



Happy New Year to one and all!

What an unusual Summer we're experiencing. The weather hasn't been toooo bad if you can handle humidity but for those who travelled away from the area, the weather has been really hit and miss. Most of my family have been over in our beloved Bermagui for the past few weeks and the weather certainly hasn't played ball. Windy, wet, cloudy, freezing water day after day - still, made for good quality togetherness time! No doubt, when school holidays are over, the weather will be sublime! Anthony and I stayed home and did the odd day trip, but mostly I was the proverbial couch potato and whiled away the hours/days watching test cricket. Now it's tennis!

Included in this Newsletter is an article that is interesting and quite topical at this time – particularly if you're a cricket lover.

Now, decisions decisions..... For those of you who haven't enrolled in your chosen courses, it's not too late to do so. A few courses are at capacity, but there are many others that still have vacancies. Revisit the options and stop to consider – something may just trigger interest. There is no obligation to continue in a course if you find the subject doesn't really interest you. Transfer! Some newly introduced courses sound very interesting (one featured in this edition) so consider enrolling for something a little different. And many courses continue, thanks to the dedicated tutors.

On a personal note, after due consideration, I have decided I won't stand for reelection as Editor of your Newsletter. I embraced the task from the beginning, albeit very nervously, and gradually put my stamp on it. The role is not arduous - it is actually very rewarding and enjoyable. It presented me with the opportunity to meet additional members and tutors outside the classes I attended. Initially, I wrote most of the articles in the Newsletter, then I became clever. - I handballed! I approached members and tutors and requested they write their own articles and going by the feedback, I believe you have enjoyed the many and varied contributions over the time – all so interesting and diverse. Our secretary, Annie, continues to be an enormous help to me and her IT skills have been evident with each and every edition. In recent times, Robert Toleman volunteered to contribute to the Newsletter by offering puzzles and quizzes. How good have these been? Nothing wrong with challenging those little grey cells! Jokes for our funny page regularly dropped into my inbox (mostly from members) and I might add, many didn't pass the censor! ;) The job is primarily collating all articles received. I've been known to 'pinch' material from community resources on occasion (if deemed interesting) and voila! Job done! The incoming person can put their own stamp on it, too! There are no guidelines to follow – just a bit of imagination. As there is a couple of months before the AGM I am hoping this leeway will give members time to consider taking on the role. For years I have enjoyed attending classes and it is not lost on me how tutors give of their precious time to prepare classes for our benefit and enjoyment. So, to me, the role was my way of giving back. Prior experience is certainly not a necessity. And, in case you're wondering, it is not a prerequisite to be on the committee. The role is quite autonomous, in fact.





Last year was not a good one for me health wise, thus my decision, but I will certainly make myself available to the incoming Editor as they navigate the task at hand in the initial stages. I will continue being involved with our dynamic organisation as I have enrolled in various classes once again.

I look forward to seeing familiar faces at the commencement of Term 1 and I do hope you have a wonderfully enjoyable year ahead.

Take care.  
Judy

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**Our Annual General Meeting  
will be held on  
FRIDAY 22 MARCH 2024**

If you'd like to contribute to the running of our U3A please consider nominating for one of the Committee positions.

If you're interested in finding out more about any of the positions, please have a chat with one of the current Committee members.





from the **President**



Greetings to you all! Welcome back to U3A in 2024.

I hope you've all had a good holiday break and are looking forward to joining us to listen to challenging speakers, and also to resuming the activities of our many and varied interest groups.

Yes, I have met many of you on the streets of both cities all expressing eagerness to do just this and wishing it were sooner! In fact, this year could be the one for you to consider a new challenge – maybe you'll try out a new group, or even be part of starting a new one!

As we jump into this New Year of learning and happy socialisation, I am reminded of the thoughts expressed by Japanese author, Ken Mogi who writes

*'that learning is something very natural for the brain. Just as the heart keeps beating to make us live, so the brain keeps learning.'*

So, it's nice to think of learning as 'the air that the brain breathes'. And with an amazing 37 courses on offer and our first term running from 29 Jan to 28 March, our brains should have plenty of air to breathe!

If you haven't enrolled yet and need assistance to do this, our Committee team will be there to help you between 9.30 and 12.30 on Monday 29 January.

This first term is only 9 weeks long and will end with our Annual Meeting just before Easter. Again, think about what contribution you might make so that we can keep our operation dynamic and exciting. And let's not be afraid of change!



A new year means a new chapter. I hope 2024 is an incredible part of our story!

I will end by sharing a proverb that is important to me:  
What is the most important thing in the world?  
It is the people, it is the people... it is the people.

*Alwyn Friedersdorff*

What are you looking forward to in 2024?





## CHERRY RED ROMANCE

### The mystery of the Holocaust survivor and the Dukes cricket ball

Shernhall Street is a largely residential road in Walthamstow, east London, just under an hour by public transport from the manicured turf of Lord's: 10 miles away but worlds apart. No 241 is a two-storey grey-brick building, whose blue double door gives no hint of what is inside. The owner likes it that way. Enter and you are greeted by the smell of leather, and a swathe of red, plus a bit of pink, white and orange: boxes and baskets of cricket balls. On a whitewashed wall is a large sign in red letters: British Cricket Balls Ltd. And since 1987, it is where they have been making the Dukes.

The owner, Dilip Jajodia, has spent 50 years in cricket-ball production. He set up Marrant Sports, a pioneering mail-order cricket-equipment company, in 1973, having left his job as a pensions fund manager in the City. It's been a lifelong love affair, despite an accident at school where he was smashed in the mouth while fielding at silly point. "You could say cricket balls left their mark on me from that point onwards," he says. "I was stretchered off and I've still got these metal plates in my mouth, but it didn't diminish my enthusiasm."

Producing the Dukes starts with the humble cow, and the best leather comes from Aberdeen Angus cattle fed on lush Scottish and Irish grass. The hides are sent to Spire Leather in Chesterfield, where they are cleaned, treated with aluminium sulphate to aid the tanning process, sprayed the desired colour, and cut. The thickness of the dried hides is measured: the bulkier areas around the backbone are saved for balls used in international matches, while the outer flanks will see lower-grade cricket. The cut hides are then sent to the subcontinent to be formed into quarters, which then make their way to Walthamstow to be turned into balls. It is skilled, demanding work and one person can do only six or seven balls a day. It's all about feel, patience and a good eye. Workers have subtly different techniques, passed down from parent to child. Some of the Dukes employees are third- or fourth-generation cricket-ball stitchers.



The last stage of ball production is called "lamping" the ball is held near a naked flame and a small amount of grease is applied. When the ball is rubbed on clothing, the grease is brought to the surface, producing shine. Darker balls are said to contain more, so bowlers often prefer a deeper shade of red. Finally, they are covered in polish, left on a rack for a few hours to dry, packaged up and sent around the globe. Dukes balls are as uniform as is possible without mass production – and no two are quite the same.

*A cricket ball is lamped at the Dukes factory in Walthamstow.*

The company dates back to 1760, when Duke & Son was established as a manufacturer of cricket balls at Penshurst, in Kent. It received a royal warrant in 1775; at the 1851 Great Exhibition, the triple-sewn ball won a medal. In 1920, Duke & Son merged with John Wisden & Co, and in 1961 were amalgamated into Tonbridge Sports Industries, a joint-venture company that included Gray-Nicolls and Stuart Surridge. In 1987, the Dukes business was purchased by British Cricket Balls Ltd, where Dilip had been on the board for a few years. Since then, he has run the operation.







A few years after setting up Marrant in 1973, Dilip became involved in selling imported cricket balls. He noticed that the final polish wasn't up to much: it would crack and peel, let in water, look unsightly. Almost by accident, he stumbled across an ad for a semi-opaque liquid which caught his attention: "I painted up a few of my balls and gave them out for testing." He played club cricket in Essex for Woodford Wells, where they used his prototypes. He sent out batches to other clubs on his books. "They all came back and said: 'Oh yeah, these balls are a lot better. They are great.' That's when I really got started."

Dilip started to order the liquid in larger quantities and one day in the early 1980s he decided to meet the people providing it. The man who had placed the original advert was based in Derbyshire, where he ran a metal-engineering company. However, he didn't make the fluid. "Barry took me through his noisy factory and led me to a space at the back behind this small partition. There was an old man at a table and he was making up this liquid. I was struck by his sense of calm amid the racket. There was something about him, an aura – he had a very still presence. We locked eyes. Walter was incredibly softly spoken. Walter was a German Jew and a leather expert. Before the second world war, Walter worked for the German government, where his job was to look after all the manuscripts and leather-bound state documents. He was highly skilled at preserving different types of leather. We didn't go into the details but Walter had apparently survived Auschwitz and relocated to England sometime after the war.

The liquid was called 'Pliandure' – as in 'apply and endure.

Over the next seven or eight years, Walter and Barry sent Dilip the polish in bulk and he applied it to the balls. "It was very Heath Robinson: my small team and I were there with our paintbrushes every year." After taking over Dukes, he immediately applied the polish to the hand-crafted balls. Wasn't he worried that only Walter knew the formulation – and that he was, to say the least, getting on? "I must confess, I didn't think about it - I was so busy and we were expanding all the time.

"One day, I got a call from Barry. Walter had died. He was obviously extremely old and had lived this incredible life. But I do remember blurting out: 'Oh no and what am I going to do about the polish?' Barry said: 'Don't worry about that. I've got some good news for you. After that first meeting years ago, Walter gave me a brown envelope and told me to keep it in my safe for when he died.'

Walter's recipe is still a secret. Dilip hasn't passed it on to a manufacturer to mass produce for him. "I wrote out a copy and I make it by hand, I get my gloves and my goggles on and follow Walter's recipe to the number and letter."

Walter's secret recipe has been used on Dukes balls since 1987 and will continue to be used. Dilip personally selects and hand polishes the Dukes balls used in the Ashes series. A copy of Walter's formula is locked in his (huge) safe. "I've got a copy of it that my son will inherit when I've passed on.



As I look back on my life and career it is something that is just quite wonderful: the secret, the mystery, the romance of making cricket balls."





## HEALING OURSELVES & OUR PLANET

Welcome to one of our new courses for 2024!

The subject matter in this course is arguably more important than most people realise, but at the same time, may be rather daunting.

Our tutor, John Beaney is 80, a retired GP, and in 2013 (two years after retirement), John's weight peaked at 108kg. He discovered how to sustainably lose 24kg and in the process he learned more about real health than



he had in 50 years of medical practice. John now believes that industrial agriculture and manufactured food are causing damage to our health and are major factors in destabilising our planet.



This course is run on both Tuesday and Friday each week from 9.30-11.30am via Zoom. You are most welcome to attend either of these sessions regardless of which session you have enrolled in - attendance is flexible.

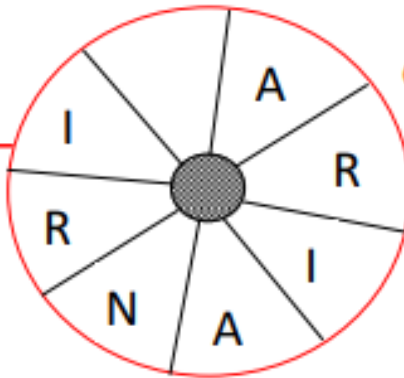
Join John and explore different aspects of personal and planetary health, including the diseases of civilisation, obesity, diabetes, heart attacks, and Alzheimer's as well as carefully looking at global warming, desertification of the planet and regenerative farming.

### Why not try something different and topical



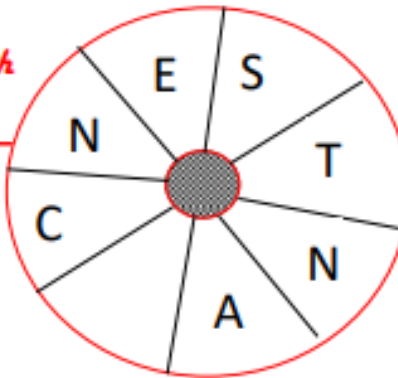


# puzzled



## Playing with Words

1. Can you solve these **Word Wheels** by inserting the missing letter.



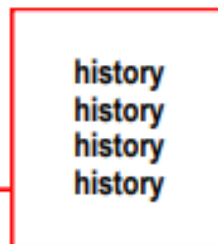
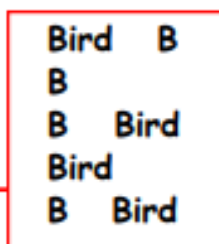
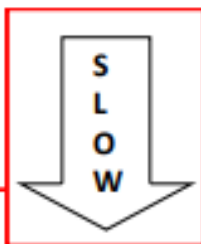
**2. More Words.**  
How many four, five and six-letter words can you create from the following letters?  
**S A O M A R**

**3. Who am I?** Australians love a nickname...so what are the names of the following Australian sports people?

- Thorpedo
- Plugger
- Rocket
- The Lithgow Flash
- Muscles

**4. More Words.**  
How many four and six-letter words can you create from the following letters?  
**Y N E R I W**

## 5. WHAT AM I?



**Ponder this:** We never really grow up; we learn only how to act in public.







## DID YOU KNOW

The world's first true and comprehensive geological map of a country – England, Wales and (most of) Scotland – was published in 1815, by a surveyor named William Smith. In an age of gentlemen geologists, Smith wasn't rich, posh or well-connected – in fact, his social status barred him from membership of the Geological Society of London – but he was obsessed with rocks, fossils and the idea of mapping the geology of Britain. He spent years travelling around the country to gather material, eventually bankrupting himself while producing the first copies of his map.

Today, one of the original copies hangs in the entrance hall of the Geological Society's headquarters in Piccadilly. When you pull back the blue velvet curtain protecting it from the light, one of first things that strikes you is its beauty. The UK is furrowed by a series of curving lines running downwards right to left to reach a point around Taunton in Somerset. The country is a marbled mass of forest green, caramel brown, bubble gum pink, rich purple and pale lavender.

Looking at Smith's map, you can tell at a glance that the country is older in the west and younger in the east; that, roughly speaking, if you begin in the south-east and travel north-west up to the Highlands of Scotland, you travel back in time – from the newest formations of East Anglia to the ancient metamorphic rocks of the Highlands. Smith gave each stratum a different colour, based loosely on the colour of rock they indicated, and graded so that the strongest colour represents the base of the formation, lightening upwards.



*One of William Smith's maps (the Delineation of Strata, 1815) on display at the Geological Society in Piccadilly, London.*

*Photograph: David Levene/The Guardian*

The colours Smith chose are, more or less, those still employed by all stratigraphers today. They are based on the colours of the rocks themselves: yellow for the Triassic sandstone of Shropshire, formed from hot, dry deserts; pale pink for Cambrian granites extruded from prehistoric volcanoes in what is now Wales;

blue for the coal-bearing Carboniferous rocks of the Midlands, when that region was a land of seething, glistening swamps; pale, yellowish green for the white chalk, because white would have shown up badly against the paper.

Smith's map helped to shape the economic and scientific development of Britain during the Industrial Revolution. It showed where coal to power the factories might be found. Where clays and rocks to build the growing cities might be quarried. Where tin and lead and copper could be mined. Where a canal or railway line might most easily be dug. His map represented an increase not just in knowledge, but also in wealth.

Smith is sometimes known as "the father of English geology". In 2003, one of his original maps was sold for £55,000. In Piccadilly, the society that would once have refused him membership displays his relics like those of a saint: an oil painting complete with a lock of Smith's white hair sealed into the frame and two uncomfortable-looking wooden chairs.







## Try this lakes and rivers travel quiz

1. Which is the deepest lake in the UK? Loch Ness                  Wast Water Windermere                Loch Morar	2. What is the world's largest 'lake' by area? Superior                    Baikal Caspian                     Victoria
3. Which of the following is considered the longest continuous bridge over water in the world? Pont de Normandie Lake Pontchartrain Causeway Severn Mile Bridge Oresund Bridge	4. Vasco da Gama bridge, the longest road bridge in an EU country, crosses which river? Tagus                        Douro Rhone                        Tiber
5. Manitoulin Island is the largest freshwater lake island in the world, what lake is it in? Great Bear                Michigan Van                            Huron	6. Which of the following cities is not on the Amazon? Belem                        Salto del Guaira Iquitos                        Manaus
7. What is the longest river wholly in one country? Yangtze                     Mekong Mississippi                Parana	8. What is the 2 <sup>nd</sup> longest river in the UK? Thames                      Trent Severn                        Clyde
9. What do Italy's Lake Avernus, Yellowstone Lake in the US, Ecuador's Quilotoa and Lagoa das Sete Cidades in the Azores have in common? They are all salt lakes They all occupy volcanic craters Vast flocks of flamingos visit them It is illegal to fish in them	10. What type of fish used to live in the River Trent until 1902, after which it became locally extinct? Pike                            Trout Bream                        Common sturgeon
11. Which UK river rises in Plynlimon, Wales? Severn                        Usk Great Ouse                Dee	12. Which of the following French towns is not on the River Seine? Vernon                        Caudebec-en-Caux Metz                            Rouen
13. One of these lakes in the UK is artificial. Kielder Water              Hickling Broad Llyn Tegid                  Hornsea Mere	14. Which US river is known as the Daughter of the Stars for its vivid reflections? Missouri                     Colorado Shenandoah                Hudson
15. Which of these popular German lakes is not in Berlin? Muggelsee                  Krumme Lanke Wannsee                    Titisee	<b>Dive into the answers on page xx</b>





## MASTERPIECE



This Romantic masterpiece hangs in your mind's eye like a rain-filled cloud. It snags in memory, in a way only great art can. Yet there is nothing about Constable that can be hyped or made groovily contemporary. He has simply painted a Suffolk scene on a breezy day, nearly 200 years ago. Why is it so compelling? The colours are complex and real, as if a window on to the living world has opened in the gallery wall. The light seems to be moving through the painting, which is so fluid and supple in its mottled textures that you feel the vitality of nature with sudden intensity. Constable achieves in paint what his contemporaries did in poetry and music. Seeing this is like reading Wordsworth, while listening to Beethoven's Pastoral Symphony. It is as joyous and moving as a landscape can be: a quiet miracle.

• [Scottish National Gallery, Edinburgh.](#)

### Answers:



1. **Word Wheels:** riparian, enchants. 2. **More Words:** arms, mars, oars, rams, roam, soar; aroma, rooms; aromas. 3. **Who am I:** a, Ian Thorpe; b, Tony Lockett; c, Rod Laver; d, Marjorie Jackson; e, Ken Rosewall; g, Leigh Matthews. 4. **More words:** rein, weir, wine, winy, wire, wiry, wren; winery. 4. **What am I:** slow down, tripod, birds and the bees, history repeats itself.



### Answers:

1. Loch Morar, 2. Caspian, 3. Lake Pontchartrain Causeway, 4. Tagus, 5. Huron, 6. Salto del Guaira, 7. Yangtze, 8. Thames, 9. They all occupy volcanic craters, 10. Common sturgeon, 11. Severn, 12. Metz, 13. Kielder Water, 14. Shenandoah, 15. Titisee.





## TERM 1 COURSES 2024

<b>MONDAY</b>			
Women's Films	9.30-12pm	Room 3	John McQuilton
Everyday Philosophy 5 sessions 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of month	10-12pm	Room 1	Michael Evans
You've Done Your DNA Now What?	10-12pm	Zoom	Judy Charlton
Economics & Politics	1-3pm	Room 1	Eddie Voogt
CAE Book Club	1-3pm	Room 2	Helen Collins
Buddhist Philosophy	1-3pm	Room 3	Helen Casey
Art Appreciation 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday each month	3.15-4.30pm	Room 1	Lynne Keys

<b>TUESDAY</b>			
Healing Ourselves & Our Planet	9.30-11.30am	Zoom	John Beaney
A Toolbox for the Craft of Writing	10-12pm	Room 2	Jane Carroll
Sustainability	10-12pm	Room 1	Bruce Key
English Literature	10-12pm	Room 3	Kath White
Garden Group 1	1-3pm	Room 3	Shirley Farr
Random Thoughts and Ideas	1.30-3.30pm	Room 1	Peter Massey
Air Rifle Shooting	3.30-5pm	Room 3	Bob Cranage

<b>WEDNESDAY</b>			
People & Events from British History	10-12pm	Room 1	Hugh McHarg
Garden Group 2	10-12pm	Room 3	Shirley Farr
Mahjong for Beginners	10-12pm	Room 2	Karen Ferguson
Social Gardener	10-12pm	Various	Pauline Harris
Music Appreciation	1-3pm	Room 3	Jennifer Schubert
Mahjong	1-4pm	Wodonga Hockey	Karen Ferguson
Cryptic Crosswords	1.30-3pm	Trinity Uniting	Jean Evans

<b>THURSDAY</b>			
Bird Watching in Albury Wodonga	8-10am	Various	Bernie Datson
Introduction to Mediation	9-10am	Private Home	Kaye Ellis
Mindfulness Meditation	10-11am	Private Home	Kaye Ellis
Philosophical Discussions	10-12pm	Room 3	Anthony White
Walkie Talkies 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month	10-12pm	Various	Helen Collins
Scrabble	12.30-3pm	Room 3	Kath Clarke
Art in the Afternoon	1-4pm	Various	Kath White
Background Briefing 2	1-3pm	Room 1	Gerry Engwerda
Chess	1-4pm	Room 3	Steve Currell
Women's Writing Circle/Reminiscences	1-3.30pm	Martin Centre	Aprile Alexander

<b>FRIDAY</b>			
Healing Ourselves & Our Planet	9.30-11.30am	Zoom	John Beaney
Family History & DNA skills (adv)	10-12pm	Zoom	Julie Hind
Mahjong Intermediate Beginners	10-12pm	Room 2	Karen Ferguson
Plays, Poetry and Prose Reading 1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of month	10-12pm	Room 3	Margaret Richardson
Scottish Country Dancing First 3 Fridays each month	10-12pm	Room 1	Anne Murray
Card Games and Mahjong	1-3pm	Room 3	Karen Ferguson

