

GROW BOLD

LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE

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C3A Magazine

Winter 2023

A note from the new Chairman



Dear C3A member,

Those of you who were not at the AGM last month may not know that C3A has a new chairman, John Lawley.

Yes, that very same John Lawley who used to get all excited about the dusty rocks of Cyprus in the days (sadly long gone) when there was a Geology Group.

I retired in 2004, after spending much of my working life in Saudi Arabia, employed by BAE Systems. I originally went to Saudi in 1974 as a Supply Specialist – in other words a Storeman. Over the next 29 years I had a variety of roles ending up with a management role in general contract administration. We bought our lovely old village house in the early 1980's, and it has been 'home' since my retirement.

Shortly after retiring I joined what was to become C3A as a member of the Geology Group, run by an enthusiastic group leader named Fred. He re-ignited an interest in the subject, for I had been a keen rock climber and mountaineer in my teens and early 20's. Soon it was my turn to take people out on field trips to examine the wonderful rock formations and exposures available on the island. I have also, on occasion, given lectures on geology and associated topics to a wider audience in C3A open meetings. It is in these roles that I have met many of the Third Age community.

Or maybe we have chatted together at the back of the Gardening Group – baffled and bemused by the Group leader's encyclopaedic knowledge of plants. Or did we, possibly, meet at some distant archaeological site where the Group Leader had found a specialist to enlighten us? Or was it at one of the Breakfast Group's regular gatherings?

Or, maybe we met at some other C3A function. If that is the case, you will have to forgive me as I am afraid my memory is not quite as it once was.

Perhaps I have not yet had the pleasure of making your acquaintance. If so, that is something that I hope to rectify over the coming year.

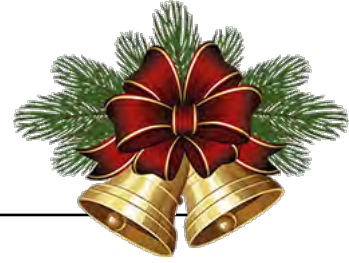
Although I was a somewhat reluctant candidate for the role as chair-person I have been blessed by the continued support of a committee who have years of experience. I would like to express my grateful thanks for their past service and ongoing support.

What are my aims as Chairman? As I hope is clear, I personally get a great deal of benefit from my membership of the C3A. Clearly, many other members feel the same. Therefore, on the premise that 'If a thing works well - don't try and fix it' I shall aim to maintain things very much as they are. However, I will always welcome your input on possible improvements.

In the meantime, can I wish you all an enjoyable Festive Season together with the hope that we may all enjoy a stimulating, peaceful and healthy 2024.

John Lawley

C3A Committee 2023-2024



The following members were elected to serve on the C3A Committee at the Annual General Meeting, which was held at the Atlantica Miramare Beach Hotel on 10th November 2023.

Officers



Chairman
John Lawley



Secretary
Patricia Boden



Treasurer
Sandra Wilkes

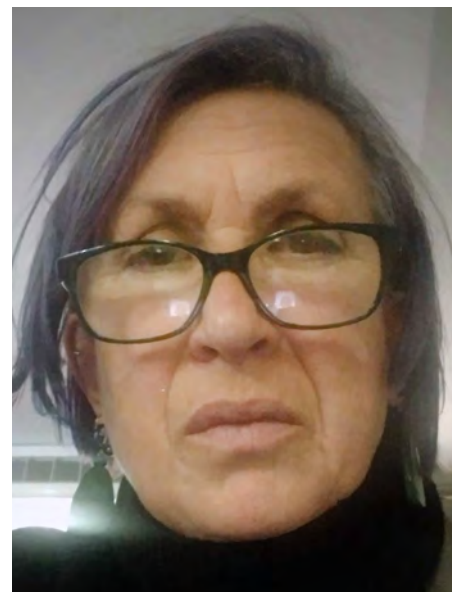
Other committee members



Communications Secretary
Paul Costerton



Membership Secretary
Barbara Johnson



Groups Coordinator
Anna-Marya Grantham

Thoughts from a curmudgeonly codger



If you have been lucky enough to have survived to 65 years and retained your health and marbles, then you can reasonably be described as having 'cracked life'. You will have faced and largely overcome the vicissitudes of living, dealt with them to the best of your ability and settled back, confidently and comfortably, to your final years. You should be basking in acquired experience, and disseminating sagely observations with a smug detachment. It does not really concern you if proffered wisdom is ignored and cast aside by the younger generation.

I foolishly assumed I had achieved this hallowed state.

'Get with it, grandad' – whatever 'it' is that you have to get with.

I spell 'mum' with a 'u' and include the same letter in honour or colour. My everyday vocabulary includes such linguistic gems as 'wireless' and 'gramophone' which when used as of habit calls forth howls of derision and ridicule.

'You mean 'radio' and 'CD player' Old Boy?' Ha, Ha, Ha. (Old Boy is my nickname)

Cheeky whipper snapper!

Actually, wireless has recently acquired a new lease of life, albeit not with the same meaning that I attach to it. 'Wireless' is something to do with a mouse, which I find strange as those little creatures love nothing more than to chew through wire leads, especially electrical ones.

Did you know that 'aerodrome' is now a non-word! It has been removed from the dictionary. How dare they! The word has an expanse about it; far more spacious than a

Thoughts from a Curmudgeonly Codger



mere 'airfield'. 'Airport' has a crude commercial aspect where men in their leather helmets would never don their flying machines.

I always thought that being 'cool' was something you tried to keep on a hot day; to be comfortable, and that 'chilling out' was the act of cooling off.

Not a bit of it! You can be cool when dressed up to the nines in a garish and tasteless apparel unacceptable to a lady or gentleman with true style.

Two things for sure, I thought I had language and standards 'cracked' many years ago, Obviously, I haven't, judging by grand daughter's reaction last month.

Example:

Me, watching TV with teen-age grand daughter:

'My God! She's no oil painting, is she? (My observation of a female celebrity on the box.)

Horried grand daughter:

'You can't say that, Old Boy. It's not politically correct.

Me:

'Just look at that: two blokes dancing together!'

Horried grand daughter:

'SO! What's wrong with that?'

Nothing, I suppose. In fact watching a troupe of Greek men dancing is highly entertaining but two men dancing together just seems to grate a little, albeit they are both highly talented dancers.

And another gripe.

The boundary between 'right' and 'responsibility' has become exceedingly blurred in the last few years, in my opinion.

Yes, you have a right to free speech and to demonstrate for a cause, but when your right impinges upon someone else's freedom and rights, then a line should be drawn. When your action causes embarrassment, injury or even death to another person, then surely your 'right' must be curtailed. The Red Line seems to have become blurred in our modern litigious society.

Sorry, I have prattled on a bit, but it is my right as long as I have not hurt anyone's feelings. Actually, I wouldn't dream of calling anyone 'plain' to their face. or even behind their back.

Happy Christmas to all my readers.

John Palmer.

Of myrtles and music



Every month I face the same daunting task of finding a venue and/or activity for the Gardening in Cyprus Group to meet or participate in.

December is a particularly difficult month as some members are off island and others are involved in preparing for the Festive Season, so it was decided to forego a meeting that month. This allowed me the extra time to plan for January.

Whilst mooching through some of the items in my archives I came across a CD that I thought might be of interest.



This CD was acquired in 2015, in the pre-Covid days, when the Mediterranean Garden Society (MGS) was able to hold its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in a different country each year. This particular year saw it based on the island of Ischia off the Italian coast opposite Naples. The Giardini La Mortella (named for the wild myrtles that grew there in abundance) was to be the venue for the General Assembly (GA).

In 1949 the famous British composer, Sir William Walton, had settled on Ischia with his Argentinian wife, Susana, who was 24 years his junior. She had immediately begun to create a garden that would provide the tranquil, peaceful atmosphere her husband required for his composing. In 1956 she was joined in this endeavour by the renowned landscape designer, Russell Page.

The property is situated on a steep hillside and Page began at the foot of the hill, designing what is now known as the Lower Garden. One of its main features is a narrow waterway that links a series of fountains. There is also a building, containing a mix of tropical plants, that is known as the Victoria House due to the fact that the giant waterlilies (*Victoria amazonica*) are grown there. Water for the pool is supplied from the mouth of a sculpture on the wall. This is 'The Bocca' by Simon Verity and was inspired by the mask designed by John Piper for the front curtain of a production of Walton's work, 'Facade'.



In later years Susana Walton added other areas to the garden, the valley, the upper garden (The Hill), that reflected her inimitable style.

The current Director of La Mortella and President of the William Walton Foundation, Alessandra Vinciguerra, had worked with Susana during those later years. She it

Of myrtles and music



was who invited the members of the MGS Administrative Committee (AC), of which I was one being Vice President at the time, to stay in the garden during the 4 day event.



Obviously, we had to pay but who could turn down the opportunity to wake each morning and stroll down through such an iconic garden to have breakfast in the Tea House. The accommodation block is situated high on the hill below an artificially created amphitheatre. In fact the roof of the building serves as the stage for the theatre. On summer evenings recitals of William Walton's music are performed here, and the performers are accommodated in the block.

A truly unforgettable experience.

The CD is to be shown in the UKCA Club on Tuesday 16th January at around 10.30 am.

I assume that any C3A members who may wish to attend would be welcome.

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John Joynes



High Noon



This film was made in 1952 by some elite names in Hollywood at the time. Stanley Kramer was the producer, Fred Zimmermann the director, the scriptwriter Carl Foreman and the music was composed by Dimitri Tiomkin. It won 4 Academy Awards in 1953 for best actor, editing, score and song, as well as 4 Golden Globes and sundry other awards.

Even if you haven't seen the film, you'll probably know the song, "Do Not Forsake Me, Oh My Darlin'", which was sung by Tex Ritter. The images are memorable so I remembered quite a lot from when I saw it ages ago, but this time round I was struck by how good it really is as well as later learning something I didn't know the first time I saw it.

This is a grainy black and white film and it captures the mood perfectly. It is hot and arid and you can almost smell the dust and the sweat. It is shot in real time so the tension and the suspense rise with the passing minutes. It struck me at this viewing that this is what the ancient Greeks did in their drama with the unities of time, place and action, so this film is classic in more than one sense

High Noon



The story is set in a small town in New Mexico. The marshal, Will Kane, (played by Gary Cooper) has just got married to Amy (Grace Kelly) and they are planning on going to another town to open a shop and start a family. The new replacement marshal is not due to arrive till the following day. News arrives that Frank Miller, an outlaw whom the marshal turned in in the past, is coming on the noon train to seek revenge with his gang.

Will Kane decides he has to stay and confront Frank Miller and tries to recruit help from old friends and allies and the townspeople in general to fight him, but for a variety of reasons he is abandoned by them all, including his own wife, who is a Quaker and strictly pacifist. When the time comes for the showdown, Will Kane has to face Miller and his gang alone. Amy had decided to leave on the noon train, but when she hears the first shots, she runs back to the town and helps her husband by shooting one of the gang, totally against her principles.

When Kane eliminates the threat, the deserted mainstreet fills up with townspeople and there follows one of the most memorable scenes on film. Without a word being spoken, Kane looks at the crowd with disappointment and disgust and he throws his marshal's star in the dust before departing with Amy on their wagon.

This is a story about conscience. It's a portrait of moral courage in a man who is willing to die for his principles. It is about a man moved by his sense of duty to protect the town that doesn't deserve him. It is also a pacifist's plea for non-violence, arguing against the use of force until absolutely necessary.

What I didn't know till now is that it is also a critique of McCarthyism. The film was made during the height of the Hollywood blacklist, a time of political inquisition and personal betrayal. In the middle of shooting the film, Carl Foreman, the screenwriter, was forced to testify before the House Committee on Un-American Activities about his former membership of the Communist Party. Refusing to name names, he was eventually blacklisted and he fled the USA. From this perspective, High Noon's emphasis on courage and loyalty becomes more significant.

Thanks to Lilian for giving us the opportunity to watch this film again.

Cleo Kyriakidou

Christmas in the doghouse



It was Christmas day in the doghouse,
and no one had a bone,
and one dog who was desperate
was chewing up the phone-book,
when suddenly to their surprise
a canine Santa came
and luckily they had no logs
or he'd have been aflame.

Good news I bring the Santa said
('cos he knew how to speak)
from now on I'll be visiting the doghouse
once a week,
we'll break the human habit
they seem to hold so dear;
good will to fellow creatures,
but only once a year.
It's true we tend to urinate
around the Christmas tree,
but we're fit to lead
and not be led
in spreading Christmas glee.

They didn't want a sermon though
that's not why he was there
they all piled in like vermin
to his sack of Christmas fare,
and they ate all the bones up
and they treated Santa rough,
and as he left the doghouse
he said once a year's enough.

John Hegley (1953-)

You can find out more about John
Hegley and his poetry on his [Word Wild
Web Site](#).

Pat Howarth

Thessaloniki



Last April we enjoyed a short break in Thessaloniki. With direct flights available from Larnaca and the city's long history as a major trading centre for three empires we felt sure that we would find plenty to interest us. We were not disappointed.

The city was founded by Alexander the Great's brother-in-law and is named after his half-sister, so was originally part of Macedonia. Within 200 years the region had been conquered by the Romans and became part of the Roman empire. Thus, it was a Roman City when the Prophet Paul visited in approximately 50 AD. Later on, it became the second city of the Byzantine Empire when Emperor Constantine moved his capital to Byzantium (later Constantinople). By the 15th Century the area had fallen under the control of Ottomans. It was to remain under Ottoman control until the 1913. Each of these empires have left their mark on the town and there are very many historical sites to visit.

Although Thessaloniki is Greece's second city, it did not become part of Greece until August 1913. Up until that time the city was Ottoman, predominantly populated by Sephardic Jews whose antecedents had been driven from Spain in the 15th Century. Shortly afterwards, in 1917, there was a huge fire that burned for 4 days. The fire left over a quarter of population homeless, some 72000 people mostly Jewish. Many of these later left Greece, mostly for Palestine. Today the city is home to a superb museum dedicated to this Jewish community and also covering the horrendous activities of the Nazi authorities following their invasion of Greece in the 1940's.

Thessaloniki



Getting back to our trip we found that by using the local bus network within the city we were easily able to access the various sites we had chosen to explore. We found the buses to be reliable, regular and usually packed, not surprising since there was a standard fare of 90 cents to anywhere in the city. The bus system also gave access to the local villages and we had trips out to the wonderful wetlands in the western suburbs as well as visiting the hot springs in a village to the north of the city. These have been in use since Roman times and Elizabeth was able to enjoy their facilities. I sat and enjoyed the grounds since we had arrived on a 'Ladies only' day.

Highlights for me included the museum in the home of Mustafa Kamal Atatürk, the founder of modern Turkey; the Arch and Rotunda built in memory of the Roman Emperor Galerius; and the people. Thessaloniki is a big, modern metropolis, and everywhere streets were crowded – but it always felt safe.

We left feeling that we could have done with a few more days. At the airport we talked to other travellers who had been on a walking holiday amongst the mountains, hills and caves of the region. It all sounded wonderful. So - my bucket list gets longer. Next time - perhaps.

John Lawley

C3A benches at the Molos



As part of the C3A's 20th Anniversary celebrations, we commissioned two benches to be made and installed on the Limassol Promenade (Molos), where members and others visiting the area can take a rest and enjoy the view.

It wasn't plain sailing. We needed permission from the Limassol Mayor, which took a few months. And then, once we'd got the Mayor's permission, the company in Ypsonas that was making the benches had run out of materials and was waiting for supplies.

We needed four plaques for the benches, but finding good quality, long-lasting plaques in Cyprus proved impossible. So while I was in the UK during the summer a company in Leicester made four, laser engraved, stainless steel plaques, which you can see above.

The company's Managing Director delivered them to me personally, the day before I returned to Cyprus.

The benches were installed towards the end of November and just a few metres from the 'Yellow Café'.

The bench on the left celebrates the C3A's 20th anniversary, while the one on the right is in memory of Thanasis (Dan) Tsirikos MBE, who rescued the C3A from oblivion in 2016 and who sadly succumbed to cancer earlier this year.

The photo on the right shows Sue Tsirikos on the bench dedicated to her late husband.

Nigel Howarth



All about books



'All About Books', more informally known simply as the Book Club, recently had its final meeting of the year. It was in many ways a meeting that summed up who we are, as a group, and what we do. We are not what I would categorise as a 'traditional book club' where all the members read a single book, then get together to discuss and dissect it. Instead, we each bring one or more books that we've read during the past month to the table and introduce them to the rest of the group. And this is where the discussion starts.

Some of the books are actual print books which we often swap around. Sometimes the books have been read on an e-reader so the reports are simply verbal. Whichever it is, it is always an interesting compilation, reflecting as it does the individual interests of the members of the group.



The December meeting really illustrated this. We started off with a classic: James Joyce's *Portrait of an Artist*, itself a virtual autobiography of the author.

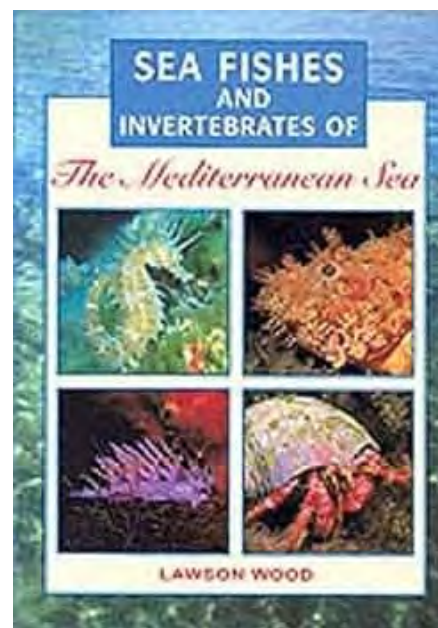
The writing was described as 'beautiful and eminently readable and strangely enjoyable'.

This book started a discussion of the rights and wrongs of sending children, in this case boys, to boarding school at an early age, as happened to Joyce's main character, Stephen Dedalus.

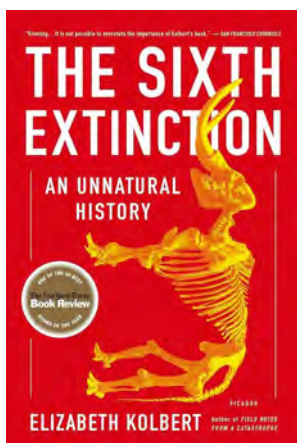
Next we were more down to earth with *Sea fishes and invertebrates of the Mediterranean Sea*, (who knew that Portuguese Man of War jellyfish were to be found off the west coast of Norway and could get stuck in the ice as winter arrived?) before we bounced off into space with Chris Hadfield's *An Astronaut's Guide to Life on Earth*.

Hadfield had apparently, at the age of 9 watched the moon landing and decided there and then he too wanted to be an astronaut.

This sparked an aside about how we all came into the jobs and careers we'd had through life. It was an interesting and gentle way to find out more about each other.



All about books



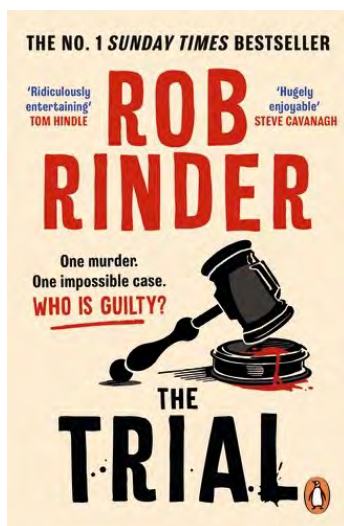
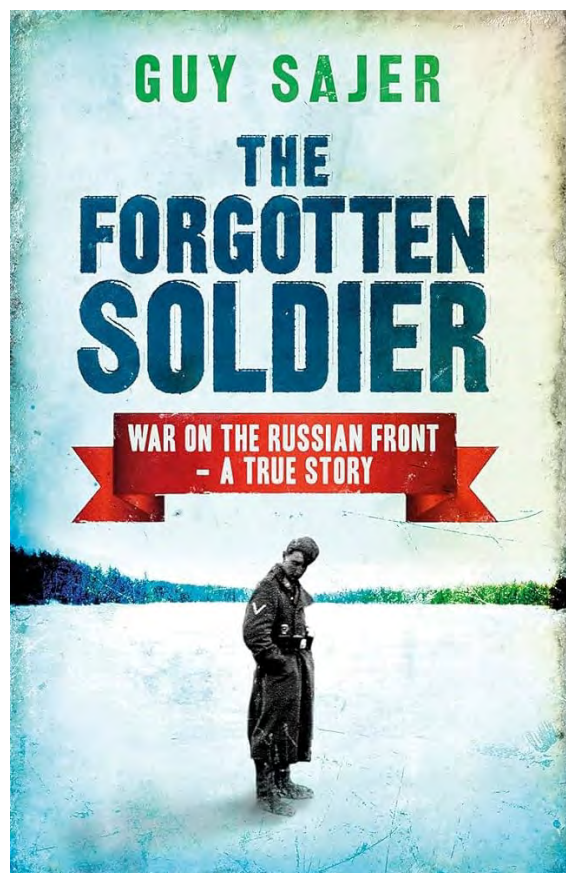
We sobered up a little with *The Sixth Extinction, An Unnatural History* by Elizabeth Kolbert. This book centred on the subject very much to the forefront at the moment, our mistreatment of our climate and environment. Given that the current extinction event is entirely man-made but has echoes of the five past natural extinctions we would be wise to remember that the planet has recovered from previous extinctions. But the question undoubtedly is: *Would Homo sapiens?*

However, the book that produced the most debate was called *The Forgotten Soldier*, translated from the original French into English. Written by a young man, Guy Sajer, it recounts his experiences when, as a naïve 18 year old he was conscripted, in 1942, into the German Army and sent to fight on the eastern front.

It's not an easy book to read. To quote our group member who brought it

It is a horrible book, feels completely authentic and one that I found I had to stop reading several times. It needs a strong stomach!

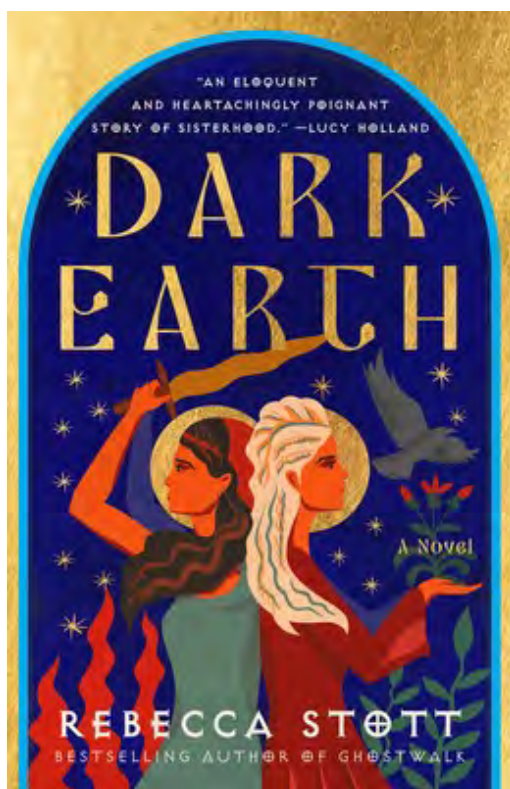
His description of his initial combat experience, he says himself, used up all the language he had available to enunciate his terror, horror and disgust. He had nothing left for when things got, as they did, so very much worse.



Given the war in Ukraine and what's currently going on in Israel and Palestine, it's a book that is as relevant today as it was then.

Pleased don't get the idea that our meeting was all doom and gloom. We also discussed much lighter books such as Rob Rinder's book *The Trial*, a novel based on his experience as a court judge and which centres around the Inns of Court and the Old Bailey. Its authenticity made it a highly recommended read.

All about books



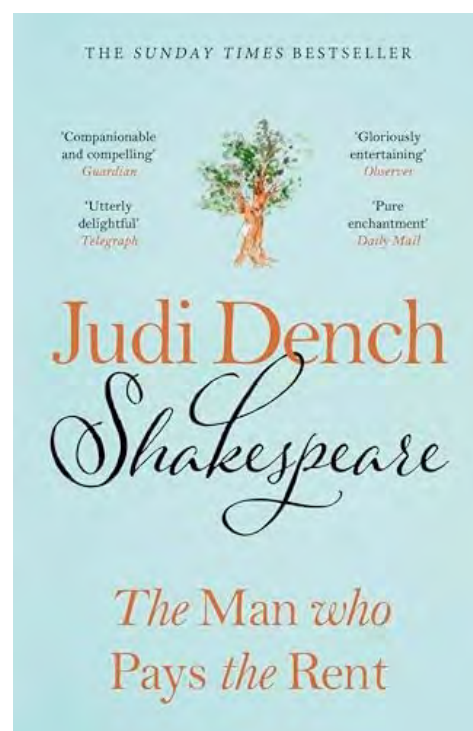
Also authentic, because it was based on meticulous research is *Dark Earth* by Rebecca Stott. This book took us back in history to the start of the Dark Ages when the Romans had left England in the Fourth century AD and tribal rule was taking over.

It follows the fortunes of two sisters, Isla and Blue after the death of their father, who is the Great Smith, the only smith who knows how to shape a firetongue sword.

The whole book focuses on the women often forgotten by a history at a time when battles and brute strength were the rule of the day and it was definitely considered a man's world.

A lot of the themes here can still be seen today – but that's a discussion for another day.

But women also take a central role in the book I'd call my personal book of the year. This is Judi Dench's book Shakespeare: *The Man who Pays the Rent*. It is a delightful romp through the female roles in Shakespeare's plays that Ms Dench has, over the course of a long and distinguished career in film and theatre, portrayed. Each play is dealt with individually but, because the book is in the form of a conversation with her friend Brendan O'Hea and covers not only the plays themselves but stagecraft, mischief behind the curtains, personal reminiscences and such 'interludes' as critics, Shakespeare's language and the audience, it reads as if the reader is a silent participant in the conversation. It is, in my opinion, varied, fascinating and endlessly entertaining.



So there you are. That's how All About Books works, who we are and what we learn from each other as we tell each other about the books we've read and we discuss some (not all) of the issues arising from those books.

Jan Colebrook

Leonard Bernstein



THE · BERNSTEIN · FESTIVAL · 1986



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BBC4 aired a number of documentaries recently on the life and work of Leonard Bernstein, including some of the recording sessions of West Side Story featuring Kiri Te Kanawa and José Carreras. They reminded me that I was very fortunate to have seen Bernstein and the London Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican Centre in London at one of the concerts celebrating his 70th birthday in 1986.

I particularly recall hearing an occasional 'thump' during the concert. On closer inspection I saw it was Bernstein stamping his right foot in his idiosyncratic conducting style.

Leonard Bernstein was a renowned American composer, conductor, pianist, and educator, whose impact extended across multiple spheres of music. Born in Lawrence, Massachusetts, Bernstein showed prodigious musical talent at a young age. He began learning the piano at ten and showed remarkable abilities, eventually attending Harvard University where he studied music, initially planning to pursue a career in musicology.

His big break came in 1943 when he substituted at the last minute for Bruno Walter to conduct the New York Philharmonic. The performance was a resounding success and launched Bernstein's career as a conductor.

He became the youngest conductor to lead the New York Philharmonic and held this position for more than a decade.

Leonard Bernstein



Bernstein's compositions spanned a wide range of genres, including symphonies, operas, ballets, chamber music, and Broadway musicals. Some of his most famous works include the musical "West Side Story," the operetta "Candide," and symphonies like "Jeremiah" and "The Age of Anxiety."

He was known for his dynamic conducting style, his ability to connect with audiences, and his passionate advocacy for music education. Bernstein was a charismatic figure who used television as a means to educate the public about classical music, notably through his series of televised Young People's Concerts with the New York Philharmonic.

Beyond his conducting and composing, Bernstein was a social and political figure, often speaking out on various issues, including civil rights and anti-Semitism. He was also an advocate for peace, and his "Mass," commissioned for the inauguration of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., expressed his hopes for unity and reconciliation.

Bernstein passed away on October 14, 1990, at the age of 72. He died of a heart attack at his apartment in New York. His death marked the end of an era in classical music and left a profound impact on the music world.

His legacy, however, continues to endure through his compositions, recordings, conducting legacy, and his influence as a music educator. Bernstein's contributions to music, his advocacy for music education, and his ability to bridge the gap between classical and popular music genres left an indelible mark on the musical landscape, ensuring that he remains a revered figure in the history of music even after his passing.

Nigel Howarth (with some help from ChatGPT)

Winter nights



Do you have a hobby to while away the hours after you realise that there's nothing you want to watch on TV? Winter nights can feel very long and I'm pleased I have an absorbing hobby. I started researching my family history nearly 20 years ago now and I have found it fascinating. I've also realised how many misconceptions I had about life in the 'olden days'.

The first misconception was that people didn't live long, the figures you see are averages. I have a fifth great grandmother born in the late 1750s who died aged about 96. The average takes in the dreadful infant mortality of the time; an example of this is the family of my maternal great grandparents. According to the 1911 census my great grandmother had 14 live births (I've found 13), only five survived, the others died within months of birth.

I come from the West Midlands and I found many of my relatives moved to that area when the Industrial Revolution started in about 1760. How did they travel, another misconception. People followed the work even if it meant walking. The start of the canals in the 1750s meant people as well as goods could travel easily around England. The West Midlands has many canals and as often said about Birmingham, it has more canals than Venice. Dudley almost in the centre of England has an area named Dudley Port due to the canals. Joshua Wedgwood asked James Brindley to build a canal from his pottery to link up with the main canals so his pottery would be able to travel farther and safer than previously by cart, no suspension at this time.

My fourth great grandfather is named in an article on the Leather Museum website. My home town is known for its leather goods and my relative was at the start of the increase of the leather trade there. He was also one of the few leather workers born in the town, most skilled leather workers migrated there during the Industrial Revolution. Leather goods are

Winter nights



still produced, the late Queen Elizabeth II's handbags were made for her, the Princess Royal and her daughter Zara's saddles are made there.

Walking to senior school I passed a hospital, the oldest part near where I walked. The hospital is now much bigger and the old part demolished, the oldest building started life as a workhouse. I left my home town a long time ago and spent most of my adult life in Nottinghamshire where my children live. On a recent visit to them I visited the National Trust Workhouse at Southall, Nottinghamshire. As I walked up the path to the building it looked beautiful, like a wealthy family's country house with a vegetable and fruit garden. Closer I saw there were bars on the windows and inside there were cold, whitewashed rooms, it was very bleak. Separate sections for men, women and children, this included separate exercise yards. My lasting memory is of the stone stairs to each section, worn with the feet of all those having to live there.

Just an aside, growing up I remember hearing a song played quite regularly for fortieth wedding anniversaries, Peter Sellers did a comedy version of it. In reality it was a protest song about the workhouse practise of separating families. The song was written by Albert Chevalier and his brother Auguste and performed by Albert, a well known music hall star. Albert would dress as an elderly man and one of the female performers dressed as an elderly woman, across the stage would be an official looking man who took the woman away. Albert would then turn to the audience and sing My Old Dutch or as some will remember it from the words - We've been together now for forty years and it don't seem a day too much.

Surprising what you learn through family history.

Pat Boden, Family History Group Leader.

Father Christmas changes colour



A children's favourite at Christmas, Santa Claus (or Father Christmas as many know him), lives and works in the North Pole, accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Claus (who keeps a large book filled with the names of children who had been naughty or nice.), magical elves, and reindeers.

The earliest record of Santa's suit shows it to be green, as you can see in the early Christmas cards above. So when did it change to red?

Some claim that Santa's red attire was the creation of Coca-Cola and that the red suit was part of the company's advertising campaign.

However, the depiction of Santa Claus in a red suit has been in existence since at least the 19th century. Cartoonists and writers gave Santa many of the features we now associate with him.

Coca-Cola started to use the red suited image of Santa on its advertising in the 1930s, when the company hired artist Haddon Sunbloom to create a character of Santa Claus for use in festive campaigns. The idea was to ensure people continued to drink Coke during the winter months, as the drink was associated with warm, summer days.

The red suit was a convenient feature of the character as it matched the advertising colours of the company.

Nigel Howarth

Small ads



Drawing & Painting (affiliated) - new group

If you wish to learn to draw and paint, or perhaps hone your skills, why not join the Drawing & Painting Group for a fun morning to explore the wonderful world of art?

The Group Leader studied fine art at the Chelsea College of Arts, which has a reputation for producing some of today's leading artists and designers.

She has been holding drawing and painting classes for students of all ages and abilities at her home for several years.

Each session is offered at a reduced cost of €12.00 to C3A members and includes refreshments.

Cinema group (Lilian Hayball)

As you know, we meet on a Monday evening to watch a film/movie.

C3A has provided the projection and sound equipment, and we have been lucky enough so far to rent a room with a screen at the UKCA building, which has a bar. There are crisps to buy of course, but we often provide free refreshments in the form of nibbles.

The films are on DVD disc, and tend to be old. 'White Mischief' was one of our first ones.

Lately we have watched Peter O'Toole in 'Lawrence of Arabia', 'The Full Monty', and Chinese actors in the film called 'Geisha' about the training of Japanese lady 'escorts' for men in the last century.

These are amongst the films we show every month - always in English, always with subtitles.

We will watch Marlon Brando in 'Last Tango in Paris' on 11 December 2023.

Our company is small, select, welcoming and friendly. We vote on films we would like to watch.

In 2024, C3A Cinema will show films on the LAST Monday of the month at the UKCA.

Breakfast group (Lilian Hayball)

Gosh, it has been sunny every time we've met at the Harmony Bay Hotel, Limassol, for brekkies!

It's a good crowd who meet.

Breakfast is my favourite meal, and theirs too, I guess. It's only 10 euros at the moment, a bargain for the super buffet spread the hotel provides, and free parking too.

We may go shopping after, but some people stay to chat on the hotel terrace, overlooking the pool and the sea. There is a small library at the Hotel of books to borrow. We bring books for a swap.

The Breakfast group meets once a month - we will meet at 9am at Harmony on Thursday 28 Dec. 2023, then in 2024 we shall change dates to the first Thursday morning of the month.- 4 Jan, 1st Feb etc.

A photograph of a religious altar, likely in a church, decorated for Christmas. The altar is covered with a white lace-trimmed cloth and a red banner featuring gold Greek crosses. On the altar, there are four yellow candles in gold holders, a large gold cross, and two vases of yellow and white flowers. In the foreground, a large, lush bouquet of yellow, white, and red flowers sits in a white vase. The background is a stone wall with a blue-painted archway.

Christmas Greetings
Good health and happiness
in the New Year

Καλά Χριστούγεννα και Καλή Χρονιά