but a few:

Charles Dickens wrote about the orphaned boy, **Oliver Twist**. Oliver, arriving in **North London** met the Artful Dodger in **Barnet Lane**. He was consequently invited to Fagin's den at **Saffron Hill in Camden Town**.

At the time of Dickens, this was a low class area, home to London's black market. Fagin's associates, the brutal Bill Sykes and his partner Nancy, lived in **Bethnal Green**, a particularly poor and crime infested place.

In the **Old Curiosity Shop** Sampson and Sally Brass have an office at **No 10 Bevis Marks** – a short street in **Aldgate, City of London**. And who can forget the miserly Scrooge who lived in the **heart of the city** - it is said just a stone's throw from the **Bank of England**.

The Demon Barber of Fleet Street has been adapted for no end of dramas and even a musical. Thomas Peckett Prest was the first author to write the tale of **Sweeney Todd and his mistress, Margery Lovett**, shortly after their arrest and trial. Thomas had worked in Fleet Street and was familiar with Lovett's two-storey pie shop. Fortunately, he had not ventured into Sweeney's barbers for a haircut.

Sherlock Holmes has participated in sixty cases in **Arthur Conan Doyle's books** - crimes often taking place in London. **Baker Street** was the scene for most of the action but he never once set foot in nearby **Soho** - although he was not adverse to visiting the opium dens in **East London**. His favourite stations were **Charing Cross** and **Waterloo** followed by **Kings Cross** and **Euston**.

Ian Fleming's best-selling **James Bond** novels have been made into numerous films, using locations throughout London such as **Somerset House**, **The National Gallery** and **Whitehall**. The **Thames** was the setting for a high-speed boat chase in "The World is not Enough" The chase began at the **MI6 building** situated on the **Albert Embankment**, before hurtling past the **Houses of Parliament**, through **Tower Bridge** and on to **Docklands and the O2**. **Rules, London's oldest restaurant**, established in 1798, was the ideal place for James to enjoy his favourite martini, providing of course that it was "shaken and not stirred".

"**Call The Midwife**" by **Jennifer Worth** is set in London's East End during the 1950s. **Nonnatus House** is a fictional convent at the heart of **Poplar's** run down community and home to all the nurses and nuns.

Maureen Wright. Information taken from internet sites

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE COLONEL STEPHENS SOCIETY – From Terry

The Colonel Stephens Society (CSS) was set up in 1984 to promote interest in the light and narrow gauge railways of Colonel H.F. Stephens.

With membership at around 330, we are always looking to encourage new members to join and to ask U3A members to look up some of the former Colonel lines that would be useful place to visit for any of your planned trips with many offering walking paths along former track-beds. Additionally those where sections survive today as Heritage Lines offer a good day out with great facilities and enjoyable and scenic rides. We would invite any of your members to send us some photos from any walks/visits that are past or presently planned.

For members there is a Newsletter called "The Colonel" and gives CSS members up to date information on the preserved Colonel Stephens railways running today, other small groups trying to preserve small sections of closed lines who could one day have a track again as well as blasts from the past with articles on many of his lines that no longer exist.

The Society has no fixed base unlike many preserved railway groups, because of this their membership is from UK wide base, as The Colonel had influenced his particular style of economical railways across the UK including Devon, Cornwall, Derbyshire, Shropshire, Sussex, Kent & Wales.

In both Kent and Wales two preserved Colonel Stephens railways survive they are in Kent;

The Kent & East Sussex Railway and The East Kent Railway

and TV stars over the decades. So many items were on display – Dan Leno's huge boots, Max Wall's coat, Charlie Chaplin's cane, Ted Ray's famous violin, Tommy Cooper's fez and a costume worn by Danny La Rue. Comments could be heard from our members as we wandered around looking at the exhibits. “ I remember him”, “What was his name?”, “What show was he in?”.

One of our members was lucky enough to attend the GOWR Annual Ball for 25 years. One year King Rat Bert Weedon gave all the ladies a gift of a lovely little blue pill box, which she showed to us.

We finished with a raffle for bags of GOWR memorabilia and a welcome cup of tea and biscuits whilst we watched a film “A slice of Water Rat History”.

A lovely nostalgic trip down Memory Lane for us all

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Meet & Greet	Edna Sutton		Please let Edna know of personal events e.g. significant birthdays, anniversaries, condolences, etc. so that she can send cards.
Newsletter Editor	Mary Jupp		

Thank you to all our contributors.

All contributions for November newsletter to be submitted by Midday Monday 2nd November

Please ensure you contribute before the cut-off and have an email acknowledgment from me that I have received your contribution! Thank You