

President's Report



In early June when COVID-19 cases in Victoria were very low, the Committee of Management was taking initial steps to recommence classes at The Pines some time in Term 3. How things have changed! We now have to make an even greater effort to keep our wonderful U3A family together and involved.

Your Committee of Management continues to meet fortnightly via Zoom. The purpose of these meetings is to plan for the remainder of 2020, as well as 2021.

The 2020 considerations include expansion of the Zoom program, the possibility of recommencing other activities once this present lockdown is lifted, and how best we can keep in touch with our members. We are also keeping in close contact with the Manningham City Council concerning the Council's COVID-19 regulations which impact our organisation. As well, I am in touch with U3A Network and other U3A organisations so that we can share our experience and ideas regarding the recommencement of our activities.

Planning for 2021 is well in hand and I would like to thank all those tutors who have volunteered for next year. We are planning for a normal year starting on 1 February 2021.

The COM is also giving careful consideration to the question of membership fees for 2020 and 2021. An announcement about fees will be made in due course.

Telephone calls and emails have been great but the real social connector for me has been Zoom because it enables me to see faces. If you haven't experienced a Zoom session, I would strongly advise you get onto a U3A Zoom session as soon as possible. Please see details of our Zoom classes later in this newsletter.

Please telephone or email some U3A Manningham members each week if you are able to. If you run out of U3A Manningham members to telephone, you might like to make contact with some of your friends from many years ago. I had an administrative involvement with about 200 university students over 50 years ago. After a few telephone calls and several emails, I now have 80 email addresses and some Zoom sessions will shortly take place. Recognising faces will be a big challenge after more than 50 years.

May I offer my thanks to those of our members who have made a special effort to keep us all connected during this difficult time. Your work has been of great value and our members thoroughly appreciate all that is being done for them during this lockdown.

David Jenz, President

Zooming with U3A Manningham

Zoom Classes as at end of July 2020

Astronomy, Physics and Cosmology	Book Group (week 3 of the month)	Bridge for Beginners
Chair Based Exercise	Chinese Advanced	Chinese Mandarin Level 1
Chinese Mandarin Conversation Level 2	Classical Guitar Beginners	Computer Basics
Current Affairs Behind the News	Current Affairs, Group A	Current Affairs, Group B
Current Affairs, Group C	Dance to the Beat	French - Bridging
French Conversation Level 2	French Conversation Level 3 Group A	French Conversation Level 3 Group B
German Advanced Level 1	German Advanced Levels 3, 4 and beyond	German Intermediate (Beginners)
German Intermediate	German Kaffeeklatsch	Greek Conversation
Greek Level 1	Introduction to Genetics	iPad Advanced Users Group (week 2 of the month)
iPad Advanced Workshop (T4)	iPad Intermediate Users Group (weeks 1 & 3 of the month)	Italian Conversation Intermediate/Advanced
Italian Level 3	Line Dancing Improver/ Intermediate	Painting Watercolour Level 2
Pathways to Inner Peace, Inner Power - Meditation	Photobook	Pilates for Beginners
Safer, Smarter Road User (Term 3)	Sketching and Drawing for Beginners	Social Philosophy
Spanish Conversation	Strength Training Group E #	Tai Chi Level 1
Tai Chi Level 2	The Meaning of True Happiness	Transforming Consciousness
Travellers' Tales	Writing Poetry	Writing Creative
Writing: The Written Word	Yoga	Yoga Classical Group B
Yoga for Health	Yoga Hatha Integral (Monday)	Yoga Hatha Integral (Tuesday)
Zoom - Introduction		

Classes highlighted in yellow are accepting new enrolments.

Members of other strength training classes which are not available via Zoom can resign from their existing class and enrol in Strength Training Group E which will enable them to participate via Zoom. Once we are able to attend our classes in person, they can then go back to their original class.

Learning and Staying in Touch Using Zoom



The video-conferencing app, Zoom, was released in 2013 but most of us hadn't heard of it until our lives were turned upside down by COVID-19. Zoom has proved indispensable in enabling U3A Manningham to continue more than 60 classes, thereby providing members with the opportunity to interact with one another whilst learning new skills and furthering our knowledge.

The benefits are amazing especially when you see the smiles on the faces of members when they connect with people from their respective classes.

Because video-conferencing and Zoom in particular, is a reasonably new concept to many of us, the following support is available from U3AM to assist tutors and members to use Zoom:

- Computer Curriculum Tutors have assisted tutors and participants with all sorts of issues that stop them being able to connect and totally understand the devices they are using.
- Our member mentors (**Barbara Spagnolo, Joady Barnes** and myself) support tutors to get Zoom classes up and running. As well, member mentors are happy to assist U3A members on a one-on-one basis. We are very willing to assist our members on their personal IT issues (emailing, banking, etc.) as well as zooming. If you would like one of our member mentors to assist you, please don't hesitate to contact me on the email and phone numbers at the end of this article.
- Monthly Zoom training sessions are being held for members and the number participating has been very encouraging. These sessions are available to all members who may attend as often as they wish. We have guest speakers (both from within U3AM and outside) who have a wide knowledge in the computer/iPad/mobile phone area.

At our last meeting, Dan Martinez from Manningham Rotoract and Stephanie Gaddin from Manningham Council participated and discussed how their organisations can assist our members. Manningham Rotoract advised that it is willing to assist members with their IT issues if our mentors are unable to do so.

The next training session will be held on Friday, 21 August. I will send an email to all U3AM members inviting them to attend and asking for any issues they would like to be discussed.

- We still have some tablets (iPads) that U3A Manningham members can borrow. Please email manunipines@gmail.com, if you are interested in borrowing one for zooming.

As you will see from the list of Zoom classes on the preceding page, many classes are still happy to accept new members. You can enrol in these classes through MyU3A. However, if you need assistance, contact our Enrolments Team on: enrolments@u3amanningham.org.au.

If you need help with your device or in any other way, please contact me on cdanaher49@gmail.com, 9812 0678 or 0408 958 855 and I will endeavour to find the right person to assist you.

Colleen Danaher, Computer Curriculum Coordinator

Zooming – From a Class Member’s Perspective

I had never heard of Zoom until the first email announcing a Zoom class for *Current Affairs* arrived in my inbox back in April. I clicked on the link and presented to class on time and with my hair combed. It was a delight to see the familiar faces.



Subsequent classes improved for me when I downloaded the free application and was able to personalise my background and switch between speaker and gallery view. Several U3A members spent a lot of time patiently coaching us in Zoom etiquette and demonstrating how to utilise some of the other attributes of the application. They did a heroic job as so many of us were tuning in from different devices (mobile phones, tablets, laptops and desktops). With patience and good grace, we were able to access functions such as private messaging. Not to detract from the precious words of each presenter - but the grin that spread across the face of the recipient of my first private message, "Hi there, great to see you!", warmed my heart. I am now participating in three classes and look forward to them each week.

Zoom has made a huge difference in enabling me to stay in touch with events, to keep on learning and maintaining interest in our world and the universe. All this has only been possible because an amazing group of people came together and put in a lot of work to keep us in touch. I can't speak for everyone, but in a difficult time, it's wonderful to be able to come together. Zoom is a treasure - but don't forget to mute your microphone when class has commenced!

Ann Bruce

U3AM 2020 Photography Competition 'Our Wonderful World'

We have had a fabulous response to this year's competition, the highest number of entrants yet with over 120 photos entered. The wide range of subjects just makes me want to visit all of the countries and places/views/animals shown. I am sure that anyone looking at these photos will want to experience everything there is to offer in Our Wonderful World.

Many thanks to **Kevin Chan**, our webmaster, for putting all the photos onto our website.

The photos are on the Gallery tab on our website and can be viewed by clicking on this link: http://u3amanningham.org.au/docs/ManU3A2020_0photoComp.pdf.

Members are invited to vote for their choice of best photo. Only one vote per member. Please send your vote via email to me at mu3aphotocomp@u3amanningham.org.au.

Please go through the photos more than once and take your time in choosing the one you like.

Voting will conclude on Sunday, 23 August, with the winner being announced, by email, in the following week.

Last of all, I want to thank all the contestants. Without you, we could not have had a competition. I have thoroughly enjoyed putting together this display and hope you have enjoyed the experience as much as I have. I'm sure all members will agree that your photos are absolutely fabulous!

Trish Gilbert

Manningham Positive Ageing Alliance Group (MPAAG)

It is interesting to note that a very recent survey has shown that older Melburnians are approaching the COVID lockdown much more positively than any other group. This seems counterintuitive as we are the most 'at risk' category. Why is it so? Is it because we have been through difficult times before, or are we more self-reliant, or is it because we know the difference between need and want?



I was considering this as I prepared for the next meeting of the MPAAG by Zoom of course, where I represent you via our U3A. It struck me that most members would never have heard of this group, or indeed what the Manningham Council attitude is to a quickly ageing population. Let me summarise. Manningham Council signed the Victorian Age Friendly Declaration which supports better State and Local planning to encourage inclusive, age and dementia-friendly communities. Council has not only encouraged and endorsed this philosophy but has elevated the building of such a community as one of the action areas of its Healthy City Strategy.

The MPAAG was established in 2019 to provide a key role in advising and guiding Council on initiatives that will help foster a more inclusive and respectful community for older people. This includes the development of action plans. The Committee comprises:

- 6 diverse community representatives from incorporated bodies based in and servicing predominantly Manningham residents aged over 60. That is, U3A, Probus, MannaCare, etc.
- 10 organisational/agency representatives in senior roles in local community or peak organisations. That is, Relationships Australia, COTA, Belgravia Leisure, Library Services, etc.
- Relevant Council Officers from the Aged and Disability Services Unit.
- Community representatives who reside in Manningham.

The Committee has finalised its action plan for 2020-2022 with strategies, actions to be taken, outcomes expected, and time frames. This will be available for Council's budget considerations. The three main strategies can be summarised as:

1. Learn Together - Building awareness and appreciation of older peoples' contribution to the community.
2. Actively Participate - Enhance and create meaningful and inclusive opportunities for older people to connect.
3. Advocate for Change - Encourage governments and service providers to value and consider the voices of older people.

As a resident of Manningham for 53 years, it has been a privilege to work on this Committee which has certainly enhanced my appreciation of the dedication and sensitivity of Council Officers who have to work within a diverse community. (No, they don't pay me to say this!!) I have also received such affirming feedback on the value of U3A to the Manningham community and U3A's role model status from the younger business representatives.

Further information on the MPAAG can be found on the Manningham Council's website.

David McNamara, Vice President

It's All Greek to Me



Are you ever too old to learn a new language? Well, the good news is that experts say no! Studies show that anyone at any age can learn a new language.

Neuroplasticity is defined as the brain's ability to form and restructure synaptic connections. While neuroplasticity decreases as we age, the proverb that says, *you can't teach an old dog new tricks*, often stops seniors from ongoing learning.

Recent research challenges this negative assumption and posits that *you are never too old to learn new tricks*. Now neuroscience has discovered a peculiar phenomenon called neurogenesis - the spontaneous growing of new brain cells - which can occur at any point in your life. Neurogenesis can be spurred by various activities, a key one being discovering new areas of interest like music or a second language.

According to researchers at Edinburgh University, bilingualism is beneficial to brain health. After examining medical records of 648 patients with Alzheimer's Disease in Hyderabad, the researchers found that monolingual patients developed dementia earlier than those who spoke two languages. The lead researcher, Thomas Bak, notes that learning a new language later in life is beneficial because it helps exercise the brain. Because language is so complex, understanding language is one of the hardest things your brain does.

York University and the American Academy of Neurology have also conducted their own studies about bilingualism and dementia. They found that switching from one language to the other activates areas of the brain responsible for executive functioning. According to these studies, utilising this part of the brain can decrease cognitive decline and delay the initial effects of dementia.

Learning a new language, after you retire, is not only a good way to improve brain health but it can also increase your social interactions with fellow students. The Gerontological Society of America notes that socialisation can help improve an older individual's general well-being, opening up a whole new world for seniors because they get to learn about a new culture at the same time.

And so we come to Greek

- Greek remains the sole modern descendant of the Hellenic branch of the Indo-European family of languages; Greek is the oldest and sole survivor of ancient European languages, having a linguistic tradition of 4,000 years.
- The Ancient Greeks were the first to create a *true* alphabet (adapted from the Phoenicians) which accorded equal status between the vowels and consonants. Indeed, the word alphabet is formed by the first two letters of the Greek alphabet: alpha and beta.
- Greek, in both oral and written forms, was of enormous importance to the spread of Christianity. The very first translation of the Bible from Hebrew was into Greek.
- Greek is designated as one of the five official languages of the European Union and is rated as a major world language in spite of the comparatively modest number of its current native speakers.

It's All Greek to Me (Cont'd.)

- The writings by reputed individuals of intellect such as Plato, Aristotle, Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, Herodotus, Thucydides, Plutarch and Hippocrates were created in Greek.
- According to one estimate, approximately 150,000 English words, including technical, scientific and horticultural terms, have their origins indirectly (through loan words) or directly from Greek.
- In the case of Greek, the language transmits and creatively enriches all modern western languages remaining, as it does, the robust source for new words.
- If you have a certain interest in the vibrant and widespread Greek culture, or perhaps a business or familial interest in Greece, then Greek will obviously serve you well.

Learning Greek will also help you to:

- Exercise your brain by learning another alphabet.
- Understand your own language better - about 25% of English words are of Greek origin - how many words derived from Greek have you used today?
- Learn about the Greek culture and enable you to understand your own better - looking at it from a different angle.
- Learn about Greek food.
- Communicate with Greek friends and family.

Greek is also useful for learning other languages. I found it relatively easy to study French in secondary school, as Greek was my second language, and both languages have comparable language structure and grammar. French doesn't have the neuter gender, but I gained a better understanding of French because of its similarity to Greek. Really, learning one language is a gateway to understanding other languages.

- Learning a new language at an older age can be like opening a door to another world, one in which both the social and cognitive faculties are refreshed and invigorated.
- Learning a foreign language exercises your brain and offers demonstrable benefits for intelligence, memory and concentration.
- You may not know it but you already speak Greek! Have you used these words recently? CHARACTER, CHAOS, CATASTROPHE, PHARMACY, DRAMA, POLITICS, PANIC, DIALOGUE, ECONOMY. Then you are speaking Greek!

Learning Greek may not necessarily serve a practical function, but it can't help but improve your understanding of languages in general and the cultures that they are formed from. It offers not only cognitive benefits but also social benefits and a great way to meet people who share similar interests in a language and culture.

Lula Back - Tutor Greek Level 1, Greek Conversation

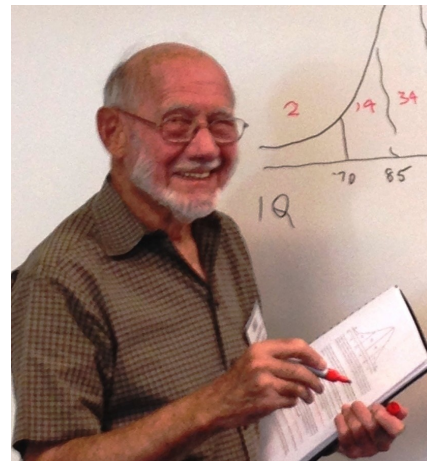
***The Eavesdroppers* by Leslie Dale**

Les Dale is a Life Member of U3A Manningham for his work as Vice President, initiator and promoter of the request to Manningham Council for a permanent building for U3A. He tutored classes on *The History of Science* and *The Philosophy of Science* and, in 2015, *My Brain and I*. As well, Les was responsible for setting up the two writing groups, the first computer classes, and *Eating Out With Friends*. He initiated member surveys and U3A Online courses. In 2018, he, with some others, completed a thorough history of U3A Manningham.

Now in aged care, at the age of 94, Les has published his first novel, *The Eavesdroppers*.

Les draws on his experience in scientific research, science teaching curriculum development and regional administration in education to write this novel about a group of teenagers at a Melbourne secondary college who have unusual skills which they use to watch and listen. They pass on to others what they learn, which leads to solving the problem of drug use in schools, promotion of English language learning for parents, investigation of criminal activity within the school, and development of drone and robot capabilities.

Previously, Les has published material for science textbooks and for many years, produced a computer education journal for farmers but this is his first novel. He is well advanced on his second novel.



Copies of *The Eavesdroppers* will be available from the U3A office when it reopens but may also be purchased by contacting me on 0405 795 796 or hna@iinet.net.au. The cost is \$25 for the general public but \$10 for U3A members.

Heather Ambrose

"Sorry, What Did You Say?" - Living with Deafness for Over 50 years



In 1961, at the age of 19, I first realised I had a hearing problem. I couldn't hear the tutor at night school or fellow employees at work. I was in denial for 18 months.

I was referred to Mr George Gray who had the reputation of being the best ENT surgeon in Melbourne at that time. In 1963, he performed exploratory surgery which showed that I had deafness in both ears: a permanent case of Otosclerosis.

He noted that although there was a team in Melbourne developing the bionic ear, Government funding was low and progress very slow. Mr Gray thought success for the team was a long way off, however it could develop something within my lifetime. Whilst that forecast proved to be very accurate, it was not exactly wonderful news to me at the time.

I was devastated as I had just qualified as an accountant. My whole career lay in front of me and here I was, facing permanent deafness. Mr Gray warned that I could well be deaf and unemployable after 30. My residual hearing would last maybe 10 to 15 years at best.

Living with Deafness for Over 50 years (Cont'd.)

Dealing with the problem

In my case, the permanency lasted from 1963 till 2009 - 47 years. I had lost 15% of my hearing at 21 and the future certainly looked bleak.

Mr Gray suggested three immediate actions: purchase two hearing aids; learn lip reading - "It will be invaluable to you throughout your life"; and give away football and cricket - "Look after your ears!".

He gave me sound advice in a tense counselling session: "Only you can manage your problem. Peter, look at your advantages. You have had a normal schooling, learnt to speak properly, learnt to read and write, intelligent, received a High School education and finally graduated as a qualified accountant. A child born deaf has none of the advantages you have, so learn to utilise your advantages and manage your inadequacies - you will have to in order to get through life."

Learning to manage

So I was off to lip reading classes twice a week. I had not yet purchased hearing aids as I was too vain and, like all young men at that age, I knew everything!

I enjoyed lip reading right from the start and quickly realised how much I was already dependant on it. Deaf people start lip reading naturally and don't realise it. It is a matter of utilising your eyes to pick up clues about the topic that, in turn, complements your residual hearing and that makes a huge difference to your overall hearing and confidence.

I attended lip reading classes for about 10 years, had a break of 20 years, then resumed again when I was in my 50s when my hearing was at its worst.

Lip reading certainly assisted me to maximise my residual hearing and it also allowed me to keep putting off the inevitable - buy a hearing aid.

At one of my annual appointments, George questioned me, "Why you are such a stubborn bugger, young man, and have not yet purchased a hearing aid?" At the following check-up, he was pleased to see I was wearing one hearing aid but stated that he thought he had told me to buy two. He said that the last time he looked I had two ears and neither of them worked.

The annual appointments with George became counselling sessions and George was an excellent counsellor. He always questioned me about my work. Had I received a promotion and did I get a salary increase? He was checking on how I was coping at work and whether I was going backwards or not.

Early in the 1980s, I received a phone call from George asking me to coach and act as counsellor to help a 22 year old patient to minimise the impact of his serious hearing loss so he could better manage his way through life. Over the years, I coached quite a number of young people.

Cochlear Implants

Hearing aids mostly make sounds louder which may not be as helpful in damaged ears. Cochlear implants bypass the damaged part of the ear and stimulate the hearing nerve directly.

In 1978, Melbourne Professor Graeme Clark implanted the first ever multichannel cochlear implant. Although children were the first to receive cochlear implants, I eventually had them fitted in 2009 (right ear) and 2011 (left ear). So Mr Gray's prophecy in 1963 eventually came true.

Living with Deafness for Over 50 years (Cont'd.)

Secrets to achieving success

I have been very fortunate in having wonderful people assist me throughout my life. With their help and with the aid of modern technology, I have been able to live a normal life and overcome the challenges of deafness.

In particular, I was fortunate in choosing the right wife. Lyn was absolutely invaluable in managing the family over the many years when I was working fulltime as well as attending night classes.

These challenges come to many of us, particularly as we age, but don't despair, there are options available to us to consider, to overcome the condition and allow us to maintain a better quality of life!

Peter Goodman

Travellers' Tales - Zipping Around the World on Zoom

“The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page” - St Augustine

Upon retirement, **Joady** and I joined U3A Manningham and were dazzled by the variety of courses on offer. However, as passionate travellers, there was an opportunity for a new course designed for members with sufficient leisure and the means and passion to indulge in overseas trips. We submitted a course proposal and it was accepted. Seven years later and TT is now still thriving in 2020, thanks to Zoom. Initially, there were problems with the new technology but they were resolved with lots of assistance and patience. Occasional niggles with sound still occur but overall we have very positive feedback from our class of 65 members which we can expand to 100, so do join us if you would like to.

Joys of presenting

On the first and third Tuesdays of the month, a presenter takes us on a journey to explore a new country. It involves considerable preparation to whittle down hundreds or even thousands of photos and synchronise them to the pattern and the interwoven stories. Just when it all perfectly melds, the screen suddenly goes black and everything disappears. Exercise great restraint and do not push every button and remember the mantra of every techno: just turn everything off and walk away, utter choice words and reach for a beverage stronger than coffee!

Some travellers venture independently and do all their own meticulous planning whilst others prefer organised groups. Modes of transport vary from river and ocean cruises, to barge trips, from camels and donkeys to dog-sleds, from buses, trains, and ferries to small planes.

Marg recruits presenters from our TT class, from the broader U3A community, from the dog park, from neighbours and even their families. Just the whiff of a potential presenter and she pounces! Unfortunately, Jon Faine declined due to other commitments.

Travellers' Tales - Zipping Around the World on Zoom (Cont'd.)

TT is not like the slide nights of old. We don't lounge on cushions on the floor drinking red wine and watching endless slides of the Leaning Tower of Pisa taken from every imaginable angle. Although, it was at one of those boring nights that we met Tony Wheeler (Lonely Planet)!

It is a rewarding experience for the presenter to reflect on the memories of their trip and share them with the supportive, enthusiastic and ever-curious class. We are catapulted to a new country to see it through their eyes - wildlife, food, people and customs, culture, cathedrals, monuments, natural beauty, etc. Just a taste to stimulate more research.

Everyone's travel experience is unique and while we have visited some countries several times, the destination is never the same.

We've been everywhere, folks!

A veritable A to Z of countries starting with intrepid adventures in Argentina and ending with zing in Zanzibar. Some of the more exotic trips include the following which did not appear on many of our bucket lists: Madagascar, Mongolia, Galapagos Islands, Georgia, Kokoda Trail, Transylvania, Nepal, Trans-Siberian Railway and Kyrgyzstan.

We were so fascinated that we would have all jumped on planes in a flash to delve deeper into these cultures. You need more than one lifetime to make a serious dent in the world, and so if possible, start younger.

Mishaps

We have shared some of our worst travel mishaps. A sudden serious illness requiring hospitalisation in a non-English speaking country; missing flights and being stranded due to exploding volcanoes; arriving in the dead of night and finding your accommodation doesn't exist; straddling a plank over a drop toilet and almost losing your balance; being robbed of all your documents; and being scammed by a thief who befriends you.

So where to now?

Do you remember the wishing chair that would sprout wings and transport you to magical lands? Seated comfortably in your own chair, Zoom is our virtual facilitator to take the edge off our wanderlust. During COVID-19 and travel deprivation, we can slip into many of the world's most renowned libraries, galleries, museums, gardens, zoos, etc, and explore their treasures. There are no queues, no entrance fees, and no noisy groups to block your vision just at the crucial moment when you spy your favourite painting.

Potential presenters

Please contact us if you would like to share your travels. We are looking for presenters in Term 4 and would love to have you on board sitting in the chief Zoom seat. Joady will assist with the technology. Our contact details are:

margypratt@hotmail.com

joadyb@optusnet.com.au



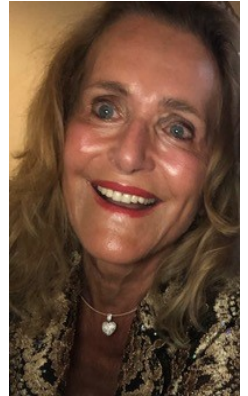
*Joady Barnes & Marg Pratt
in Tenerife*

Marg Pratt & Joady Barnes - Tutors: Travellers' Tales

From Budapest to Melbourne – Worlds Apart

My name is **Julie Holzer** and I am a member of U3A Manningham.

I was born in Budapest, Hungary, in 1948. My mother, Lya Szepès, was a famous film and stage actress at the same time as Zsa Zsa Gabor. They both obtained contracts with large American film companies (Columbia and Paramount) but my mother turned them down as she was about to marry my father.



My father, Istvan Grussner, was the son of wealthy vineyard owners and wine makers. His family owned thousands of hectares of vineyards and their own bank. They were one of the wealthiest families in Hungary. My father's mother came from minor aristocracy. Her marriage to my grandfather was arranged as at that time, wealth married wealth. Unfortunately, just like my father, my grandfather chased after anything in a skirt and consequently, their marriage ended.

My father's elder sister, Zita Gordon, was also an actress. She married twice and her first husband was Louis Gielgud, the brother of actor, Sir John Gielgud. He held positions with the Red Cross and UNESCO. From this marriage their daughter, Maina Gielgud was born. Maina was the artistic director of the Australian Ballet for 14 years.

My mother's mother was a renowned singing teacher and my mother's father was a printmaker and an artist.

Even though my family was Catholic, our background was Jewish according to Hitler's Nazi regime. As a result, at the end of 1944, my paternal grandfather, his second wife, my father's half sister, my uncle and the manager of the family bank were shot and thrown into the Danube River.

After the war, under the communist regime in Hungary, life became extremely difficult. My father decided, albeit a little late, to leave for the west. He visited his brother in Switzerland, trying to arrange a safe passage. When authorities discovered this, they forcefully took my mother in for interrogation and made threats on my father's life. When he returned, he was interrogated as well. After this, my father, mother and I left Hungary for Switzerland for a 'holiday', leaving behind a fully furnished house, a few properties and all our possessions. Two lots of passports that my father had previously purchased were confiscated. We stayed with my father's older brother for six months.

We then obtained a safe passage to Australia on a Norwegian cargo ship with only 12 passengers on board but no doctor. My poor parents had to contend with a teething baby (me), enduring six weeks at sea on this small cargo ship. We arrived in Australia in July 1949 with just the clothes on our backs to begin a new and very different life.

My father worked as a boilermaker, a mechanic, a greengrocer, a car salesman, a garage proprietor and, with my mother, owner of a ladies boutique.

I grew up in a wonderfully happy home with very little money but I always felt rich. My father instilled into me that material wealth can always be taken away but education is yours for life. As a result, I studied and gained numerous degrees in Education, Special Education, Hearing Impairment and Art.

I am truly thankful that I have had a wonderfully balanced family life.

My husband, Peter, and I have one daughter, Bianca, who has a doctorate in psychology, a warm and clever son-in-law and two beautiful grandchildren. Peter is a wonderful man who studied structural engineering and has a quiet but determined strength. We have been happily married for 51 years unlike the many divorces in my family.

From Budapest to Melbourne – Worlds Apart (Cont'd.)

I must admit, one of my greatest difficulties was coming to terms with my Jewish heritage, which I only discovered at the age of 13.

However, I believe that we are not defined by religion or race, but by our humanity and acceptance of all people with love and compassion.

Julie Holzer

Jane Tindale

Jane, a former long-time member of U3A Manningham, passed away at Broughton Lea, Surrey Hills recently, after some months of ill health.

She was actively involved in the *Family History Group* for about 25 years, back in the days of meetings in the Presbyterian Church Hall in Atkinson Street, Templestowe and various other venues around Templestowe.

More recently, Jane was the very knowledgeable tutor for the *Beginners Group of Family History*, ever ready to inspire members and help to untangle the complexities of history uncovered.

In an earlier life, Jane travelled and worked overseas for some years, which gave her many happy memories. Her death notice stated that she was a lady of great integrity, who was warmly regarded in the field of Early Childhood Education. A fitting tribute.

Margaret Mabbitt, assisted by Val Bell and Linda O'Sullivan

Calendar of Events

The Calendar of Events is largely irrelevant until we know when we will be able to recommence our U3A activities. However, if you would like to check the dates and events which were scheduled for the remainder of the year, please click on the link below which will take you to the Calendar of Events on our website.

<http://u3amanningham.org.au/calendar.html>

The Newsletter

Editorial: Jillian Gange, Liew Staras, Frances Langdon; Website Manager: Kevin Chan;
Distribution: Warren Trompf, Kathleen Caffry, Robyn Lamprecht.

Information contained in this newsletter was correct at the time of publication. U3A Manningham makes no guarantee that the information contained in the newsletter is always accurate.



MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to provide accessible and affordable educational, cultural, physical and social opportunities appropriate to the needs of retired and semi-retired people.

