

Election General Meeting

Friday 15 November 2019

10.00 am—12.00 noon

\$5.00 entry

Wesley Methodist Church

100, 13th Avenue Tauranga

Agenda:

- **EGM - Election of 2020 Committee**
- **Christmas Morning Tea**
- **Musical Items and Group Displays**



Singing for Joy Group entertaining at the 2018 EGM

Note: No General Meetings in December and January



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Quiz Corner

Test your general knowledge with these questions. Answers on page 19.

1. In which country was the Rosetta Stone discovered?
2. What is a passage called that brings a piece of music to an end?
3. Which novelist wrote *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*?
4. When was Korea divided into two separate states? a) 1945; b) 1949; c) 1953
5. How many pairs of ribs do women have?
6. There is no border crossing between the neighbouring South American countries of Venezuela and Guyana. True or False?
7. The Gunpowder Plot was discovered on the fifth of November in which year? a) 1602; b) 1605; c) 1610
8. Where was New Zealand's first capital?
9. Which one of these letters does not appear in the Periodic Table?
a) D; b) J; c) U
10. How many stars are there on the Australian flag?



Merry Xmas from the Newsletter Team:

Jan Holden - Editor and Layout Design

Jon Stone - Assistant Layout Design

Paul Chapman - Quiz and Feature Articles

Kit Divehall - Interviews and Proofreading

Cliff Freer - Meeting Photographs



President's Message



Dear Members

The Election General Meeting on 15 November is approaching quickly. Several members have put names forward for Committee positions and I would like to thank them for their commitment to our organisation.

Following the formalities of the meeting we will have a Christmas morning tea and entertainment provided by some of our members. We will also have a display of artwork from the Art Practical group. The November meeting has now become an 'end of year' celebration. Many thanks to all of you who are participating in the entertainment.

Change of venue

The Tauranga Monthly General Meetings, following 20 years at Wesley Church, are relocating to the Tauranga Yacht Club, Sulphur Point next year beginning with the Annual General Meeting in February. A change of venue has been requested over a number of years by members because of difficulty parking near Wesley Church. Other U3A meetings which take place at Wesley Church will remain the same. This move in no way reflects on the assistance and help that we have received from the admin team at Wesley Church over the years. They have been more than helpful, accommodating and supportive to our organisation and it is sad that we need to

move on.

General Meetings Arataki/Papamoa

The meetings this year at Arataki and Papamoa have been very successful and well supported. Again responding to members' requests to have General Meetings 'over the bridge'. There are already dates and venues set in the diary for regular meetings in Arataki and Papamoa in 2020.

25 years Anniversary

The arrangements for the 25 Year Anniversary celebrations are still on going and we will give you more information shortly. Watch this space!!

U3A and Local and National Politics

Following the local Council elections and with the General Election coming next year, I need to remind you that U3A is not a political organisation. I am requesting members to be mindful that any political dialogue shared is done from a personal standpoint and not under the banner of U3A which could bring U3A Tauranga into disrepute which would contravene our Constitution.

This is the last Newsletter of 2019 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support of U3A and wish you and your families and friends a very Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jean Garmonsway
President



Announcements

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT CHANGE OF VENUE

From February 2020, the venue of the monthly General Meeting will change to the Tauranga Yacht & Power Boat Club, Sulphur Point, Tauranga

REMINDER NOTICE OF ELECTION GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF THE ELECTION GENERAL MEETING OF U3A TAURANGA INC TO BE HELD ON FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE WESLEY METHODIST CHURCH HALL, 100 13TH AVENUE TAURANGA AT 10.00 AM

Lati Moodie, Secretary, 22 August 2019

1995

U3A Tauranga
25th Anniversary

2020

A celebration event will be held on

22 May 2020

9.45 am to 3.00 pm

at

Club Mount Maunganui

**Morning Tea, Entertainment, Lunch,
Guest Speaker**

Full details in the New Year.





Situations Vacant

WE NEED YOU



Group Coordinator Vacancy

- Do you have good computer skills?
- Are you interested in meeting new people and interacting with people?
- Do you have good organisational skills and an ability to relate to others in a constructive and encouraging manner?
- Are you interested in joining the Executive Committee to assist with the running of U3A?
- Would you like to make a positive contribution to U3A?

If so, please contact Christine Denne, phone 543 9483 for more details. You will be given plenty of training and support.

Vacancy on the Newsletter Team

Note Taker for Mount/Papamoa General Meetings



There is a vacancy on the newsletter team for someone to make **BRIEF** notes on the mini and main speakers at the Mount and Papamoa General Meetings. **If you are interested please phone the Newsletter Editor, Jan Holden, phone 543 3747 for more information.**



Sept and Oct Meetings



The mini talk at the **September Tauranga General Meeting** was **Jenny Carmichael**. Jenny is a member of the Art History Group and she gave an interesting talk on the New Zealand artist, Rei Hamon. Rei is known as an artist of the New Zealand bush. He is self-taught and didn't start painting until he was in his 40's. His paintings were created with pen and ink black dots. His most famous work, *Jewels of Okarito* (1976), was given to the Queen.



Matt Ford, North Island Sales Manager of Dominion Salt, was the main speaker. He gave a very informative talk on the history of the company and of its products. In 1942 the Government of the day gave George Skellerup (of the rubber company) a grant and a licence to establish a salt works. Prior to this salt was imported from the UK. New Zealand is marginal to produce solar salt because of our high rainfall. Only 5 months of the year are suitable to get evaporation.

The Dominion Salt factory at Grassmere evaporates salt crystals from Lake Grassmere (near Blenheim), but the Mount Maunganui plant uses crystals imported from Australia and only some from Grassmere. The products they make include:

- **Pure Dried Vacuum Salt (PDV)**, which is high purity salt for food, dairy and pharmaceutical applications.
- **Solar Salt**, which in either raw or processed form is used for industrial and food applications.
- **Summit Animal Health Products**, which are distributed through rural merchant stores.
- **Specialty Sea Salts – Natural and Flaky**, which are certified input for use in organic products.

Glenne Findon gave the mini presentation at the Tauranga October General Meeting. She read her short story, "*A Day at the Beach*". Glenne is a member of the Writers Inc group and this story and one other she submitted to an international competition have recently been published. **See p11 for full details.**



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The main speaker was **Doug Hendry of the Puzzle Company**. Doug was a journalist for 25 years, initially in Scotland, before going into the puzzle creation business, which he has been doing for 11 years. His company produces all the word puzzles (except Code Cracker) that are published in newspapers in New Zealand and they are also published in other papers around the world.



Doug has previously talked to U3A about puzzle making, but this time the emphasis of his talk was on encouraging our minds to be active and to keep doing things to exercise our memories. He recommended a website, sporcle.com, which contains a whole range of memory tasks. He also suggested doing cryptic cross words if you don't already do them or to regularly try new types of puzzles to continually exercise our brains.



Meet and Greet Teams

Sept - Volunteers

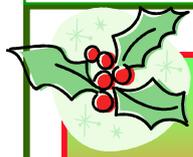


Oct - Ukulele Group



Facts & Figures to Date

Financial members as at Oct 2018	921
Life members	10
TOTAL	931
Number of Groups:	103



Group Coordinators' Report

New Groups:

Money Matters held its first meeting on Tuesday 8 October at 1.00 pm. The convener is Keith Muir.

Suggested New Groups:

- Ukulele in Papamoa
- Tivoli Film Group at Papamoa
- Play Reading
- Bridge
- Canasta



Please contact the relevant Group Coordinator if you wish to join one of these proposed groups

Groups in Recess:

Garden Ramblers 3 is in recess until next year as the Convener is undergoing surgery on her ankle.

Computer Support B is currently in recess as the Convener is ill. We have a new Convener available for 2020.

Poetry for Readers and Writers is in recess as there are insufficient members. However, the group will be reactivated in 2020 if they can get more members.

Groups needing New Members:

- Rialto 2 & 4
- Singing for Joy
- Yoga 3 in Papamoa
- Genealogy 1 (requires 2 new members)
- Five Hundred Cards
- Geography
- iPad 2
- Current Events A (1-2 members required)
- History 3 (American History)
- Acoustic Music needs some vocalists
- Computer Support B needs new members for 2020

Please contact the Conveners of the above groups if you wish to join.

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Group Requiring a New Convener:

Garden Ramblers 2 needs a new Convener after the last meeting this year. Juliet Lee has 35 members in the group and about 16-22 people come on a ramble. Juliet thank you for all your expertise in organising this group.

Other Group Information

Conveners' Meeting: Thursday 31 October at 10.00 am with morning tea served at 9.30 am.

New Members' Meeting: Wednesday 6 November at 2.00 pm.

Both meetings are at the Wesley Methodist Lounge, 100 13th Avenue.

Number of Groups:

A-C Groups	29
D-H Groups	24
I-P Groups	27
R-Z Groups	23
Total:	103

Requests received to set up two new groups

Bridge

Canasta

It is planned that these groups would start in February 2020 if there are sufficient numbers.

Interested parties should contact:

Raewyn Gallagher, phone 562 8375 to place your names on the waiting list.





Group News

Acoustic Music/Performers Group



Our group has been very busy lately with performances at Arcadia Rest Home and Waipuna Hospice. Earlier in the year we were at Havenbrook Village and played to a large audience at The Avenues Metlifecare. A gig for the Welcome Bay Lions for their High Tea was also well attended and a lot of fun for all.

Often only 6 or so players are more desirable for a number of reasons; size of venue being one. Accordingly splinter groups have been playing on a far more regular basis, busking in Mount Maunganui during the cruise season and many other events. There is a big demand for entertainment with various villages, rest-homes, friendship groups etc who are all keen to have us back.

We now have a musical director and a number of individuals prepared to lead play so my role is more in the background as the convener still ably assisted by Lang Pringle.

Our membership is 34 at present and was closed, but as attendance has become fragmented, we have let a few 'come and visit'. For some unknown reason a lot of people want to book us on Wednesdays, our jam day, and with people away doing the gigs, on holiday etc we often only have 18 or so along. We have decided to open the membership up again so welcome accomplished players of acoustic instruments who can sing, but also just strong



Writers Inc



Congratulations to Glenne Findon, a member of Writers Inc, who late last year entered an international writing competition for mature authors. Twenty-five short stories would be selected from entries submitted from all over the world, for publication in four books in the Timeless Wisdom series. These were 'Fear and Courage', 'Human Kindness,' 'Love and Loss' and 'Struggle and Success'. The first two hardcover books have just been released containing the winning entries.

Glenne entered two stories in the 'Fear and Courage' category and both were selected for publication. In Glenne's story 'A Day at the Beach', she wrote about overcoming her fear of visiting a naturist beach for the first time and how naturism subsequently changed her from a shy introverted teenager into a much more confident person, something which has had a lifelong influence on her life.

The second story, entitled 'A Leap of Faith' recalled the anxiety Glenne felt when, as a teenager, she had to overcome vertigo and her fear of heights to first jump, then dive off the 3-metre high springboard diving board, in order to pass the highest award of the Royal Lifesaving Society and be the first at her high school to get the coveted award.

In the editorial of 'Fear and Courage', it says: "*We were overwhelmed by the variety and richness of the hundreds of entries from around the world. Our criteria for final selection were that the stories should reflect a diversity of writing, blend humour and pathos and balance moments of drama with those of quiet contemplation*".

The book 'Fear and Courage' is available to purchase on <https://exislepublishing.com/>. Convener Jean Akers, phone 562 3688.

The Almoner

Angela Dold is the U3A Almoner.

Please let her know if you are aware of any U3A member who has an illness or bereavement in their immediate family.

Phone: 571 6767. email: anndold2811@gmail.com



Wonders of the Web



In this series, we look at websites that may be of interest to members.

The screenshot shows the Owlcation website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with a 'MORE' menu icon, the 'Owlcation' logo, and 'Sign In' and 'Join' buttons. Below the navigation bar, the page is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a 'POPULAR ARTICLES' sidebar with a list of articles, each with a small image and a title. The main content area features a large quote by Emily Dickinson, 'Dwell in possibility...', with a portrait of her. Below the quote is an article titled 'Emily Dickinson's "Color-Caste-Denomination"'. To the right of this article is a 'NEW' article about a Boeing 247 crash. On the far right, there is a 'Connect with us' section with Facebook and Pinterest icons, and an 'ACADEMIA' section with articles on sentence starters and short stories.

Where wise owls share their knowledge

By Paul Chapman

If you fancy stretching your mind while browsing the internet, check out <https://owlcation.com/>. It's a fascinating website with something to interest everyone.

Scroll down the homepage for a display of illustrated essays on all manner of subjects or click on the Popular Articles panel on the left. The homepage menu regularly updates, adding new material all the time.

On the day I looked while researching this article for the *Newsletter*, random subjects included The Ten Most Important Moments and Events in History; The Boeing 247 Crash of 1933; Easy Words to Use as Sentence Starters to Write Better Essays; The Many Uses of Cow Dung: A Natural and Renewable Resource, and much more besides.

If articles on a particular topic take your fancy, click on the categories Academia; Stem; Humanities; Social Sciences; or Agriculture and Farming at the top of the homepage.

What's Stem, you ask? When I checked out that page it contained an appetising menu including such disparate morsels as Does Time Exist or Is It an Illusion of Our Minds; Solving Projectile Motion Problems; What DNA Tells us About the Ancestry of the People of Ireland; and What is the Difference Between the Northern and Southern Lights?

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Clicking on the three horizontal lines beside the word “More” at top left of the homepage opens up a whole list of sub-categories such as Chemistry, Geology, Astronomy, History, Performing Arts ... and on, and on.

If you really get hooked, you can click on “Join” at top right to become part of the Owlcation online community, and if you wish to contribute your own articles on a subject you love, click on the “Write for Us” icon and share your knowledge with like-minded enthusiasts.



*Who hides in the bakery at Christmas?.....A
Mince Spy!*

Xmas Word Search

C X B S D M J E D I T E L U Y
A R T S C R O O G E X R P K J
C Y U V Y T G E W Z U R B W C
X K L I I L B N X D C D B O H
T P N B O X C S O D R F F I I
C P T V R F E L L E E A D A L
S S E A Q A P N B E T J K I D
I S O V T H M M M K I H D H R
S E Z N I W E Q R G F G R B E
E S A B O C P Y Q L I T H F N
U S M U E T M C A G O N G G E
O O D D E U M S N E T T I M V
N W M M X B Y T N E M A N R O
I S O F S U P R E S E N T X M
Y C D F L P O H S K R O W K P

CHILDREN
COMET
DECEMBER
EGGNOG
GLOVES
MITTENS
ORNAMENT
PRESENT
RUDOLPH
SANTA
SCROOGE
SLEIGH
VIXEN
WORKSHOP
YULETIDE

It's a Funny Old World

Are you hearing what they're singing?



By Paul Chapman

How often have you suddenly been struck by the realisation that you have been mishearing the lyrics and getting words in a well-known song completely wrong?

Take heart, because it happens a lot more often than you might think. So often, in fact, that there is a word for it: a mondegreen. The term was coined by the American writer Sylvia Wright in an article published in *Harper's Magazine* in 1954. She described how as a young girl she misheard the last line of a stanza in the 17th-century ballad *The Bonnie Earl o' Moray*, which her mother used to read to her.

What Wright heard was: "Ye Highlands and ye Lowlands / Oh, where hae ye been? / They hae slain the Earl o' Moray, / And Lady Mondegreen." In fact, the correct fourth line reads: "And laid him on the green."

"The point about what I shall hereafter call mondegreens," Wright wrote, "since no one else has thought up a word for them, is that they are better than the original."

Wright's neologism has since become widely adopted. Mondegreens turn up everywhere, from lines in classic hymns such as "Gladly, the cross-eyed bear" for "Gladly the cross I'll bear" to popular music like "There's a bathroom on the right" instead of "There's a bad moon on the rise" in Creedence Clearwater Revival's *Bad Moon Rising*.

Pop songs, because of their ubiquity, are by far the most common source of mondegreens, and some of them really are quite funny. Other celebrated examples are:

- "Excuse me while I kiss this guy" instead of "Excuse me while I kiss the sky" from *Purple Haze* by The Jimi Hendrix Experience.
- "See that girl, watch her scream, kicking the dancing queen" for "See that girl, watch that scene, diggin' the dancing queen" in ABBA's song *Dancing Queen*.
- "We built this city on sausage rolls" for "We built this city on rock 'n' roll" in Starship's *We Built This City*.
- "The ants are my friends" for "The answer, my friend" in Bob Dylan's *Blowing in the Wind*.
- "The girl with colitis goes by" for "The girl with kaleidoscope eyes" in *Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds* by the Beatles.

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- “The bright blessed day and the dog said goodnight” for “The bright blessed day, the dark sacred night” in Louis Armstrong’s *What a Wonderful World*.
- “Saving his life from this warm sausage tea” for “Spare him his life from this monstrosity” in Queen’s *Bohemian Rhapsody*.
- “Then I saw her face, now I’m gonna leave her” for “Then I saw her face, now I’m a believer” in The Monkees’ *Now I’m a Believer*.
- “Take your pants down and make it happen” for “Take your passion and make it happen” in Irene Cara’s *Flashdance*.
- “Sweet dreams are made of cheese” for “Sweet dreams are made of these” in The Eurythmics’ *Sweet Dreams*.
- “I’ll never leave your pizza burning” and “I’ll never be obese like Bernard” for “I’ll never be your beast of burden” in *Beast of Burden* by the Rolling Stones.



Sometimes the mondegreen itself has become so familiar that it has replaced the original. In the carol *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, the line “four calling birds” started out as “four colly birds”. “Colly” meant “black” (“Brief as the lightning in the collied night” is an example of Shakespeare’s use of the word in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*) but the present line appears to have evolved around the end of the Victorian era when the original meaning had been lost.

As for other Christmas carols, people have admitted that as children they mistakenly sang such lyrics as “Arrest these merry gentlemen,” “Noel, Noel, Barney’s the King of Israel” and “Sleep in heavenly peas.”

Then there are deliberate mondegreens. Many years ago, an old friend of mine devised a game of “improving” on well-known song titles over a pint in our local pub. I recall him reinventing *Hold My Hand, I’m a Stranger in Paradise* as *Hold My Hand, I’m a Strange-Looking Parasite*.

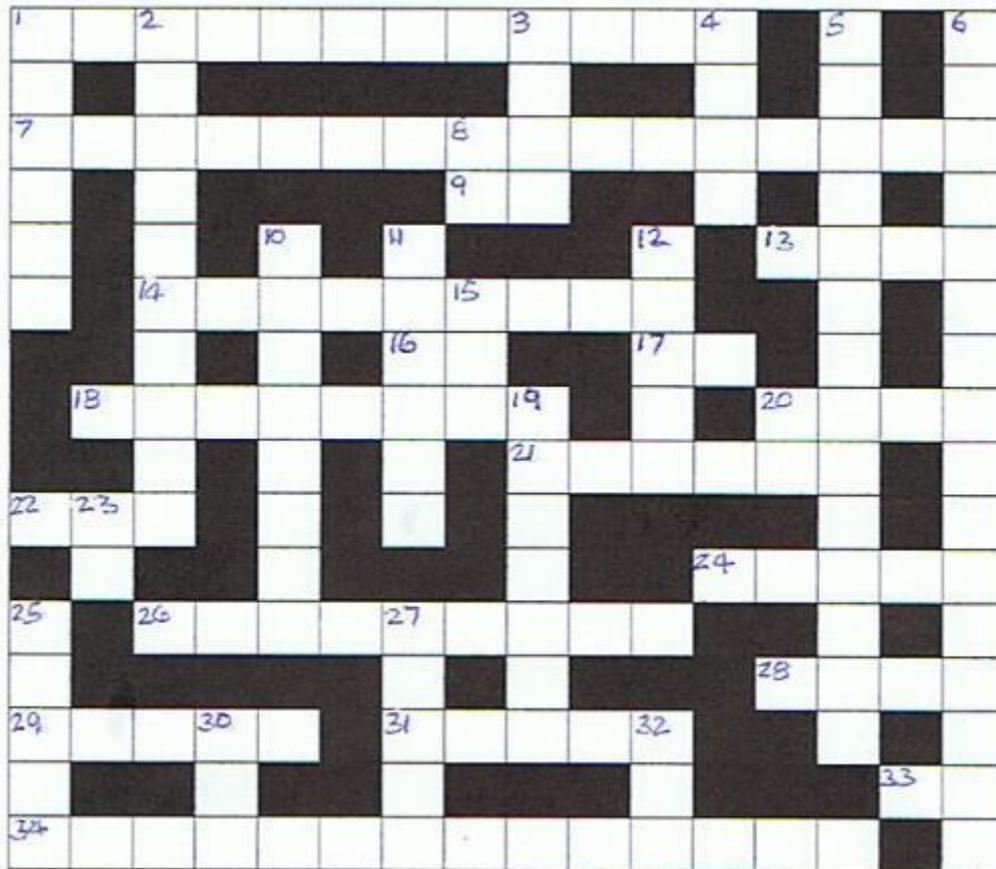
Older readers will perhaps remember how meanings became distorted to hilarious effect in the parlour game “Chinese Whispers”, in which a sentence would be whispered to the first hearer at one side of the room and the last person in the line would declare what they had heard by the time the sentence reached them.

One rather more serious apocryphal example is said to have originated in the First World War, when the urgent military message “We are going to advance, send reinforcements” was passed down the line until it became “We are going to a dance, send three and fourpence.”

Psychologists say that when our brains cannot make sense of what we are hearing, they fill the vacuum with homophones (words that sound the same) that *do* complete the phrase or sentence, however illogical the result.

So how many lyrics have you been getting wrong all these years?

Xmas Crossword



ACROSS

1. They followed the star (5,4,3)
7. *See 2 down*
9. Not off (2)
13. A metal element (4)
14. Bird fond of pear trees (9)
16. __ _ apple (indefinite article) (2)
17. Also 20 down - not too good, not too bad (2,2)
18. Hung up by children on Christmas Eve (8)
20. Backwards bats! (4)
21. Wear fewer clothes in class (6)
22. Replace the word in italics with a pronoun - *Anne* wrote on the board (3)
24. Type of tree (5)
26. You might kiss under it at Christmas (9)
28. Candles do it in the dark! (4)
29. Bird often to be found on Christmas cards (5)
31. The pole where Father Christmas lives? (5)
33. Exists (2)
34. What I wish for you on 25th December (5,9)

DOWN

1. Benjamin Zephaniah's friend?
2. Also 7 across Santa's helper - has he been drinking? (7,3,3,5,8)
3. What you _ _ _ _ , your income (4)
4. No, my German friend, it's between eight and ten (4)
5. Christmas Carol (3,5,6)
6. Late comedy duo, famous for Christmas specials and for bringing sunshine (9,3,4)
8. Take action (2)
10. You pull them at Christmas (8)
11. *aspire*, in Church probably (anagram) (6)
12. Mary's son (5)
15. No room here (3)
19. Sparkle (7)
- 20 (see 17 across)
23. Remove set from sheet to reveal another pronoun! (2)
25. Gold, frankincense and _ _ _ _ _ (5)
27. Midday meal (5)
30. Mischievous child maybe (3)
32. Wear the one you found in 10 down (3)



Well, Fancy That!

In this series we take a look at some remarkable but not so well-known facts

When 'aliens' paid Earth a Christmas visit

By Paul Chapman

It was three o'clock on the morning of 26 December 1980 – Boxing Day – in the middle of a chilly English winter at the height of the Cold War. Security guards posted at the east gate of RAF Woodbridge, in the rural English county of Suffolk, stood in amazed silence as they watched bright lights descend from the sky and land in the neighbouring Rendlesham Forest.

Despite the name, RAF Woodbridge was a base of the United States Air Force, bristling with state-of-the-art weaponry and detection equipment as part of NATO's nuclear frontline defences.

When American servicemen entered the forest to investigate, they reported discovering a mysterious glowing metallic object from which blue, red, orange and white lights were shining. As they approached, it moved away through the trees, driving the animals on a nearby farm "into a frenzy".

Local police were called to the scene, who concluded that the only lights they saw were coming from a lighthouse on the coast at Orford Ness.

After daybreak, servicemen returned to the small clearing in the forest, and described finding three triangular impressions on the ground, as well as burn marks and broken branches on nearby trees.

When Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, the deputy base commander, visited the site with a party of servicemen in the early hours of 28 December, they too saw a flashing light. Then three star-like lights appeared in the sky, about 10 degrees above the horizon, one of which beamed down a stream of light.



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The two incidents caused a flurry of sensational headlines in Britain's tabloids, such as the *News of the World* (see picture), and were dubbed "Britain's Roswell," a reference to the celebrated site of supposed appearances of UFOs in the United States.

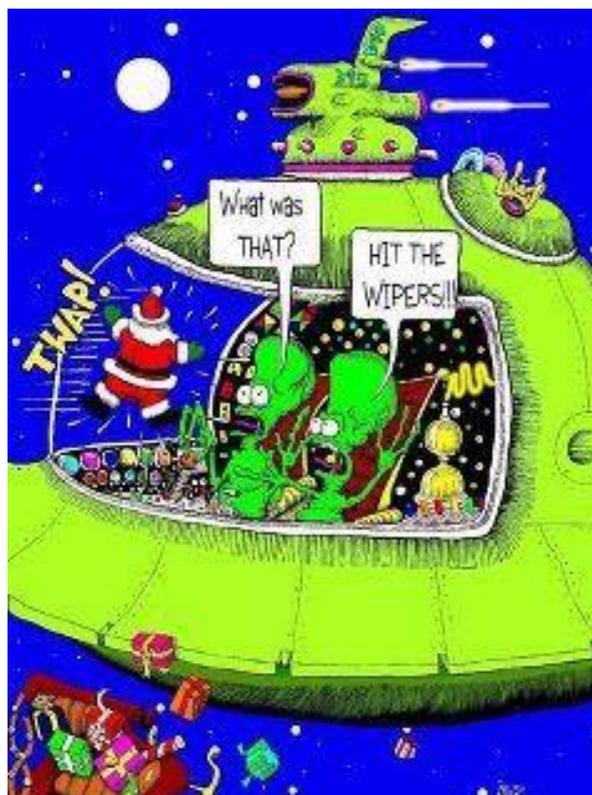
Thirty-eight years later, in December 2018, a retired British SAS man told the *Daily Telegraph* that the whole thing had been the result of a prank they played on the Americans. The SAS man said it was their policy to constantly test the USAF's security by probing the perimeters, in order to assure the safety of nuclear warheads stored at the base. When an SAS troop parachuted into the complex one night in August 1980, they were discovered by guards.

The men claimed they were roughed up by the Americans, who refused to believe their explanation, and were repeatedly referred to as "unidentified aliens". Eventually released after British authorities intervened, the SAS men were seething at being called "aliens" on their own soil and were determined to get their own back. The source said: "They called us aliens and we thought 'Right, we'll show them what aliens really look like'."

The SAS man said they staged the spectacle by rigging lights and flares up in the nearby forest and suspending more lights from radio-controlled black helium-filled balloons.

"A great deal of nocturnal Christmas fun was had at the expense of the USAF, and the matter should have ended there," the source said.

Dedicated *X-File* enthusiasts remain to be convinced by the reported SAS account, however, and if you visit Rendlesham Forest today, you will find a sign directing you around "the UFO trail".



Quiz Answers

Page 2 Quiz

1. Egypt;
2. Coda;
3. Thomas Hardy;
4. a) 1945;
5. Twelve (the same number as men);
6. True;
7. b) 1605;
8. Russell;
9. b) J;
10. Six

What kind of music do elves listen to?.....
Wrap.

Crossword Answers

Across

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 1. Three wise men | 7. see 2 down | 9. on |
| 13. zinc | 14. partridge | 16. an |
| 17. also 20 down - so, so | 18. stocking | 20. stab |
| 21. lesson | 22. she | 24. rowan |
| 26. mistletoe | 28. glow | 29. robin |
| 31. north | 33. is | 34. happy Christmas |

Down

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| 1. Turkey | 2. and 7 across - Rudolph the red nosed reindeer | |
| 3. earn | 4. nine | 5. The First Nowell |
| 6. Morecambe and Wise | 8. do | 10. crackers |
| 11. praise | 12. Jesus | 15. inn |
| 19. glitter | 20. see 17 across | 23. he |
| 25. myrrh | 27. lunch | 30. imp |
| 32. hat | | |

2019 Executive Committee

President:

Jean Garmonsway - 579 1918
Presidentu3atauranga@gmail.com

Vice President:

Anne Withy - 579 0430
amiona@xtra.co.nz

Immediate Past President:

John Powell - 575 4540

Secretary:

Lati Moodie - 572 0293
u3atauranga@gmail.com

Treasurer:

Elizabeth Reeves - 562 2767
treasurer@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Group Coordinators:**Groups A to C:**

Raewyn Gallagher - 562 8375
a2c.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups D to H:

Marianne Lammers - 021 804 403
d2h.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups I to P:

Anne Briggs - 975 1888
i2p.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Groups R to Z:

Christine Denne - 543 9483
r2z.groups@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Membership Administrator:

Sheila Freer - 576 5243
membership@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Speakers/General Meeting Organiser:

Bruce Furze - 579 1627
furzepringle@gmail.com

Publicity Officer:

Kit Divehall - 576 8100
publicity@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Co-opted Members:**Committee Support:**

Marianne Lammers – 021 804 403

Newsletter Editor:

Jan Holden - 543 3747
newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Webmaster:

Jim Pryor - 219 7840
webmaster@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Non-Committee Appointments:**Almoner:**

Angela Dold - 571 6767

Data Manager:

Jim Pryor - 219 7840
data@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz

Equipment Manager:

Peter Simmons - 576 0952

Handbook Administrator:

Margaret Marsh - 281 2408

Meet and Greet Organiser:

Jenny Pryor - 219 7840

Mini Speaker Organiser:

Rob Heath - 574 6468

Photographer:

Cliff Freer - 578 9960

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Editor: Jan Holden - Ph 543 3747 newsletter@u3atauranga.kiwi.nz