

COUNTESTHORPE U3A

UPDATE AND CURFEW CHRONICLE No 16

Dear Member

Well, here is yet another Chronicle! I fear that as we return to a semblance of normality, that the Chronicle's end is nigh! Never mind, it will be good to get back to our usual social activities, and with the good weather as well – all is fine. See Shirley's lovely 'Summer Acrostic' poem for what we can expect.

As usual, my thanks to all the contributors! I hope you will enjoy the selection for this month. Please do keep them coming in, as I think there may be a (very?) few more issues of the Chronicle still to come!

The good news is that we plan to restart a number of the groups in the very near future (see last page) and the first general meeting will be 2 pm on **Tuesday, 13 July**, all being well of course! Doors open at 1.30 pm as usual. We look forward to seeing you there. More details will follow in due course.

Good wishes to you all.

June Hawkins

Information and Publicity Officer

*Chronicle contributions not later than 26 May, please,
to me by email at: jhawkins45@talktalk.net
or by post to 28 Mulberry Court, Enderby Rd, Blaby. LE8 4BU*



A SUMMER ACROSTIC

Sapphire skies and sunshine, strawberries for tea
Umpires on the village green, umbrellas by the tree
Myriads of marigolds, mazes made of maize
Meadows in the moonlight, murmuring lovers gaze
Elder, elm and English oak in gowns of emerald lace
Ramblers roam romantically, refreshed by nature's grace.

Shirley Wilding

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Please note that renewals ARE NOW DUE!

- The cost is **only £5** (full and associate members) for 2021/22
- No form is required, just send (with your name and membership number if known – see previous membership card) to Barry Hillyard at 35 Station Road, Countesthorpe, Leicester LE8 5TA.
- All new or lapsed (*check with Barry if you're unsure!*) members will need to complete the usual form and pay the full price of £15 (£8 for Associate).
- Forms are available to download from the website, or contact Barry on 0116 277 4187 or barry@bhillyard.plus.com
- **Cheques** are preferred, please, payable to "Countesthorpe U3A".
- **PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH UNLESS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL!**
- **Bank transfers** can be accepted for membership payments ONLY:
A/c: The Countesthorpe U3A Sort Code: 40-12-35 A/c No: 01402889 Ref: Your 3-digit **membership number** + **surname**, or as much of it as can be entered in the available space. (*If you can't find your membership number from a previous membership card then please call Barry on 277 4187 or June on 277 6330*)
- A quick email or call to Barry to say when you have paid by bank transfer would be appreciated, if possible, please.
- Please note that membership cards will no longer be issued.
- Programme cards will be made available to all members once our main meeting activities resume and we have details of speakers/dates/topics.

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RENEWALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
(IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO).**

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY RENEWED!

DESPERATE FOR A HOLIDAY AMONGST FRIENDS AS WE GRADUALLY RETURN TO SOME SENSE OF NORMALITY?

Why not join us for our U3A holiday in County Durham in August. Our main attractions are outdoors, as safety reassurance is our priority. The highlight is "Kynren" – a spectacular outdoor performance, plus a day at Beamish Open Air Museum and a visit to Barnard Castle and/or a National Trust property (TBA).

One double and a few twin rooms are still available. Full details and booking form are on the U3A website. Contact Jill on 07946 517139

RESTARTING OUR U3A

- **All information is subject to change/cancellation resulting from government announcements and revisions to venue regulations**
- The committee has resolved to try resuming some of our normal activities from 17 May where feasible – depending on nature of the activities. Other groups will follow, as practicalities allow.
- Therefore, it is planned to hold a general Monthly Meeting on Tuesday, 13 July. There will be a speaker, but no refreshments will be served. Doors open at 1.30 pm, speaker at 2 pm.
- The small lounge 'marketplace' will be open, but the number of activities on offer may be fewer than usual as we get up to speed!



PHONE LINES

Hard to believe I once had a phone attached to the wall. When it rang, I'd pick it up without knowing who it was - amazing I'm still alive.

When the grandkids tell me about their problems, I tell them about the time I survived without my mobile or the Internet for 20 odd years.

My son had a Fisher Price pull-along phone when he was young; his little boy has a Samsung Galaxy s21 mobile.

How do you milk a sheep? Bring out a new iPhone and charge over £500 for it.

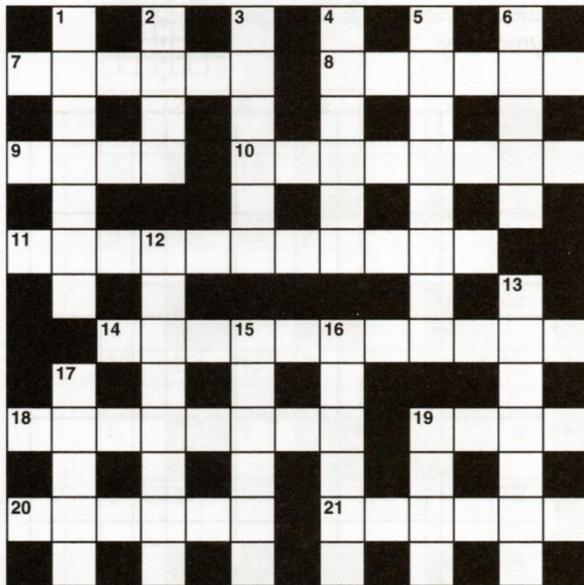
Remember when you were able to call a person 56 times and they never knew who it was.

I still have a "landline", or as I like to call it my "mobile phone finder".

Sent in by Tricia Brown



Quick Crosswords



ACROSS

- 7 Plain cotton cloth (6)
- 8 Old classification for adult films (1-5)
- 9 Ice sheet (4)
- 10 Street vehicle modified for racing (5,3)
- 11 Disgusting thing (11)
- 14 Packed to the gunwales (5-1-5)
- 18 Nationalistic tub-thumper (8)
- 19 Clunk (4)
- 20 Place to house a dog (6)
- 21 Divulge, give (6)

DOWN

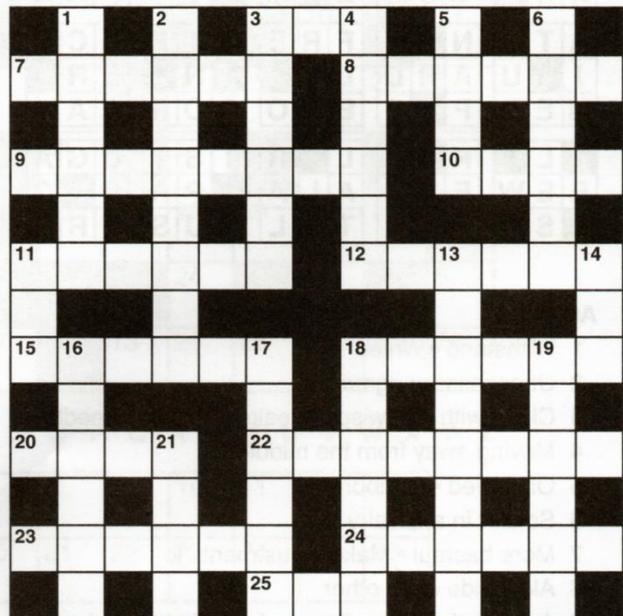
- 1 Australian marsupial (7)
- 2 ___ Tyson, former boxer (4)
- 3 Baptismal charge (6)
- 4 Strongly urge (6)
- 5 Finance (8)
- 6 Of the kidneys (5)
- 12 Hard reddish-brown wood (8)
- 13 Statistical expert (7)
- 15 Hot-tasting pod (6)
- 16 Get, achieve (6)
- 17 Broaden (5)
- 19 Adhesive strip (4)

ACROSS

- 3 Much-eaten fish (3)
- 7 Paint colour that can be raw or burnt (6)
- 8 Bounder (6)
- 9 Wood-lined (rooms) (8)
- 10 ___ out, destroy (4)
- 11 New and improved (6)
- 12 Discrete unit (6)
- 15 Jailer (6)
- 18 Arts and ___, early 20th-century design movement (6)
- 20 Industrial mediation body (inits)(4)
- 22 Shop floor below ground level (8)
- 23 Comfortably and warmly (6)
- 24 Irritate, vex (6)
- 25 Self-importance (3)

DOWN

- 1 Buccaneer (6)
- 2 Without a fire (8)
- 3 Someone phoning (6)
- 4 Do menial work (6)
- 5 Pack, load (4)
- 6 Vessel for brewing a cuppa (6)
- 11 Lower the head in greeting (3)
- 13 Player on the same side (4-4)
- 14 Affirmative answer (3)
- 16 Mode of speech (6)
- 17 Cut of beef popular in the US (3-3)
- 18 Gambling house (6)
- 19 Confused interwoven mass (6)
- 21 Protracted tale (4)



Just finished my **30th Marathon** since this lockdown started. Still can't bring myself to call them Snickers.



The Devil whispered to me, "I'm coming for you!"
I whispered back, "Bring pizza!"

RAISE A SMILE – A LIGHTHEARTED (AND NON-PC) LOOK AT LIFE!

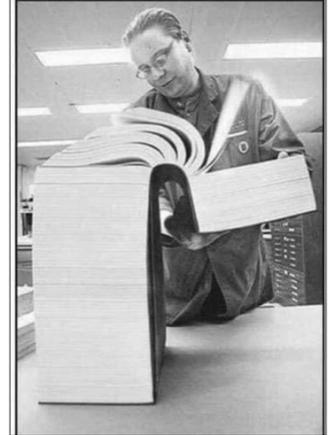
Men – if you ever want to know what a woman’s mind feels like, imagine a browser with 2,857 tabs open. All. The. Time. (*Is that multi-tasking?*)

Never make a woman mad! They can remember things that haven’t even happened yet.

Behind every angry woman stands a man who has absolutely no idea what he has done wrong.

Despite the old saying “Never take your troubles to bed”, many women still sleep with their husbands!

Just letting you know that the book, "Understanding Women" is now out in paperback



AND A FEW WORDS OF WISDOM, PERHAPS?



- How to stop time: **kiss**
- How to travel in time: **read**
- How to escape time: **music**

- A wise man once said nothing.

- The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

- Never confuse education with intelligence.

- When he wanted to take her picture, he didn’t tell her to smile. He told her, “I love you” and her smile was more beautiful.

- Never make fun of someone who speaks broken English. It means that they know another language.

All sent in by David Hebblewhite.

You may not feel strong
but in someone's eyes you are
their comfort and strength.



OUR VILLAGE A MILLENNIUM WISH

Our village, do you love her just as much as I?
From new-born babe to pensioner – how time has flown by.
You have grown from groups of cottages with privies down the yard,
Your streets heard sounds of cattle drive and horse carts – life was really
hard.

We played whip and top, and hoop-trundling down the middle of the roads,
Gutter marbles, hopscotch, tick-chase, and found nets, frogs and toads.
Life was free and easy for us young people of that day;
We roamed the fields, paddled the brooks – how safely we did play.

Everyone knew everyone within the village bounds
And news of bad behaviour soon did the rounds.
So your parents knew of misdemeanours before you got back home.
Oh, the speed of that jungle post – and this before the mobile phone!

The council and the church schools were rivals through and through.
As were the church and chapels – they didn't mix, it's true.
It's hard to believe the changes that the passing years have brought,
Like shared services and multicultural children together being taught.

Dad's Army helped to protect us through those blackout years,
With its air-raids, gas-masks and bombs and the consequential fears.
Many of our loved ones went off to fight the war,
And the sadness for the families when they didn't come back through the
door.

Our village has now expanded with thousands of beautiful homes;
The people rushing and working to pay off their large loans.
They all need careers, cars, computers and phones to keep in touch;
Their children watch the telly, cyber games and such.

No local hop for the teenagers, it's discos, theme pubs and clubbing;
No dance bands to waltz or quickstep to – it's loud music and brain
numbing
No being in by 10.30 to 11-ish, and your escort on his way.
You are lucky now if they appear before breakfast the next day.

Now computers help with their homework, calculators do the maths;
Careers staff advise on courses and help their educational paths.
Then it's off to university to gain an independent life,
Maybe to return to the village with a degree, doctorate or even wife!

Do we envy them their chances? No, because we can do it too!
Even as a pensioner, the options are there for you
To study things you only dreamed of when you were running free.
We now can learn computing and have had the chance to climb that wild
tree.

I wonder what the "Countess of Thorpe" would think of us now
With our multicultural future? I think that she would vow
That we must keep going forward in this new millennium
And keep Countesthorpe's rural beauty for the generations still to come.

I just wish that future children could have the freedom that we had
To enjoy fresh air and exhilaration without the fear of anything bad.
To have a healthy environment with all the pollution kept at bay,
So the whole world could enjoy another millennium day.

Written by Margaret Woolley

(This was the winning entry to the Village Millennium Arts Competition)

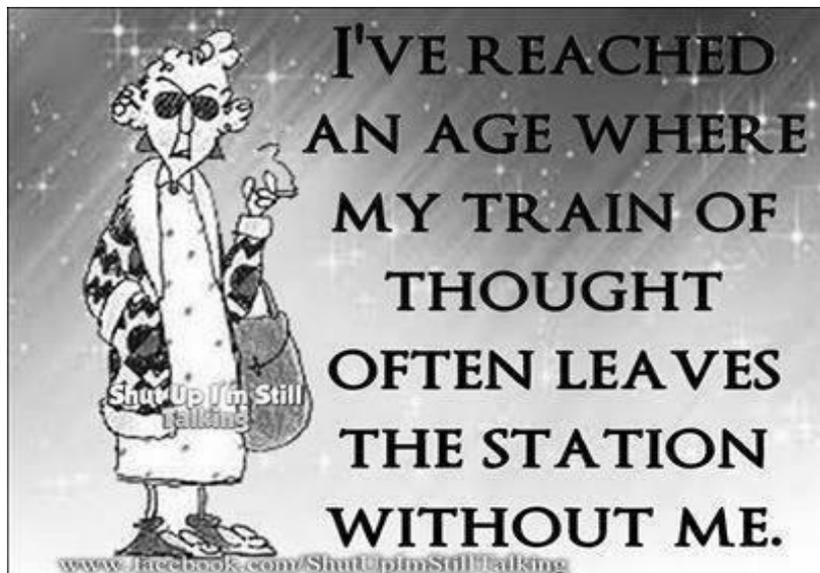


DOG DAYS



AROUND BRITAIN QUIZ

1. At which racecourse is the Grand National held?
2. In which county is Belvoir Castle?
3. Stansted Mountfitchet is an English village in which county?
4. Offa was king of which Anglo-Saxon Kingdom of England?
5. Which cathedral city in Somerset has a population of about 10,000?
6. The M1 motorway connects London with which English city?
7. Who was the final ruler of the House of Tudor?
8. The Roman fort and city Eboracum evolved into which present-day city?
9. Which Royal Park in N. Yorkshire is a designated World Heritage Site?
10. What name is given to the chalk headland near Eastbourne, immediately east of the Seven Sisters?
11. In which county is the seaside town of Weston-Super-Mare?
12. Name the only town in England whose name ends in a question mark.
13. What was the official language of England from 1066 to 1362?
14. John Betjeman described which Shropshire town as probably the 'loveliest town in England'?
15. Which ancient monument is to be found on Salisbury Plain?
16. Name England's largest lake.
17. Designed and constructed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis between 1925-1975, the fanciful Italianesque village in North Wales is known as what?
18. What is made up of about 40,000 interlocking basalt columns created after a volcanic eruption, and is associated with a legend about an Irish giant?
19. Situated in an abandoned clay pit, which complex in Cornwall houses 100,000 plants in giant transparent domes, each recreating different global climate conditions?
20. What is the name of London's most famous bridge?



ECHOES FROM THE PAST

Because so few open fires exist now, there are words that are going out of use; words and phrases that my grandchildren may never use. I remember some with warmth, some less so, but all with nostalgia.

Chopping sticks
Laying the fire
Fire lighters
Fire bricks
The grate
The coal house
Slack
Anthracite
Clunker
Cinders
The cinder path
Coke
Soot

The chimney sweep's coming!
Chimney fire
Fire Imp
Drawing the fire (nothing to do with pencils)
The flue
Black leading
Back boiler
Scraping the flue
Fire tongs
Poker
Coal scuttle
Coke hod
Mine prop trees

Could a similar list be made in the kitchen? Who now uses a bread or pastry board? Certainly there is one for wash day:

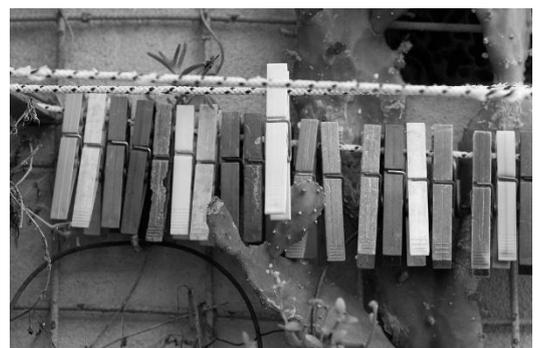
Mangle
Rollers
Blue bag
Copper
Copper fire

Dolly pegs or ponch
Dolly tub
Starch
Wash tongs
Wash board

I have used, or helped my mother use, all of these. I expect my grandmother could have made a list for words connected with transport. She travelled from her village to her nearest town of Spalding by pony and trap. Such is progress and the passing of time.



Contributed by Ruth Westley



NATHANIEL'S STORY

Nathaniel (known as Nat for short) was born into a very large family who lived happily on a small sub-tropical island in the Atlantic Ocean. The sun shone almost every day in the blue sky which formed a heavenly dome above his head. The birds sang, the palm trees whispered, lizards darted through the bushes or sunned themselves on stone walls and rocks, and the sea surrounded his island paradise with its cooling breezes. Life was idyllic.

He had a good upbringing, being nurtured by his whole extended community. There were always friends and family to play with, passing the hours as all youngsters do with a carefree abandon which all too soon gives way to the necessities of providing for life's essentials. His extended family worked to ensure sufficient food was available, and to maintain a comfortable standard of living.

They lived on a rocky hillside, where there were many lovely homes occupied by people who came and went over time, as people do. But Nat's family stayed, and established themselves securely in one of the largest villas on the hillside. It had its own small swimming pool and a view of the distant snow-capped mountain on a neighbouring island. Food was plentiful; life was good – almost perfect, in fact.



Until one day, the sky over Nat's head grew suddenly dark. The sun was blotted out. Suddenly, he knew no more - his life snuffed out by the foot of a human who did not want ants in their holiday villa.

I publish this next piece with a good deal of embarrassment! It was sent to Peter Bradbury our Chairman, with clear instructions that it be published in the next Chronicle, rather than to me, to ensure that it had his support and endorsement - which he freely gave. When I read it, I was (for once) quite speechless, and very, very moved that people should write something so kind and appreciative. It has been my pleasure to produce the Chronicle, and it is very gratifying to hear from so many of you that it is enjoyed and appreciated. So, thank you, everyone, for your kindness, and your contributions.

So we are still in lockdown or partially so at least
And restrictions have affected more than one family feast.
But one recurring event has brought us all some cheer
When U3A Chronicles appeared several times through the year.

Some of us enjoyed sending contributions large and small
But it was to one e-mail address these messages did fall
And we realise and appreciate the work that was involved
As the collating, lay out and despatches were resolved.

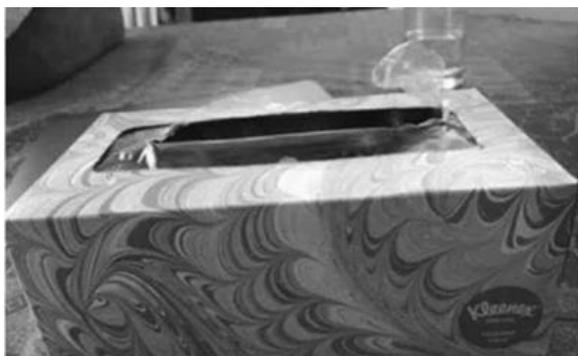
THIS THEN IS A HUGE THANK YOU JUNE, FROM U3A MEMBERS ALL
You can't have realised when you first answered the call
That all this time later Chronicles would still be coming out
And still cheering us up of that there is no doubt.

This offering is going to our Chairman as well
Hoping his seniority in the organisation will tell
And June will be forced to publish an article or two
Which specifically says – JUNE, THANK YOU

We know all you committee folk deserve our thanks too.
Lockdown has put lots of folk in a stew!
But all efforts are appreciated and we just want to say
Thank you all - and have a nice day!

😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊 😊

AND WE SPENT HOURS LOOKING FOR HER!



WHAT IF . . . or, THE COURSE OF HISTORY

What if . . .

The Romans had not left Britain
The Black Death had not killed half of all Europeans
Henry VIII had not divorced Katherine of Aragon
The Spanish Armada had not been defeated
Charles I had not been executed
William Shakespeare had died in childhood
Britain had won the American War of Independence
The French Revolution had not taken place
Napoleon had not been defeated at Waterloo
Charles Darwin and Albert Einstein had not been born
The Titanic had not hit an iceberg
Archduke Ferdinand had not been assassinated
The Bolshevik Revolution had not occurred
China had not become a Communist state
The Hindenburg had not been destroyed
Hitler had not invaded Poland
Pearl Harbour had not been bombed
The atomic bomb had not been dropped on Hiroshima
India had not been given independence
President Kennedy had not been shot
The Berlin Wall had not fallen
The World Trade Centre had not been attacked
And finally . . . what if I could write like Brönte, Austen, Eliot,
Christie, Mantel, or even J K Rowling! What if . . . what if . . .

Written by Shirley Wilding



THEATRE GROUP NOTICE

After more than 10 years, I feel that it is time to move on and for somebody else to take over this group - planning and organising theatre visits for members. I hope that someone will come forward to do this, and I will, of course, offer all the help and support that I can. It would be sad if this group were to fold up, and I really feel that there is someone out there who would do a great job to enable members to continue enjoying visits to plays, musicals and ballets. Just ring me for a chat if you are interested, on 0116 277 6330. The show must go on!

June Hawkins

GARDEN APPRECIATION GROUP NOTICE

Ruth Westley has decided that it is time for somebody else to take over the running of this group, which she started and has run very successfully for a number of years. So, we are looking for someone to take on the group and take it forward! Could you be that person? Do you have an interest in gardens/gardening? You do not have to have any special expertise, as the key feature of the group is to share garden knowhow and to pool ideas. This is achieved in a number of ways – visits to U3A members’ gardens, garden centres and gardens open to the public, complemented by indoor presentations/discussions/talks during the winter time. Ruth would be very willing to assist anyone who comes forward, so that they have some help in the early days. Call Ruth on 0116 277 1533 if you would be interested. Don’t let this group go to the compost heap!



SOLUTIONS TO QUICK CROSSWORDS

ACROSS		DOWN	
7 Calico	14 Chock-a-block	1 Wombat	12 Mahogany
8 X-rated	18 Jingoist	2 Mike	13 Actuary
9 Floe	19 Thud	3 Godson	15 Chilli
10 Stock car	20 Kennel	4 Exhort	16 Attain
11 Abomination	21 Impart	5 Bankroll	17 Widen
		6 Renal	19 Tape
ACROSS		DOWN	
3 Cod	15 Warder	1 Pirate	13 Team mate
7 Umber	18 Crafts	2 Unheated	14 Yes
8 Rotter	20 ACAS	3 Caller	16 Accent
9 Panelled	22 Basement	4 Drudge	17 Rib-eye
10 Wipe	23 Snugly	5 Stow	18 Casino
11 Better	24 Nettle	6 Teapot	19 Tangle
12 Entity	25 Ego	11 Bow	21 Saga

ANSWERS TO AROUND BRITAIN QUIZ

1. Aintree	6. Leeds	11. Avon	16. Windermere
2. Rutland	7. Elizabeth I	12. Westward Ho!	17. Portmeirion
3. Essex	8. York	13. French	18. Giant’s Causeway
4. Mercia	9. Studley	14. Ludlow	19. Eden Project
5. Wells	10. Beachy Head	15. Stonehenge	20. Tower Bridge

STOP PRESS!

At the time of writing, we can provide the following information about groups and their restart plans. All are obviously subject to government regulations!

Fit for Life restarts on Monday, 17 May at 11.30 am in the Village Hall. The cost will be £5 per session, and there will be no class on 31 May due to the Bank Holiday. (Details from Diana Lee on 277 9142)

Handbells will resume (weather permitting as Countryfile forecast) from 2 June in Pat Hillyard's garden from 2 pm. (Details from Pat on 277 4187)

British Sign Language restarts on Tuesday 8 June. However, please note that temporarily this will be held at Patsy Paterson's home (6 The Chestnuts). 10.45 am – noon. (Details from Patsy on 277 6259)

Country Dancing will resume informally in small groups (weather permitting) in Patsy's garden (6 The Chestnuts) from 14 June 2-3.30 pm. The group will revert to the VH as soon as possible thereafter – likely 28 June. (*Disposable gloves will be provided, please bring your own mask should you wish to wear one*) (Details from Patsy on 277 6259)

Kurling will recommence weekly 11 am – noon in the Village Hall on 7 July. (Details from Ian on 277 6259)

Bowls starts again on Wednesday 7 July from 2 pm, as usual. (Details from Barry Hillyard on 277 4187)

Scitech returns to the Bull's Head from 12 July at 12.30 pm (though continues via Zoom until then). (Details from Mike Thompson on 277 0584)

Flower Arranging resumes on Wednesday, 14 July 2 – 4 pm. (Details from Pat Quinn on 277 2399)

Luncheon Club is planning to restart on Tuesday, 20 July, with the venue to be arranged. (Details from Sue Wyllie on 284 9959)

Guitar and Ukulele do not aim to restart before September, as singing is involved! But, Ukulele continues via Zoom. (Details from David on 277 5881)