

FIRST CLASS FIRSTS!

Our Chair, Les Chandler, tells us what's on his mind

June was a month of firsts. I had my first hair cut for a while – thanks to my wife Chris and some new hair clippers. Best-ever purchase I reckon; the hair clippers, not Chris! I won her in life's raffle - how lucky am I!?



The Play Reading Group held its first Zoom meeting, featuring Bill Naughton's Spring and Port Wine. Very entertaining. Well done Jackie for securing the scripts in spite of lockdown and well done to the players: you were magnificent. The Family History Group held its first Zoom meeting too, with fascinating contributions from Jean, Malcolm and Sarah. The session also featured our first international Zoomer with ex-Giggleswick resident Jim Parker joining us live from Sydney Australia and entertaining us with tales of his time here. In amongst all that Ian and Richard did their first Zoom presentations: Ian on Eva Peron, to the Great Lives Group; and Richard on upland birds to the Birdwatching Group. What absorbing sessions they were.

And to ice the cake we had our first Zoomed monthly meeting: an inspirational and engaging talk from award-winning author Jim Williams. Through a series of vignettes and cameos of people and events from his own life Jim convinced us of the benefits of writing our autobiographies. As he put it: "Your autobiography will bring to life people and events your children and grandchildren would otherwise never have known. They'll never tire of reading it." Since Jim's talk I've found myself recalling experiences from my own life, like the time my Dad and I caught three newts and re-housed them in our tiny garden pond; only to see them vanish: one the first night; one the next. At eight-years old I was thrilled when, on the third night, Dad said "We'll stake out the pond tonight to see what's going on". Torches at the ready we waited until, just after midnight, we watched in awe as a hedgehog shuffled along and scooped up the remaining newt with its paws, just like a bear catching salmon!

Happy days. Here's to many more, Les

Learn, laugh, live
Settle District U3A

MONTHLY MEETING BY ZOOM, THIS WEEK
Thursday 9th July 10.30am
Link open from 10am

Tales of a Customs Officer
Brian Topping

In a fascinating 'would-you-believe-it!?' session featuring famous names, a cricket match and even Miss Bermuda, Brian will reveal the lengths smugglers go to in their efforts to avoid detection.



If you haven't tried Zoom yet, give it a go. Les will send out the meeting link the day before, on Wednesday 8 July. **If you haven't used Zoom before and would like to practise before Thursday e-mail Les at chairperson@settledistrictu3a.org and he'll get you sorted.**