

## Sudan - its joys and sorrows

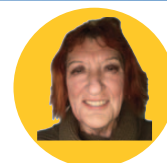
What makes an English lady decide against a dignified retirement and instead travel to Africa, where she will be bombed, robbed and yearn for a decent toilet? At the age of 62, Jan King went to Sudan, teaching English to church leaders, teaching illiterate women to read and producing English materials. Some of the courses were in the war zone, where she was bombed twice and had to cope with scorpions and snakes!

Jan's story of how she responded to what she believed God was calling her to do is both exciting and intriguing. Your heart will break for the people of South Sudan, but you will be really inspired by Jan's determination that they should have education and hope. She finally retired in 2009. Her book 'Called to Adventure' was published in 2015.

*This month's speaker is Jan King – her topic is 'Sudan – its joys and sorrows'.*  
Attend in person or view on Zoom

**22 February 2022 at 2pm. Ryarsh Village Hall or by Zoom**

## The Short view



We will be holding our monthly meeting in Ryarsh Village hall but will also offer a zoom option for those who prefer this. If you are attending the hall – just a reminder that at present the hall requires that we all wear masks. I will take a lateral flow test the morning of the meeting and would encourage others to do the same. We will be having doors and windows open so some warm clothing is maybe an idea. If you could also bring your own cup for tea or coffee that will be appreciated.

Something that I found out recently is the way you can use Alexa devices to summon help. It maybe that I am the

only person in the world who did not know about this – but happy to share how to do this with anyone who is interested.

Sadly the amount of scams seems to be on the increase – and any member can alert others via our website – there is a SCAM alert section.

On a lighter note – it is so wonderful to see snowdrops and daffodils coming through in the garden and to see catkins on the trees. I am sure winter is not over but it is wonderful to see these early signs of spring.

*Chrys Short Chair, Malling u3a*

## Looking for a man



The Singing Group is growing and Joe our leader makes it good fun. You don't have to be a great singer to join us. Any one is welcome, but we would particularly like some more men to come and have a go.

## Tea Rota

**February:** Ann Underdown, Pat Bell, Norma Diston, Eric Diston

**March:** Brenda Smith, Ian Smith, Lilia Frietman

*Christine Barret*





# Mah jong

Do you enjoy meeting others in a non-competitive but friendly atmosphere? Then Mah Jong might be worth a try. It is one of the original groups from when Malling U3A was set up. We meet in the Davison Room at Ryarsh Village Hall on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10 – 12 in the morning with a small charge for room hire and refreshments. Mah Jong is similar to the card game rummy, with a set of 144 tiles based on Chinese characters and symbols. It is not too difficult to master and studies have shown it is a great game to keep the mind sharp. We are a mixed ability group and beginners are always welcome.

**Mrs Gerry Hunt, Convenor**



# Makers of History Group 2

Can you help us complete our 15th year – and beyond?. The Group started in January 2008 and have now covered 100+ famous and not so famous people. But we are getting short of members. We've kept going through lockdowns with Zoom, and now are moving to

mixed meetings and hopefully soon back to meetings at homes – 10 meetings a year, so we aim for one contribution per member per year. We have some shorter (15 mins) talks as well as the usual longer ones, and have sometimes stretched the definition a little.

So if you like to investigate people who've left their mark, and discuss their impact and legacy please join us and bring some new ideas and perspectives.

**John Russell**



# Ambling Group

The January amble was nice, crisp and frosty at Leybourne Lakes. There was a baker's dozen of us, and it felt good to be out walking in a group again!

**Ruth Brind, Convenor**

# Between the covers

## The Man who Died Twice by Richard Osman

Set in a retirement village in Kent this is the second book about The Thursday Murder Club in which four residents use their considerable skills and experience to investigate cold cases from their files. Here they become involved in a rather hotter case concerning MI5 and stolen diamonds.

## The Wild Silence by Raynor Winn

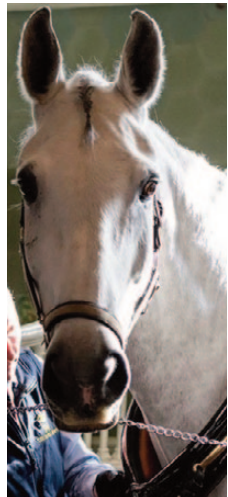
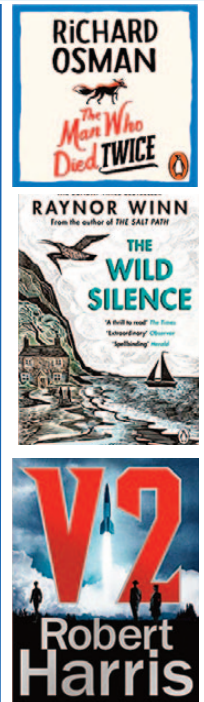
A sequel to The Salt Path, in which Raynor Winn and her husband Moth walk the S.W. Coast Path at a time of crisis in their lives, this book has them involved in a rewilding project on a Cornish farm and undertaking another epic walk in Iceland.

## V2 by Robert Harris

The V-2 rocket was Hitler's last desperate effort to achieve victory in the war by employing the world's first long-range guided ballistic missiles. In 1944 a WAAF unit is despatched to Belgium tasked with tracking their trajectory and locating the launch sites so that they can be destroyed.

Do send me details of any book you think our members might enjoy and I will include it next month.

**Valerie Willsher**



## 'Orse

As it is the Queen's Platinum Jubilee I hope in the summer to lead a London Walk 1 around Green Park, St James Park and then skirt Buckingham Palace and end up in Victoria. On the recce it was raining so I thought – what shall I do if it is pouring like this in June or July? The answer came – take them to the Royal Mews to see the Queen's horses and stables and carriages as they are open to visitors from mid May. When I last went there was a horse called 'Stevenson'; a fine Windsor Grey. If he had been able to speak he could have told me:

*'I am so named Stevenson because the Queen loves Kidnapped, the Scottish adventure tale by RL Stevenson. The stables where I live are first*

*class and based on the design of a church with pillars, aisles and side chapels/stalls. The food is as good as that at St Ermin's. My task is to draw the carriages in which the Queen and other members of the Royal Family travel. The heaviest is the Gold State Coach which I last pulled in 2002 to take the Queen and Prince Philip to St Paul's during the Golden Jubilee celebrations. My favourite carriage is the Irish State Coach, made in Dublin, and which took the Queen to her wedding in 1947. Nowadays we draw Prince Charles and Camilla. Look out in June 2022 when I shall be drawing a carriage in those festivities.'*

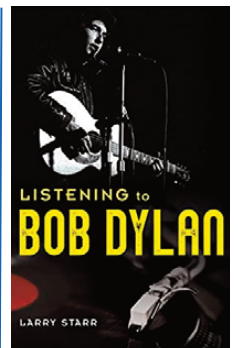
**Brian Stevenson**

This feels a bit like an unrest cure. No it wasn't all plain sailing once we got to the airport. The airline taxi didn't turn up. Fortunately Sasha was there and took us to Heathrow where we waited 20 minutes for the wheel chair wheelers to come. The usual scrum booking-in followed. We were told it was too late to go to the lounge. We were sent straight to the departure gate where we waited an hour, then another hour. We finally boarded about 4pm for the flight due to depart at 1.45. We found our seats and waited another half hour. The pilot told us comfortingly that the aeroplane had been about to be grounded but that they had worked very fast and had rectified most of the faults. At half past four we were on our way. Well at least the take off was straightforward

Comfortable reclining seats, a glass of wine and then something to eat. We were hungry by this time not having eaten since breakfast. Now I can lie back and listen to Bob Dylan.

Note for other elderly travellers. I hadn't anticipated that I wouldn't be able to reach the overhead lockers so it isn't easy to get hold of things I'd packed for the journey. Filling in the landing card, going to the loo. It's all so much more difficult than it used to be. I listened and listened to Bob Dylan. Everyone else went to sleep.

**Maeve Bhavan**



## The unrest cure

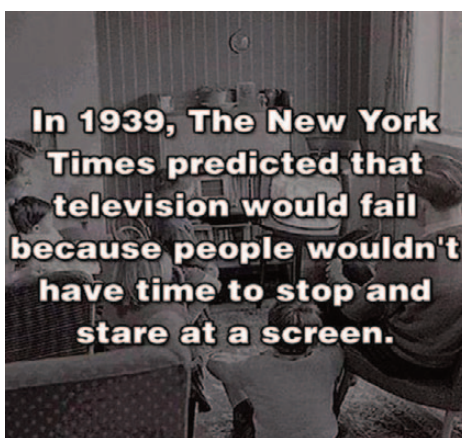
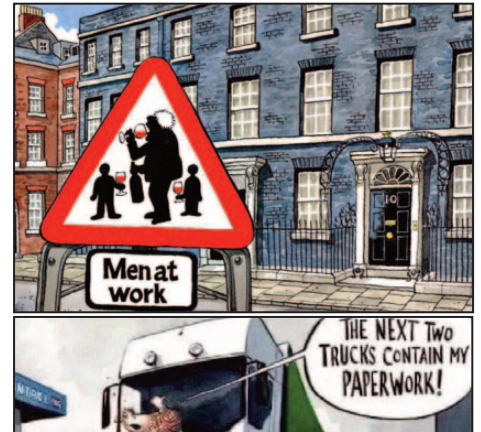




# Anne's knee slappers



I finally figured out  
what I want to be  
when I get older....  
**YOUNGER!!**



Wanted: New housemate for Westminster based feline. Recently decorated house includes excellent security, lightly used office space and large garden, suitable for hosting parties. #PMQs

