



In This Issue:  
Photo feature: Work from our creative Groups  
AGM advance information



Front cover:  
All Aboard the Mail Train!  
21 members of the  
Railways Group visited  
the Postal Museum in  
February. Kings Cross  
to Paddington took 15  
minutes on this amazing  
Mail Rail underground line.

Above: February 21st and the Walks into History: Country Group visited the Shrove Tuesday celebrations in Olney. These ladies are competitors in the pancake race.

Right and Below Right: January saw Striders walking in a downpour in Amersham with mud underfoot. On another occasion however, there was a crisp hard frost.

Below: While the Family History Group were beavering away in the National Archives in Kew in February, members of the Gardening Group went along for the ride and took in Kew Gardens: Pictured here at Elizabeth Gate.



# Speakers for General Meetings

All meetings start at 2pm

Broadway Baptist Church  
78 The Broadway  
Chesham, Bucks  
HP5 1EG

Dr Helen Fry

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March

*Thomas Kendrick, Spymaster*

Helen is another speaker well-known to us, having previously told us about Latimer House and the London Cage. This talk is about the subject of her latest book, and covers the career of Thomas Kendrick, who was regarded by the Secret Intelligence Service (MI6) as their most important officer. He was a charming, music-loving, man who worked in Vienna in the 1920s as a lowly issuer of passports and visas, while scheming to thwart communist agents, and then the Nazis.

Sheryl Roberts

\*EXTRA TALK\*

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March

*Tax, Care and Toy Boys*

Sheryl is an expert in estate planning and her talk will cover subjects such as 'Protecting the family's Nest Egg', Inheritance Tax, and 'Stopping Sideways Disinheritance' (remarriage of surviving spouse). The talk follows and complements one by Gaye Illsley in 2021 on Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Brian Freeland

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April

*Bohemian Paris*

Brian has been involved in theatre since his National Service in 1959 and has worked with most major theatre companies. Approaching retirement, he has branched out into writing and speaking and his latest talk covers those painters, musicians, writers and performers whose talents were at the centre of 'La Vie Boheme' in Paris during the late 19th Century.

Eugene Matthias

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May

*The Ugly Duckling and the Magic Wand*

Eugene is President of The Magic Club of Great Britain and has been entertaining audiences with comedy and magic for over 25 years. His talk/performance is the story of the effect that magic has had on his life, from dyslexia at school to being given the Freedom of the City of London for his charity work.

Kindra Jones

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June

*1066: An Exploration of the Bayeux Tapestry*

Kindra is a professional historian, author and presenter, as well as a natural-born adventurer, having sailed a medieval ship, lived in a round house, climbed a volcano and similar exploits. Her talk will bring the Bayeux Tapestry to life and, after giving an overview, she will delve deeper into this epic work to uncover its mysteries and reveal some unlikely surprises hidden within its stitches.



The Broadway Baptist Church is accessible to wheelchairs  
and is equipped with a hearing loop.



# Notes from the Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2023.

## Whither (or Wither) Groups?

The recent closure of some of our Groups (see Helen Barnard's piece on the next page) is a rather worrying trend. Why it is worrying is that, in most cases, it is not a lack of interest in the topic or activity that is the problem but rather the unwillingness of people to step forward as Convenors. There may be an age element involved here as our u3a has been going for 15 years now and many of the original Convenors have 'done their time'. Still, it is the case that any organisation which does not renew itself and its organisers is apt to wither and vanish. Maybe some more new Groups are needed, as well as new Convenors, and Helen mentions two ideas that have been raised.

So, please, please consider taking a more active part in the running of our u3a and, if you have an idea for a new group, please let Helen know ([groups@cvu3a.uk](mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk)) and she will find out what interest there is among the membership.

## Annual General Meeting

In the centre of this newsletter, you will find details of our 2023 Annual General Meeting, which takes place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June. This will be an in-person meeting in the Broadway Baptist Church and all members are welcome to attend and vote. If for some reason you cannot attend but want to have your say, proxy voting will be available.

I will send out the Accounts, Trustee Report and Proxy Voting Form by email during May, or by post to those few members without email.

*With best wishes*



**James Cadle**  
chair@cvu3a.uk

## New Members

We offer a warm welcome to our newest members:

|                 |                          |                 |                          |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|
| John Axon       | <i>Ashley Green</i>      | Michael King    | <i>Holmer Green</i>      |
| Margaret Carey  | <i>Chalfont St Giles</i> | Elizabeth Neill | <i>Chalfont St Peter</i> |
| Susan Christie  | <i>Amersham</i>          | William Nimmo   | <i>Chesham</i>           |
| Maureen Cummins | <i>Amersham</i>          | Sarah Organ     | <i>Chesham</i>           |
| Irene Fane      | <i>Great Missenden</i>   | Urvi Shah       | <i>Amersham</i>          |

If you know anyone you think might be interested in joining, please ask them to get in touch with the Membership Secretary; contact details on page 6.

Copy date for the next newsletter is 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

# From the Groups Coordinator

Since Christmas we have lost both the Bus Pass Adventures Group and also Science and Technology. While I accept the Bus Pass Group may have run its natural course, this was certainly not the case with Science and Technology and the Group has simply died from lack of a second Convenor.

Being a Convenor is not an unduly difficult task and there are always people to give technical or accounts support if needed, so do not be shy. Please step up to the plate when needed as otherwise more groups will go under.

In the meantime, this month two new groups have been suggested and as usual please contact me if you are interested. First, we already have four book groups but they mainly deal with fiction. A member has suggested that we have a group to deal with history books, either to discuss a specific book or for someone to explain to the group why (or why not) they thought a particular history book was worth reading. A second group has been suggested to deal with restoration or simply appreciation of antiques (and this is for specific items, not members of the group!). As usual anyone interested in the above should please contact me on [groups@cvu3a.uk](mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk)

**Helen Barnard**  
**Groups Coordinator**  
[groups@cvu3a.uk](mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk)

## Events Team update

### **Visit to the Chelsea Physic Garden and the Royal Hospital Chelsea**

*Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 with coach travel*

Details of the visit have already been circulated to all members by email in the event of a late delivery of this newsletter.

The coach will depart from Chesham FC at 09.15. We will first visit the Chelsea Physic Garden, followed in the afternoon by a tour of The Royal Hospital Chelsea; both are guided throughout.

The cost is £45 per person, which includes transport, entry fees and guides but does NOT include refreshments. Payment is required by latest 13th March.

Contact Michael Cohn on [events@cvu3a.uk](mailto:events@cvu3a.uk)

### **Exhibition: Style and Society: Dressing the Georgians, at the Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace**

*Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2023 via public transport*

We will have a pre-exhibition talk by the curator, followed by viewing the exhibition. On display will be a variety of costumes, from the practical dresses of dairymaids to glittering gowns worn at Court. Paintings and drawings by Gainsborough, Hogarth and Zoffany will be displayed, with luxury items from small snuffboxes to swords. The Georgian era was a revolutionary period for trade, travel and technology.

To register interest, contact Jackie Cobb on [eventscoord@cvu3a.uk](mailto:eventscoord@cvu3a.uk)

### **Syon Park and the Musical Museum**

*Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 with coach travel*

If you want to join this visit and haven't registered interest yet, please contact Alan Gray on [events@cvu3a.uk](mailto:events@cvu3a.uk)

**The Events Team**  
[events@cvu3a.uk](mailto:events@cvu3a.uk)

# Chess Valley u3a Committee

|                      |                 |                      |              |
|----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Chair                | James Cadle     | chair@cvu3a.uk       | 07889 732291 |
| Vice-Chair           | Helen Barnard   | vicechair@cvu3a.uk   | 01494 715588 |
| Treasurer            | Geoff Naylor    | treasurer@cvu3a.uk   | 01494 434918 |
| Business Secretaries | Colin O'Rourke  | secretary@cvu3a.uk   | 01908 384990 |
|                      | West Marshall   |                      | 07931 433382 |
| Membership Secretary | Jim Wilkie      | membership@cvu3a.uk  | 01494 782081 |
| Groups Coordinator   | Helen Barnard   | groups@cvu3a.uk      | 01494 715588 |
| Web Editor           | Valerie Garrood | webmaster@cvu3a.uk   | 01494 433585 |
| Newsletter Editors   | John Bunyan     | newsletter@cvu3a.uk  | 01494 778858 |
|                      | James Cadle     |                      | 07889 732291 |
| Speaker Organiser    | Michael Cohn*   | speakers@cvu3a.uk    | 01494 763542 |
| Events Coordinator   | Jackie Cobb     | eventscoord@cvu3a.uk | 01494 773718 |

\* indicates a non-voting member

## Do we have your up-to-date contact details?

If you have moved, changed your phone number or have a new email address, please make sure you update your information via the Chess Valley u3a website ([www.cvu3a.uk](http://www.cvu3a.uk)). Click on 'Membership Login' on the homepage and then use your ID which is your membership number (from your membership card) prefixed by the first two letters of your first name (for example 'Jo9999'). If you don't have internet access, please let the Membership Secretary know (contact details above). We'd hate for you not to be kept up-to-date with the happenings in your u3a or miss out on events and visits.

## Chess Valley u3a equipment

We have various items of equipment purchased by Chess Valley u3a. These are held by the Groups that requested and mainly use them, but are available for use by other Groups. If you would like to borrow any of this equipment, please contact the relevant custodian.

| Equipment                                       | Custodian         | Contact details   |
|---|-------------------|---|
| Data projector 1 (Epson)                        | James Cadle       | <b>James Cadle</b><br>07889 732291<br><a href="mailto:chair@cvu3a.uk">chair@cvu3a.uk</a>  |
| Data projector 2 (Optoma)                       | Ian Hutt          |   |
| Laptop computer (Windows 10, Office 2016)       | James Cadle       | <b>Ian Hutt</b><br>01494 583955<br><a href="mailto:history@cvu3a.uk">history@cvu3a.uk</a> |
| Companion speakers for laptop                   |                   |   |
| PAT-tested extension cable/surge adapter        |                   |   |
| Projection screen 1 (5 ft)                      | Ian Hutt          |   |
| Projection screen 2 (6 ft)                      |                   |   |
| Pinboards x 3                                   | Keith Hoffmeister | <b>Keith Hoffmeister</b> 01494 766990   |
| Easels x 3                                      |                   |   |
| Portable PA systems                             |                   |   |
| PAT-tested 6-gang 2-metre extension leads (x 2) | David Hurd        | <b>David Hurd</b><br><a href="mailto:digimaging@cvu3a.uk">digimaging@cvu3a.uk</a>         |
| PAT-tested 4-gang 5-metre extension lead        |                   |   |
| PAT-tested 4-gang 8-metre extension lead        |                   |   |
| Rubber mats to protect extension leads (x 2)    |                   |   |

# Chess Valley u3a Convenors

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

| Group                                    | Convenor/s                          | u3a email address       |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Art                                      | Mo Barnes                           | art@cvu3a.uk            |
|  | Angela Spittle                      |                         |
| Art Discussion 1                         | Angela Bishop                       | artdiscuss@cvu3a.uk     |
| Art Discussion 2                         | Caroline Jenks                      | artdiscuss2@cvu3a.uk    |
| Book Group 1                             | Gillian Eastmond and Mavis Earnshaw | bookgroup1@cvu3a.uk     |
|  | Mavis Earnshaw                      |                         |
| Book Group 2                             | Liz Howlett                         | bookgroup2@cvu3a.uk     |
|  | Christine Ross                      |                         |
| Book Group 3                             | Eileen Overton                      | bookgroup3@cvu3a.uk     |
| Book Group 4                             | Jackie Cobb                         | bookgroup4@cvu3a.uk     |
| Bowls (Green),<br>Outdoors (Chiltern)    | Margaret Stickland                  | bowls@cvu3a.uk          |
| Bowls (Short Mat),<br>Indoors (Chiltern) | Sue Spalton                         | shortbowls@cvu3a.uk     |
|  | Peter Williams                      |                         |
| Bridge                                   | John Curtis                         | bridge@cvu3a.uk         |
| Canasta                                  | Linda Hepworth                      | canasta@cvu3a.uk        |
|  | Sue Hawksley                        |                         |
| Chess                                    | Peter Schweiger                     | chess@cvu3a.uk          |
| City of London<br>Churches               | Jackie Cobb                         | londonchurches@cvu3a.uk |
| Current Affairs                          | Eileen Overton                      | currentaffs@cvu3a.uk    |
| Digital Imaging                          | Pippa Greensmith                    | digimaging@cvu3a.uk     |
|  | David Hurd                          |                         |
| Dinghy Sailing                           | Wendy Barnes                        | sailing@cvu3a.uk        |
|  | Judith Young                        |                         |
| Family History                           | Sue Broad                           | familyhist@cvu3a.uk     |
| Folk Music                               | Richard Skepper                     | folkmusic@cvu3a.uk      |
| French Conversation                      | Morag Robertson                     | frenchcons@cvu3a.uk     |
| French Intermediate                      | Hilary Alleston                     | french@cvu3a.uk         |
| Gardening                                | Stephanie Rothwell                  | garden@cvu3a.uk         |
|  | Camilla Plummer                     |                         |
| German                                   | Jenny Lee                           | german@cvu3a.uk         |
| History                                  | Claire Paterson                     | history@cvu3a.uk        |
|  | Ian Hutt                            |                         |
| Keep Fit for 60+<br>(currently dormant)  | Vacancy                             | keepfit60@cvu3a.uk      |
| Knitting and Other<br>Crafts             | Sue Rawbone                         | knit@cvu3a.uk           |
| Line Dancing<br>(Chiltern)               | Linda English                       | linedance@cvu3a.uk      |

(continues on next page)

# Chess Valley u3a Convenors (continued)

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

| Group                          | Convenor/s                         | u3a email address    |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Mah Jong                       | Ed Perrott                         | mahjong@cvu3a.uk     |
| MOTO                           | Mo Barnes                          | moto@cvu3a.uk        |
| MOTO 2                         | Rodney Newth                       | moto2@cvu3a.uk       |
| Patchwork & Quilting           | Angela Bratton                     | patchquilt@cvu3a.uk  |
|                                | Dee Watson                         |                      |
| Photography                    | David Hurd                         | photography@cvu3a.uk |
| Pilates (1, 2 and 3)           | Christine Ross                     | pilates@cvu3a.uk     |
|                                | Liz Howlett                        |                      |
| Play Reading                   | Claire Paterson                    | playread@cvu3a.uk    |
|                                | Linda Hepworth                     |                      |
| Poetry                         | Christine Ogborne                  | poetry@cvu3a.uk      |
| Railways                       | Graham Yellowley                   | railways@cvu3a.uk    |
|                                | James Cadle                        |                      |
| Singing for Pleasure           | Angela Bratton                     | singing@cvu3a.uk     |
|                                | Stephanie Rothwell                 |                      |
| Spanish Conv (Inter)           | Hilary Alleston                    | spanishconv@cvu3a.uk |
| Stamps                         | Brian Feakes                       | stamps@cvu3a.uk      |
| Tai Chi                        | Sue Broad                          | taichi@cvu3a.uk      |
|                                | Meg Brinton                        |                      |
| Theatre                        | Group run by a small sub-committee | theatre@cvu3a.uk     |
| Ukulele                        | Jeff Naman                         | ukulele@cvu3a.uk     |
|                                | Heather Sprake                     |                      |
| Amblers                        | Susan Osborne                      | amblers@cvu3a.uk     |
| Walkers 1                      | Stuart Stanley                     | walkers1@cvu3a.uk    |
| Walkers 2                      | Sue Rawbone                        | walkers2@cvu3a.uk    |
| Walkers 3                      | Jane Towers                        | walkers3@cvu3a.uk    |
| Striders 1                     | Andrew Brown                       | striders@cvu3a.uk    |
| Striders 2                     | Ian Lee                            | striders21@cvu3a.uk  |
| Walks into History:<br>Country | Peter Schweiger                    | walkshist@cvu3a.uk   |
|                                | Tony Biddle                        |                      |
| Walks into History:<br>London  | Angela Shipley                     | walkslondon@cvu3a.uk |
| Wildlife                       | Harry Howlett                      | wildlife@cvu3a.uk    |
|                                | Keith Sonley                       |                      |
| Wine Appreciation 1            | Pauline & Tom Hohenberg            | wine@cvu3a.uk        |
| Wine Appreciation 2            | Graham Hitchener                   | wine2@cvu3a.uk       |
| Writers                        | John & Helene Bunyan               | writers@cvu3a.uk     |



# They don't write 'em like that anymore

It's exactly 60 years since the Beatles opened their assault on an, admittedly moribund, music scene with an initial trio of *Please Please Me*, *She Loves You* and *I Wanna Hold Your Hand*. Personally I am a Stones man but, fair's fair, they weren't too rusty and their music is still as appealing to the current generation as it was back in the day.

So I wondered whether the same was true of our 1963 view of the music of 1903.

Song titles were more arresting, even alarming, with contenders for an Edwardian BRITS award including *Please Mother Buy Me a Baby*, *Hamlet was a Melancholy Dane* and *It takes the Irish to Beat the Dutch*.

At the same time, Hetty King (of *All The Nice Girls Love a Sailor* fame) was strutting her stuff and to be fair I did see her live in 1964 still performing her male impersonation of a jolly jack tar, controversial to the last, by striking a match on the sole of her boot to light a pipe! They don't make them like that anymore.

Does anyone remember Ida Barr? Obviously not, but you might recall her two hits *Oh You Beautiful Doll* and *Everybody's Doing It*; the latter theme was ruthlessly pursued by Max Miller forty years later. She was remembered by a fellow performer who, responding to her name, commented "Ida Barr! She could 'ide a bloody pub"; rather unfair if you look at a contemporary sepia picture of her.

So maybe the songs of 1903 didn't have the lasting power of our own golden age and we won't be around to see if Adele, Youngblud or Rag 'n Bone Man will either.

'Timewaster'

## Answers to the December - February mini quiz

- Art:** Dame Barbara Hepworth worked principally in the field of **sculpture**.  
Frans Hals' *The Laughing Cavalier* is in the Wallace Collection in London.
- Geography:** Yr Wyddfa is the now-preferred Welsh name for **Snowdon**.  
The Arches, Canyonlands and Bryce Canyon are located in the US state of **Utah**.
- Music:** **Franz Schubert's** 9<sup>th</sup> Symphony is known as 'The Great C Major'.  
**Leonard Cohen** wrote the oft-recorded song *Hallelujah*.
- History:** **Stanley Baldwin** was Prime Minister when Edward VIII abdicated.  
The Monument marks the start of the **Great Fire of London** in 1666.
- Literature:** The 1993 novel *Birdsong* was written by **Sebastian Faulks**.  
Michael Henchard is the principal character in *The Mayor of Casterbridge*.
- Science:** Plants use **photosynthesis** to convert light energy into chemical compounds.  
Antonie van Leeuwenhoek is credited with the invention of the **microscope**.
- Sport:** **Martina Navratilova** has won the most women's titles at Wimbledon (nine).  
The Duckworth-Lewis-Stern calculator is used to decide the result of a game truncated by rain in limited-overs **cricket**.

# News From The Groups

## GROUP MEETINGS

Groups are now meeting in person. All Groups are open to enquiries from new members and, if full, will hold a waiting list. Groups that are inactive do not have an entry in the newsletter.

***In public buildings it is important that the Convenor knows who is at the meeting in case of fire. Please, always sign in and out of the building. Also, make sure you know where the fire exits are. Please adhere to any pandemic hygiene rules set for the premises.***

## Art

Mo Barnes & Angela Spittle



Having completed our freestyle themes for Christmas, we are now concentrating on recreating our jigsaw Hockney poster. As usual, we also enjoyed participating in convivial coffee breaks including a belated New Year party, which included the option of non-alcoholic (or alcoholic) festive mulled wine! The Group is currently full.

## Art Discussion 1

Angela Bishop



In December we had a festive gathering at a member's home. For this meeting, one of our Group suggested that we chose a work which had been instrumental in our appreciation of art. It could be a picture, a sculpture, an ancient artefact or whatever. One member chose the glittering Bronze Age collars on display in a museum in Dublin, where to, as a child, she was taken by her father. Another chose an unusual picture, by Cezanne, of a murder: It's a dark gloomy work, unlike his landscapes and still-lives. She had seen it in the Walker Gallery in Liverpool as a teenager, then recently at the current exhibition in the Tate Modern in London. One member chose a painting by Edward Burne-Jones of King Cophetua and the beggar maid. It is an erotic picture, which hung in the entrance hall of the girls-only grammar school that she had attended. We all thought the headmistress responsible for choosing this piece was most progressive, and wished that we had gone to a similar school.

Our most recent meeting featured an Irish painter, Jack B Yeates. He was little known as an artist by our Group, being the younger brother of the famous poet, W B Yeates. Living from 1871 to 1957, he demonstrated a variety of styles in his paintings. Many of his works featured his homeland: the rugged countryside and its people. He loved to portray horses and their owners as in *At the Races* (1925) or the landscape as in *Cottage, Kerry* (1914). His later works show the influence of the Impressionists, as in *The Sunlit Page* (1952), a dreamy portrait of a young woman reading a book at a window. He has also been called an exponent of Expressionism, which is particularly seen in his work, *By Drumcliffe Strand, Long Ago* (1934). Here a young couple are portrayed meeting on an isolated beach.

Future meetings will feature Goya and the Pre-Raphaelites.

## Art Discussion 2

Caroline Jenks



Our December meeting was mainly devoted to planning for 2023. We have an exciting programme for the coming year, including a visit to the refurbished National Portrait Gallery and a mid-summer meeting in Caroline's garden, which is always a pleasure. We ended our Christmas meeting with a very tricky art quiz and some delicious festive treats.

There was no meeting in January due to the Bank Holiday, but this was more than made up for at February's meeting. Caroline gave us a fascinating insight into the life and work of Post-Impressionist Paul Cezanne, inspired by a recent exhibition of the artist's work at Tate Modern. Cezanne was a ground-breaker, taking liberties with shape and form which was unheard of at the time. He is often referred to as "the artist's artist" and "the father of modern art", as he acted as a bridge between the Impressionists and the Cubists. Hardly anyone knew of him in his lifetime but he is now recognised as one of the nineteenth century's greatest painters.

**Book 1****Gillian Eastmond & Mavis Earnshaw**

This friendly Book Group of about eight people meets on the third Friday morning of the month. We meet in three different members' homes in rotation, as this spreads out geographically the places where we meet.

We bring a fiction or non-fiction book that we have found interesting and so want to tell the Group about. After a brief description of the book's content, we say why we thought it worth reading. Often other people have also read the book and can give their comments, or we just ask further questions about it. We might sometimes progress to a short lively discussion about the theme of the book, or suggest other worthwhile books on the theme that we have read. Unless the book is on Kindle, or is a library book, the owner may be able to lend the book to those who want to read it.

If you want to join us, please email a Convenor to tell them you wish to come. You can always try us for a session to see if we are what you are looking for.

**Book 2****Liz Howlett & Christine Ross**

Book Group 2 meets at 2pm in Amersham Library on the first Wednesday of the month. We've had some challenges of late in securing our choice of book sets, but on the plus side, the room where we meet is kept very warm; a real hot spot in the chilly weather! Equally warm was the welcome we had at Gill's home in December for our customary mince pies and, for the round-robin, she summarises the books (and our reactions to them) that we have read during the year. We've recently read *One Good Turn* by Kate Atkinson and agreed it was no match for her preceding Jackson Brodie novel, *Cold Cases*. We then tackled two books that highlighted the challenges of going on holiday: *Do not be Alarmed* by Maile Meloy, and *Holiday* by Stanley Middleton. The latter, a Booker prize winner in the 70s, provoked reminiscences of our own early holidays. It was also enjoyed by Alison's new puppy; literally! It was a case of a good chew, as opposed to a good read!

**Book 3****Eileen Overton**

Meetings are held in members' homes at 2pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Availability is governed by the ten books we get each month from Chesham library. However, due to members moving away, a vacancy has occurred. Please contact the Convenor if you are interested in joining us. We have started 2023 by reading *My Cousin Rachel* by Daphne du Maurier and look forward to *Fingers in the Sparkle Jar* by Chris Packham and *The Stranger in my Home* by Adele Park. Once again we have tried to have a variety of subjects in the books we have chosen, in order to give us interesting discussions.

**Book 4****Jackie Cobb**

Book Group 4 have read *Clara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro, which triggered a great deal of discussion on artificial intelligence and appreciating nature. We are currently reading *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Kristy Lefteri, which tells us about the trials and tribulations of asylum seekers. It was especially poignant when the (asylum-seeker) beekeeper was describing his hometown of Aleppo; just as I was reading that part of the book, news of the earthquake was shown on the television. To see the pictures of the buildings of Aleppo completely devastated was heart wrenching. Our book after that is *Ethan Frome* by American Writer Edith Wharton.

Jackie

**Bowls (Green Outdoors)****Margaret Stickland (Chiltern u3a)**

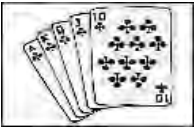
The Outdoor Bowls activity is dormant over winter. From May to September, CVu3a members can join Chiltern members for the season of weekly outdoor bowls on Wednesdays at Amersham Bowls Club, Hervines Park, from 10.30 to 12.30. The cost is £50 for the season. Contact Margaret to check on the availability of places, on [bowls@cvu3a.uk](mailto:bowls@cvu3a.uk).

**Bowls (Short Mat)****Sue Spalton & Peter Williams (Chiltern u3a)**

Chiltern u3a extends an invitation to our members to join them in playing Short Mat Bowls. In the winter we meet each Friday from 13.15 to 15.30 at Chesham White Hill Centre for Indoor Short Mat Bowls. In the summer we meet each Monday from 13.50 to 16.00 at Holmer Green Sports Association, for Outdoor Short Mat Bowls. The cost is £4.00 including a cup of tea per session.

There are vacancies for members who would like to 'try their hand'; experience not needed; tuition given; bowls available.

Interested members should contact the Convenors using: [shortbowls@cvu3a.uk](mailto:shortbowls@cvu3a.uk).

**Bridge****John Curtis**

The Bridge Group meets on Wednesday afternoons at Chartridge Park Golf Club. If you are interested in playing Bridge, please contact the Convenor to see if a place is available.

**Canasta****Linda Hepworth & Sue Hawksley**

We are a small friendly Group who meet on the third Monday of the month. We meet at each other's houses, but do not let this deter you if you are unable to accommodate people at your home. We would welcome anyone who wishes to join us.

Please contact us at: [canasta@cvu3a.uk](mailto:canasta@cvu3a.uk) if you are interested.

**Chess****Peter Schweiger**

The Chess Group met most recently at Caroline Jenks' home on the last Friday of the month. The game continues to exercise our minds. There is room for more members to do the same, if you are interested.

We regularly meet on the fourth Friday of the month at 2.30pm.

**Current Affairs****Eileen Overton**

Meetings are held in members' homes at 2pm on the first Thursday of each month. We discuss all sorts of topics in the news, and we listen to everyone's point of view. We learn so much from our fellow members who have a variety of skills and knowledge. We are not political and are very respectful towards all points of view. Come along and join us for a fun discussion. If you are interested please contact the Convenor for details of the next meeting.

**Digital Imaging****Pippa Greensmith & David Hurd**

In our recent meetings we have worked on manipulating images, adding textures and blurred backgrounds. Members also created book covers and triptychs. During the next quarter we will learn how to replace a sky or background and how to create Bokeh. We will also be examining Adobe Camera Raw and Lightroom for editing and correcting images. Potential members are welcome to drop in for taster sessions.

**Dinghy Sailing****Wendy Barnes & Judith Young**

The Dinghy Sailing Group has been inactive over the winter but we are looking forward to the coming season, which starts on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April. We normally meet in the afternoon (1pm until 5pm) on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of the month at Troy Lake, near Maple Cross. We welcome anyone who is an accredited member of any u3a and all abilities are catered for. All the details are on our page of the Chess Valley u3a website, but for more information, please contact one of the Convenors.



Traditionally we do not have a meeting in January as it would be so close to the Christmas festivities, but on 7th February a group of 25 of us, joined by five members of Amersham Family History Group, travelled by coach (kindly organised by Events Coordinator Jackie Cobb) to Kew to visit The National Archives. Some members of the Garden Group joined us and were dropped off at Kew Gardens to visit the Orchid Show, which looked spectacular.

On entry to the National Archives we were told that there is usually a security check but as we were a group we were not considered a security risk!

We were met in the reception area by the Visitor Experience Manager who attempted to introduce us to the facilities on offer. However he didn't anticipate the enthusiasm of some of our members who dashed off and started immediately on their own research.

The National Archives is a huge building and holds a wealth of documents, some of which are free to view online, such as the 1921 census. But to look at actual documents it is necessary to book in person or in advance and view in the Reading Rooms where security is quite tight. It was a long day but we all seemed to agree: a worthwhile visit.

We welcome new members. We meet on the first Tuesday in the month at Chesham Town Hall, starting at 2.15pm.

## Folk Music

Richard Skepper



The Group has become more buoyant and better attended since Christmas. A performance for a short, private function at the end of March has given us something to focus on and we are eagerly trying to hone a suitable set of songs, rather than just playing and singing loads of different items. It may whet our appetite for a more public performance down the line. Agreeing on a name is proving a little difficult. Having just acquired a bass player there are now 11 of us, but we have room for a couple more instrumentalists or singers, and would especially welcome someone who would beat a drum, whether they have done that before or not.

## French Conversation

Morag Robertson



The French Conversation Group has continued to meet regularly. We chat about numerous topics, whether in France, other Pays Francophones or more locally! These may be about favourite buildings, books we have read or can recommend, or television programmes we have seen, some of which may be in French. The aim of the conversations is to revise vocabulary and verb structures so that when we eventually return to France we feel more confident orally and can participate in every day life in France (or other Pays Francophones).

## French Intermediate

Hilary Alleston

We enjoyed our French style lunch after Christmas and will continue to pursue an improvement in our spoken French, while learning more about the culture and traditions of the different departments of France. New members are welcome.

*Page fillers in this issue are taken from 'Paraprosdokian: 40 funny sentences you won't expect':*

*"Thomas Jefferson once said 'We should never judge a president by his age, only by his works.' And ever since he told me that, I stopped worrying."* (Ronald Reagan)

*"If I had to name my greatest strength, I guess it would be my humility. Greatest weakness, it's possible that I'm a little too awesome."* (Barack Obama)



Our first speaker of 2023 was Kay McHugh who, with help from her daughter Aideen, gave us a delightful talk about their life after purchasing Church Gardens, Harefield in 1995. Church Gardens is the original walled garden of the Harefield Place estate. Church Gardens was, at the time, completely derelict, as was the house, which was included in the sale. Kay, with her husband Patrick, could visualise how the derelict house and garden could be brought back to life and restored. Kay's talk was a humorous account of their journey, with all its trials, tribulations and good times! They managed to transform the gardens into an inspiring, innovative and sustainable productive garden, which they now open to the public.

Fellow u3a member Keith Hoffmeister gives us a video presentation: *A Year at Chenies* at our meeting at the end of February. As Keith used to be the Convenor of the Photography Group, there are some wonderful scenes of Chenies throughout the seasons. He also has a couple of old films of when Blue Peter visited Chenies in the 1970's; great fun!

## German

Jenny Lee



Our very friendly German Group continues to meet twice a month in each other's houses. We talk about all sorts of things and usually have a theme. Here is a German idiom about April:

"Der April macht was er will": German weather lore says: "April does what it wants".

In fact April is a bit of a moody month: sunshine one moment and a thunderstorm or even snow the next!!!

## History

Claire Paterson &amp; Ian Hutt



Our December meeting was hit by snow so the planned gathering in the Council Chamber with mulled wine and nibbles for Christmas had to be cancelled. Fortunately our speaker, Andy Thomas, had already agreed to give his talk on *Christmas; A Festive History* via Zoom. We had already agreed that travelling from East Sussex to Buckinghamshire in December was too risky a venture.

Andy gave a fascinating and quite uplifting presentation, which uncovered the long and intriguing background to the festive season. From the ancient celebration of light in the winter darkness to the marking of the birth of the Messiah, he drew together the threads of beliefs, celebrations and traditions from even before the Christian birth: A beautifully illustrated and sensitive overview, and a warm and unique prelude to the coming celebrations.

Our Chairman, James Cadle, presented our January talk, *A Brief History of Malta*. Many members had been to Malta but James's talk revealed more about the country than many knew. It was first inhabited around 5900 BCE by farmers, whose agricultural methods degraded the soil until the islands became uninhabitable. It was then repopulated around 3850 BCE by a people who built the Megalithic Temples, which today are among the oldest surviving buildings in the world.

It was colonised in 700 BCE for around 600 years by the Phoenicians, until it fell to the Roman Republic. Populated by Arabs in the 11th century, it was then invaded from Sicily, becoming Christianised. The islands were given to the Order of St. John and the Knights Hospitallers in 1530 before invasion by the Ottoman Empire, which was repelled. The Order was expelled by the French who invaded in 1798 but the Maltese rebelled, expelled the French and the islands subsequently became a British protectorate.

For the British, the Islands were an important naval base, consequently being attacked by the Axis powers during WWII. King George VI awarded the George Cross (the highest civil award for gallantry) to the island fortress of Malta, its people and defenders.

This was a most informative talk on the long history of the islands of Malta, the invasions and occupations they suffered due to their valued and coveted position in the centre of the Mediterranean Sea and their progress throughout, leading to the very popular holiday destination they are today.

(cont.)

Another cvu3a member, West Marshall, spoke to us in February about *Tipu Sultan and the Siege of Mangalore*. West had formed his talk from a collection of 300 letters he had inherited from grandparents. They were received and written by Robert Kitson, a relative through marriage who worked for the East India Company as an administrator, dealing in particular with the financial affairs of soldiers in their extensive private army.

The port city of Mangalore on the west coast of India was of great strategic importance to Tipu. The British East India Company had set up a garrison there which Tipu laid siege to for nine months until capitulation. Bombarded by stone missiles and weakened by illness and starvation, there were only 850 survivors from the original garrison of 2800 British soldiers and Indian troops. West painted a very vivid picture of the privations they suffered.

The second part of his talk was *A Voyage from London to Bombay in the 18th Century* undertaken by another relative. Again, it proved a great story of the logistics of such a journey in that period. Leaving his wife and three children behind, he took a coach to Portsmouth. Waiting for his sailing ship to manoeuvre its way in convoy before even setting sail, he decided to return home to his family to make use of the time. He returned to find he'd missed the ship, so he had to go through the whole process again: Finding a berth on another ship then having to spend time in another port awaiting repairs to the ship. Eventually he arrived in Bombay to take up a post with the East India Company 330 days later. West slotted in quite a few amusing asides, particularly ending with a suggestion that we no longer complain about spending an hour or so waiting for a speedy flight to some foreign destination.

We will be welcoming Stephen Barker to our March meeting: An excellent professional speaker who led our Group tour last year around the Civil War sites in Oxford. The title of his talk is *Saints and Sinners of the English Civil War*.

### Keep Fit for 60+



The Keep Fit Group is suspended and in need of new Convenors. If you are able to help, please come forward: it's not complicated and help can be given to volunteers. We are also currently without an instructor, so please contact the Groups Coordinator, Helen Barnard, if you know of anyone. Email: [groups@cvu3a.uk](mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk)

### Knitting & Other Crafts

Sue Rawbone



We meet in members' houses twice a month on the first and third Monday afternoons. Some of our members are creating lovely colourful pieces, which certainly make for interesting comments. As there are quite a variety of different crafts being worked on, it certainly encourages those of us less adventurous to give it a go.

If anyone would like to join the Group, please contact the Convenor. We do limit numbers to about 10, so currently have space for one more person.

### Line Dancing

Linda English



The Line Dancing Group is run by Chiltern u3a, but we also welcome members from Chess Valley u3a. We normally meet in the Methodist Church, Bellingdon Road, Chesham, HP5 2HA on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10am. Meetings last one hour and we pay our teacher each time we attend a class. No experience is necessary and the emphasis is on enjoying ourselves, exercising body and mind and having fun. There is parking available at the venue. We currently have a waiting list. Please contact the Convenors if you wish to be put on it.

Email: [u3alinedance@chiltern-u3a.org.uk](mailto:u3alinedance@chiltern-u3a.org.uk)

*"That's the true spirit of Christmas: people being helped by people other than me."*

*(Seinfeld)*

*"If I could say a few words, I would be a better public speaker."*

*(The Simpsons)*

**Mah Jong****Edward Perrott**

Mah Jong is a game played with tiles, which originated in China. It's a very sociable and fun game played by two, three or four people. There is no competition involved as each person plays their own game and any mistakes are easily hidden! Don't worry if you haven't played before: If you have ever played the simplest of card games, you will quickly pick up the basics of Mah Jong. This is a friendly group of people who enjoy each other's company for an afternoon playing, chatting with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Anyone is welcome from beginners to more experienced players. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays (except Bank Holidays) at 2pm in the Free Church, Amersham. Our Group is currently full. If you would like your name to go on our waiting list, please contact the Convenor.

**MOTO (Members On Their Own)****Mo Barnes**

Since our enjoyable Christmas lunch at 'The Boot and Slipper', the MOTOs have continued to meet for their convivial fortnightly Sunday lunches at local hostelrys and restaurants. These have included 'Ego' at 'The Pomeroy', 'The White Hart' and 'The Ivy House'. We are looking forward to further outings once the weather improves. Meanwhile, we continue hold our monthly planning meetings over a coffee morning at the Convenor's home.

**MOTO 2****Rodney Newth**

We have met at a different pub every month since we reconvened last summer. In January we met at the 'Black Horse' in The Vale, Chesham, and in February at 'The Bell' in Bovingdon where we had an excellent meal and good conversation. In March we plan to meet at 'The Cock Inn' at Sarratt and in April we will meet at the 'White Hart' in Whelpley Hill. In May we plan to visit the 'Hit and Miss' in Penn Street. Looking further ahead, two members have volunteered to host meetings in their gardens during the summer. There are nine members in the Group and we are open to welcome anyone else who is a member on their own and would like to join us. Contact me via CVu3a website.

Rodney

**Patchwork & Quilting****Angela Bratton & Dee Watson**

The Group continues to meet at Hyde Heath, 9.30am to 3.30pm on the third Wednesday of each month, each member bringing their own projects to start, continue or complete. Each stage of making our work can be enjoyed by other members, with advice and encouragement both given and received. It is a very friendly Group so if you can sew and want to get into or return to patchwork, contact us or come along to one of our sessions to see what we do. We also support local charities by donating some of our projects to them. There's no homework or pressure; we work at our own pace on what we enjoy. Occasionally we visit a craft show during the year.

**Photography****David Hurd**

The Photography Group meets on the third Wednesday in the month and new members are always welcome. At each meeting we look at members' photographs and show a video to demonstrate photography techniques as well as arranging field trips from time to time.

In January, the Group discussed the possibility of a project that would run through the rest of the year, as this would encourage members to use their cameras. Several projects were discussed, including garden photographs and another exhibition, but in conclusion the Group agreed that individuals would set their own projects for the year and that these would be shown at the December meeting in place of 'Five Minutes of Fame'.

(cont.)



The subjects for regular meetings were discussed, including table-top and macro-photography, landscape photography and further speakers. It was confirmed that Drew Burnett would present his wildlife photographs at the March meeting; members will be asked to pay £3 to cover his costs.

Members were keen to have a full programme of field visits and several ideas were proposed, including College Lake, Ashridge, Beaconsfield and London, especially the stations and Battersea power station. The provisional programme is shown below.

In February we looked at the photographs that members had sent in of the urban environment and snowdrops. We also looked at two videos; one on taking photographs of bluebells, (*Newmillerdam Bluebells*: YouTube), the other on taking city photographs.

The next field trip will be a resurrection of the night photography trip to Old Amersham, which was postponed last year due to the cold weather. This will be on the 5th April.

Programme:

15<sup>th</sup> March: Drew Burnett: *Wild Eye*: Wildlife photography adventures around the world.  
Project for next meeting: Flowers and Bluebells.

5<sup>th</sup> April: Field Trip: Night Photography, Amersham

19<sup>th</sup> April: Night Photos. Shadow Photos. Bluebell Photos. Landscape Videos.  
Project for next meeting: Food.

10<sup>th</sup> May: Field trip to College Lake; Barry to lead.

## Pilates

Liz Howlett & Christine Ross



It was a chilly start to 2023 for the Pilates Groups when, on turning up for our first class, we discovered the heating at the Jubilee Hall was not working. Our instructor Sue improvised and we did an aerobic class, which she normally teaches online. It's aimed at the more mature, so was quite suitable and it kept us moving. The second week the heating was still broken, but heaters were supplied. Pilates one and two opted to do Pilates, but Pilates three chose aerobics. Apparently it was proving difficult to find a heating engineer: The hall was too large for domestic engineers and too small for industrial.

I am happy to report that by week three, all was well and the under floor heating was in good working order, so all the extra jumpers could be discarded and muscles were stretched and balance tested as normal in Pilates. All three classes are continuing to enjoy it, with this term running until Easter, when we will have a short break before returning for the summer term.

Please contact Christine or Liz if you would like to join us.

## Play Reading

Claire Paterson & Linda Hepworth



The Group did not meet in December as it was rather too near to Christmas and our January get together was for a Christmas/New Year lunch at a member's home; a very enjoyable occasion with everyone bringing a contribution to the menu.

We have two plays for our February meeting. *50 and Counting*: a one act farcical comedy by Jack Booth. Approaching 50, Julie, marriage over, acting career faltering, finances failing, poses for a nude magazine! She flirts with the photographer, unaware of his relationship with her eldest daughter. She is met with disgust from her youngest daughter and elderly mother. More complications arise with her estranged husband's arrival with his much younger girlfriend: an intriguing scenario.

The second play is *And a Little Love Besides* by Alan Plater. A new vicar believes in loving and forgiving, which his parishioners find difficult to understand, it not being the way their old vicar would have behaved. The suggestion that the small incident that so appals them can be treated so lightly leaves them shocked and amazed; some comedy, but central to the play is a simple man caught by the forces of small town prejudice and mindless cruelty. We're Looking forward to that one by one of our much celebrated playwrights.

Our Poetry Group meets on the fourth Thursday of every month and we read and discuss a variety of poetry. In December we celebrated Christmas with a glass of bubbly, a mince pie and then we read limericks, which produced much laughter. January saw us choosing examples from our favourite Romantic Poets. Some chosen were *Ode to a Nightingale* by Keats, *Ozymandias* by Shelley and *I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud* by Wordsworth, as well as offerings by Byron and Blake.

In February Charles Causley, the celebrated Cornish poet, was our choice. His poetry was inspired by his time in the Royal Navy during the war years and also by the scenery and nature of Cornwall and Devon. *Yelverton* and *On All Soul's Day* were just two of the chosen poems.

Future meetings will be:

March: Trees and Woods

April: T S Eliot

May: The Poetry of World War One

Please contact the Convenor if you are interested in joining our Group.



Can we extend a very warm welcome to our recently joined new members. It's very pleasing that our members continue to turn out in all kinds of weather to enjoy our monthly talks and visits. Thanks to all the members of the Railways Group for their continued support.

December 16<sup>th</sup>, Ivan Cadge: *The Abingdon Branch Railway*: A very interesting talk by Ivan who brought the Abingdon Branch Railway to life with a wonderful series of slides, anecdotes and a seven foot map. Originally built to Broad Gauge specification, the line was soon converted to Standard Gauge when it was taken over by GWR in 1904. After the line was closed in 1963 it was still used for quite a while as a delivery route for MG cars from the Oxford factory. Ivan is also a member of the Oxford and District Model Railway Club, which has built the Abingdon Branch as one of their layouts.

January 20<sup>th</sup>, John Coke: *Slough & Windsor Railway*: John brought a slide projector and screen to display his evocative slides of the railway. The first slides were from pictures taken in the 1840s and John gave us a talk through the ages of the Slough and Windsor Railway up to the 1980s. The detail in the slides was excellent and the aerial views of the town and goods yards were quite revealing. The Slough and Windsor Railway Society meets every Friday in 'The Manor' next to Slough Station.

February 17<sup>th</sup>: A Visit to the Postal Museum: A group of 21 of us visited the Postal Museum and Mail Rail underground rail system. After refreshments in the café we lined up for the Mail Rail ride, which is a fifteen minute ride through the rail tunnels which were built to transport mail between Mount Pleasant Sorting Office near Kings Cross, and Paddington. The carriages are small and covered by a Perspex roof and the trip was very interesting with stops where the history and story of the Mail Rail was described by large video and sound presentations. After the ride, the Mail Rail exhibition was next, which again was very informative. Then on a visit to the Postal Museum, covering the history of the Post since its inception. This included a new exhibition of King Charles III stamps and 50p coins: A very interesting visit.

The Railways Group Programme for the next few months of 2023 is as follows:

|                          |                             |                  |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| March 17 <sup>th</sup> : | <i>A Life on the Tube</i> : | Ian Arthurton    |
| April 21 <sup>st</sup> : | DVD showing:                | James Cadle      |
| May 19 <sup>th</sup> :   | <i>125 Group</i> :          | Gary Heelas      |
| June 16 <sup>th</sup> :  | <i>P2 Prince of Wales</i> : | Chris Ardy       |
| July 23 <sup>rd</sup> :  | Fawley Hill Railway visit:  | Graham Yellowley |

Please contact one of the Convenors if you wish to join the Group; you will be very welcome. The Railways Group talks are held in Christ Church Hall, Chesham.

28<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Notice that the 15<sup>th</sup> **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** for the Chess Valley u3a will be held on **Thursday 08 June 2023 at 2.00 pm in the Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham.**

The purpose of this advance notification is to enable you to:

- Make nominations of candidates for election to the committee at the AGM. There are currently **two vacancies** for new committee members.
- Notify the Secretary of any motions you wish to be dealt with at the meeting.

You may wish to nominate someone to become a member of the Committee. To assist you in making a nomination, enclosed is a form, which you should complete and return to the Secretary by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

If you wish to propose any other matters for discussion these must be put in writing, proposed and seconded, and forwarded to the Secretary (via email at [secretary@cvu3a.uk](mailto:secretary@cvu3a.uk), or via post to the below address) by 12<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

The meeting will be followed by our usual monthly General Meeting.

Chess Valley u3a  
Business Secretary  
137 Priestley Drive  
Tattenhoe Park  
Milton Keynes  
MK4 4PW

# The Fifteenth Annual General Meeting of the Chess Valley U3A

## AGENDA

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Minutes of the 14th AGM, held 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022
- 3 Reports from (a) The Chairman  
(b) The Treasurer
- 4 Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023
- 5 Appointment of an Examiner for the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024
- 6 Election of Officers and Committee Members (all Trustees); see notes below
- 7 Any other Business

### Notes

The Committee comprises up to ten members. Officers and Committee Members are Trustees of Chess Valley u3a., Reg. Charity No. 1126990. The present incumbents are:-

#### Officers

|                |        |                                  |
|----------------|--------|----------------------------------|
| James Cadle    | (2)(4) | Chair                            |
| Helen Barnard  | (2)(4) | Vice-Chair                       |
| Geoff Naylor   | (1)    | Treasurer                        |
| Colin O'Rourke |        | Secretary (retiring at this AGM) |

#### Committee Members

|                |     |                      |
|----------------|-----|----------------------|
| John Bunyan    | (1) | Newsletter Editor    |
| Jackie Cobb    | (2) | Events Organiser     |
| Valerie Garrod | (2) | Webmaster            |
| Jim Wilkie     | (1) | Membership Secretary |
| West Marshall  | (3) | Trustee              |
| Vacancy        | (5) |                      |
| Vacancy        | (5) |                      |

#### Notes:

(1) Geoff Naylor, John Bunyan, and Jim Wilkie, having been appointed for two-year terms at the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM in 2022, are willing to continue to serve in their current positions.

(2) James Cadle (Chair), Helen Barnard (Vice-Chair), Jackie Cobb (Events Organiser), and Valerie Garrod (Webmaster), having been appointed for two-year terms at the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM in 2021, have offered themselves for re-election in their current positions.

(3) West Marshall, having been co-opted as a Trustee on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023, has been nominated for election as Secretary.

(4) James Cadle (additional role as Joint Newsletter Editor), and Helen Barnard (additional role as Groups Co-ordinator), are willing to continue to serve in these current positions for a further year.

(5) **Vacancies:** Nominations for new committee members to fill the vacant positions, or to contest any of the roles available for re-election at this meeting, will be welcome.



## Committee Elections June 2023

### Nomination Form for Officers and Committee Members

Two Committee positions are vacant, plus three Officer and two Committee roles are subject to election.

Position applied for (tick one or more boxes)

Trustee Vacancy 1

Trustee Vacancy 2

Chair

Secretary

Vice-Chair

Events Organiser

Webmaster

#### Proposer and Secunder

Proposer's name (in capitals) .....

Signature .....

Secunder's name (in capitals) .....

Signature .....

Nominees full name (in capitals).....

Nominee's CVu3a membership number (if known).....

#### Nominee Declaration

If elected, I am willing to accept the position for a two-year term on the Chess Valley u3a Committee.

Signature ..... Date.....

Please send your nomination, by post or email, no later than 12 May 2023 to

Chess Valley u3a [secretary@cvu3a.uk](mailto:secretary@cvu3a.uk)

The Secretary  
137 Priestley Drive  
Tattenhoe Park  
Milton Keynes  
MK4 4PW

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## Singing for Pleasure

Stephanie Rothwell & Angela Bratton



After the Christmas break the Group revitalised their vocal chords at the start of the new term in January. Ali, our choir leader, had been busy during the holidays finding new pieces to add to our growing repertoire. These include *Blackbird* by The Beatles, a medley of Everly Brothers' songs and Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, as well as more classical and sacred pieces.

Some of the Group will be performing for the Totteridge Stroke Group on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> March. This used to be a fairly regular occurrence before the pandemic and we are looking forward to resuming these short concerts.

Rehearsals now take place in a larger venue as a result of which we can accommodate more members in the Group. We are particularly short of tenors! So, if you enjoy singing and would like to join the Group, please contact one of the Convenors. Full details can be found on the CVu3a website.

## Spanish Conversation (Intermediate)

Hilary Alleston



Some of us have been visiting family abroad, and one member has had a great trip to South America, so we still have plenty to talk about, as well as discussing current affairs and the books we are reading. The Group is still full.

## Stamps

Brian Feakes



We were due to have a meeting at the end of January, but at the last minute our speaker cancelled due to family illness. We are planning on having our next meeting in March but have yet to identify a speaker.

## Tai Chi

Sue Broad & Meg Brinton



Peter, our tutor, has been unable to teach us for two weeks due to a medical procedure, but he sent one of his students, Haidee, who has been studying with him for 50 Years! She led us through our standard programme but seemed to push us a bit more on the stretching exercises than we were used to, and we were all exhausted at the end of the session.

We are so glad that Peter was able to re-join us after half term, but felt fortunate that such temporary cover is available.

Unfortunately the class is full so we are unable to offer places to new members.

## Theatre

Helen Barnard & Geoff Naylor



We all enjoyed *Top Hat* just before Christmas, although we have not generally ventured out on the cold dark winter nights.

Our next outing is on Saturday 3rd June to see the Somerset Maugham play *The Circle*. We have nothing further booked at present, having been unsuccessful in getting tickets for Stratford this summer. Our trips are planned following suggestions from Group members, so if something takes your eye, please do let us know and we can investigate further.

We are still able to accept new members so please do email us on: [theatre@cvu3a.uk](mailto:theatre@cvu3a.uk)

*"He taught me housekeeping; when I divorce I keep the house."* (Zsa Zsa Gabor)

*"Standing in the park today, I was wondering why a frisbee looks larger the closer it gets...then it hit me."* (Stewart Francis)



The Ukulele Group continues to meet up on a fortnightly basis at the Methodist Church in Chesham, Tuesdays 2.30 - 4.00pm. I am pleased to report that we have had three new enquiries about joining; we have met for a chat on an individual basis to run through the details of the Group, and we already have one new member signed up. It can be quite daunting to join an established Group, but we are always happy to welcome beginners. If you want more information, please contact me.

Jeff Naman 07976 633798

### Walking Groups

Walking Groups are now fully active. Individuals from the Groups are also walking individually to scout new routes.

### Amblers (3 - 4 miles)

Sue Osborne

The weather seems to have played a major role in our ambling in recent months! Our December walk was cancelled owing to extremely icy unsafe conditions. January proved similarly unsuccessful as a result of torrential rain that not even the hardest walker could tolerate.

However, one February morning (albeit foggy), eleven amblers enjoyed a walk through Angling Spring woods between Prestwood and Great Missenden. Unfortunately, the beautiful views of the Misbourne valley were shrouded in mist, but on the plus side it obscured the eyesore created by the building of HS2!

It was a slightly short walk, but we all agreed that wasn't a problem; part of the pleasure of walking in a group is the company of others.

Caroline Lyons and Sue Osborne

### Walkers (5 - 7 miles)

#### Walkers 1

Stuart Stanley

Our Group meets at various locations on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at 10:00. Walks are usually between four and five and a half miles long and are led by members. We usually meet for a picnic or pub lunch (optional) after the walk. Walks are planned with walk leaders and published every three months, and members advise the walk leader if they wish to participate.

For the first quarter 2023, we held or will hold walks in Willstone, Chipperfield, Chenies and one other location yet to be announced. New members are welcome, including members of other Walking Groups.

#### Walkers 2

Sue Rawbone

Our Group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month and walks are normally five or so miles long. Before Covid we used to meet up at a local eatery and have lunch after the walk, which was organised by the walk leaders. However we have not returned to this format as the majority of walkers now prefer to make their own arrangements after a walk, although we did have a Christmas get together in December at the 'Red Lion' in Penn, following our combined walk with Walkers 3. Normally leaders will mention local pubs in their walk details sent out each month, which is very helpful.

In January we had a lovely walk around Sarratt, which avoided much of the mud, and our February walk takes us to Rickmansworth Aquadrome, hopefully mud free.

New members are always welcome but please contact the Convenor first.

#### Walkers 3

Jane Towers

A few people braved January's walk in very slippery conditions up Rectory Hill woods, then up Longfield Drive, across Hervines, along Copperkins Lane and then, via the footpath, to Hyde Heath: Down the Hill, over the railway and into Little Missenden, then following the South Bucks Way via Shardeloes back to Amersham.

(cont.)



February's walk was due to be around Prestwood but the mud dictated otherwise, so the Group walked a circular route from 'The Boot' in Sarratt, via Bucks Hill and Chipperfield Common. March's walk is due to be around Chipperfield towards Flaunden, using some of the Chiltern Way and some of the Hertfordshire Way. For anyone wishing to join Walkers 3, we venture out on the first Wednesday of the month. Please contact Jane at: [walkers3@cvu3a.uk](mailto:walkers3@cvu3a.uk)

### Striders 1 & 2 (7 - 15 miles)

Andrew Brown & Ian Lee



At the beginning of December we held our annual Christmas Walk and Lunch which, this year, had to take a different format from previous years. We had a bright sunny day for the circular walk from Prestwood, with a stop at Great Missenden for mulled wine and mince pies. The shared lunch, with entertainment from Nigel Hughes and a raffle organised by Jeremy Wyman, was enjoyed by 40 members of the Group. We raised £503 towards our chosen good cause; providing walking equipment and clothing for children from Chiltern Hills Academy in Chesham doing the expeditions part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award. At the Christmas Walk we always reveal our walking total for the past year and this time it was 5,700 miles, which means we have walked the equivalent of Amersham to Rio de Janeiro. We may have encountered some wet patches on the way, but all good practice for our 2023 walks!

Since then we have been into our stride of regular walks generally, with good weather, although underfoot some of the routes have been extremely wet and muddy. Of course, some Tuesdays it does rain and generally some Striders will brave the elements; 10th January was one good example, when 11 of us enjoyed a convivial walk from Amersham despite the rain, followed by a very welcome soup lunch, thanks to Daryl-Ann Hardman. But such are the idiosyncrasies of Chilterns weather, that one week later Joe Hardman led another Striders walk which was enjoyed in bright sunshine.

Now our minds are turning to summer activities. The annual trip away, organised by Jill Smith, is a four-night break in Whitby over the last weekend in April, with walks on the North Yorkshire Moors. At the moment this is fully booked but, if you are interested, there may be later cancellations, so do enquire. For the annual daytrip we are expecting to explore the area between Winchcombe and Broadway in the Cotswolds. The provisional date is 11th July. Your leaders are working out the logistics and will publish details in March. As the days get longer, the all-day walks on the 5th Tuesday of the month will also appear again for that dedicated core group of Striders who appreciate longer walks with a picnic lunch.

It is great to welcome new members to both Groups. We generally walk about 7 miles over 3 hours and often are near a place to buy lunch afterwards (generally, but not always, at a pub). So if you are interested in joining us please contact either Andrew Brown (Striders 1 Convenor) or Ian Lee (Striders 2 Convenor). Striders 2 walk on the first and third Tuesdays of every month and Striders 1 on the second and fourth Tuesdays. This is a very sociable way of getting some exercise while exploring different areas of the Chilterns.

### Walks into History: Country

Tony Biddle & Peter Schweiger

#### *Weston Turville in January*

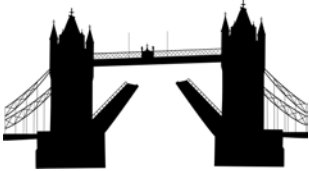


Well, what a walk! The weather in the previous few days ensured that we had sturdy conditions to contend with and we were well exercised as a result. Helen commenced with a well-researched introduction to Weston Turville and then handed over to Lew Ayres, a local character of some repute. Lew led us manfully around Weston Turville, adding his recollections as we went along. The conditions underfoot were difficult but nobody complained about that.

Returning to The 'Five Bells' was most welcome. Muddied but undaunted, we sat down to a relaxed chat with some well chosen food in front of us. It is always difficult to plan winter walks with the uncertainty of the weather to contend with but, with that in mind, the good cheer of our Group ensured we enjoyed a good day out.

Our thanks go to Lew, for his stamina and good nature as always and to Helen for her researches and presentation.

Jim Olney



### *A Village in Piccadilly: December 14<sup>th</sup>*

Usually our London walks run smoothly, but of late there have been spanners flying and this time we landed one good and proper. It was only a matter of time before we hit a rail strike day and this ill-fated walk was hit for a second time. This popular tour had been scheduled for April 2020 but Covid 19 had seen it off as one of the first activities to be cancelled, delaying it for two and a half years. However, 39 of us braved the Met Line and freezing conditions to cower in the doorway of the Criterion Building to wait for our husband and wife team of guides, Adam and Karen Scott, two lively characters who whisked us off on a slightly foreshortened version on speed, before frostbite set in.

It was too cold to take notes so detail is somewhat lacking but first we have to understand what makes a village; not the Piccadilly we see today, you may say, but what it was once; a way out of the defined London of the day, and located in rural surroundings comprising the necessary components of a high street, a church and a mansion. If you want proof then you only have to go as far as the Haymarket where the cows were brought to be sold and, as to why is it called Piccadilly, well, it could be after a grand house, Pickadilly Hall built in 1611 by tailor Robert Baker, who made the stiff lace collar or ruffs called a Piccadill; fashionable in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Or if you prefer, a prostitute used to be called a dilly. In days gone by this was a red light area and here you could "pick a dilly". You choose; I am only the messenger!

We dived into festive arcades, the Royal, the Piccadilly, the Opera and of course the Burlington: some sadly lifeless where shops haven't survived the pandemic. We ended up in the exclusive Jermyn St, built in 1819 with 72 shops, a place of shirts, suits and ties where there is no need to show prices in the windows. We entered the church of St James built by Christopher Wren, offering sanctuary from the cold, made all the better by two young musicians rehearsing for a concert, on violin and piano. We proceeded to Burlington House, a private Neo-Palladian mansion, owned by the Earls of Burlington and now home to the Royal Academy of Arts. The guides left us at Fortnum and Mason and, after slowly passing by its decorated windows, some of our Group may have ventured inside, but John and I, conscious of the need to get home before the rush, took the long walk back to Baker Street. London was actually at its best that day: no crowds, quieter, more dignified.

Angela Shipley

### Wildlife

Harry Howlett & Keith Sonley



The Wildlife Group started the year on a high note with a good turnout of members for the opening meeting on *Animal Architecture* given by John Tyler. The trouble that animals go to, particularly insects, to minimise the risk of predation whilst providing the best habitat for their offspring, had us all spellbound.

In February we were treated to a talk by Lindsay Engers on owning and running an orchard near St Leonards dedicated to varieties of heritage fruit. A total of 42 members listened intently to the challenges of starting the orchard from scratch and attempting eco-cultivation to promote a wildlife habitat. Sadly, the orchard is not open to the public, but the produce can be found in local hostelrys such as the 'Orford Arms' at Frithsden.

In March, we will focus our attention on *Dragons and Damsels* (flies of course) with a talk by Brian Clews from Cookham. Plans are afoot to fix up field visits in the coming months when the weather becomes a little warmer. We are looking at the possibilities of bird ringing and moth collection to name two subjects of potential interest. If you are interested in wildlife issues, give us a try: you will be most welcome.

*"I'm a very tolerant man, except when it comes to holding a grudge."* (Robin Williams)

*"The company accountant is shy and retiring. He's shy a million dollars. That's why he's retiring."* (Milton Berle)



For our November meeting Patrick Clarke, in his wisdom, chose oriental wines as his theme. This caused the Group some difficulties in interpretation, as wines from the true Orient proved impossible to obtain in South Bucks, leading to a liberal interpretation of the geography. We opened with a *Diamant Riesling Brut* sparkling wine from (East) Germany at 12.5% and some Waitrose Cava at 11.5%. These were followed by a *Contari Romanian Demisec* at 13% from near the Moldovan border and the Black Sea. At £9.99 it was described as suitable for accompanying meaningful meetings, which this certainly was not! Then we had a *Cuvee Cyril* from Macedonia at 11.5% made from Chardonnay and Temjanika grapes; Then a big jump geographically to a *Pepperbox un-oaked Chardonnay* from South East Australia at 13% from Tesco for £10.

Continuing around the globe, we had an *Altiplano* from Bolivia, grown at 6000ft with Marselan and Tannat grapes, at 14%, then back to Romania for Laithwaites very popular *Incanta Pinot Noir* at 12.5%. We concluded our world tour with some excellent *Sawanotsuru* Japanese Sake rice wine at 14.5%.

Our pre-Christmas potluck supper at the Brattons had a French theme and we opened with Tesco's Finest *Blanquette de Limoux* at 12.5%. Salmon pate was accompanied by a Macon Villages *Lugny les Charmes* at 13%. The chicken fricassee with Somerset cider was paired with a *Chateau La Platus* 2016 Bordeaux at 13.5%, which was 75% Merlot and 25% Cabernet Sauvignon, then a Côtes du Rhône: *Chateau d'Ampuis 2019*. Lemon curd roulade, chocolate cheese cake and fruit, found a perfect partner in a *Cantine Pellegrino Marsala Superiore Garibaldi Dolce* at 18% and a *Chateau de Berne Graves 2015* at 12.5%, made from Cabernet Sauvignon with a little Merlot.

January is the traditional time for a Burns Supper at the Howletts. A *Cremant de Bourgogne Blanc de Blancs* and Waitrose's essential Cava preceded the Selkirk Grace and Ralph Broomby's original Grace:

With fish, WAGs drink a wine that's white  
 With most meats one that's red  
 But Haggis is a neutral beast  
 So water's fine instead  
  
 But Harry is a connoisseur  
 And generous to a fault  
 He says it MUST be Whiskey  
 And preferably Single Malt  
  
 So raise a glass of what you've got  
 To Robbie and our hosts  
 And WAGs both here and far away  
 Let's drink this Burns Night toast.

The Haggis, neeps and tatties were washed down with a *Vilain Freres Chablis*, a Waitrose South African *Chenin Blanc*, M&S' *Lock Keepers Shiraz* from Australia, a French *Chateau Meaume Bordeaux* at 14.5% and finally a *Cabalie 2020* at 13.5%.



December's meeting was hosted by Fiona and Richard and featured wines from the Loire Valley as well as some Xmas fayre, such as mince pies and festive cheeses. The Cabernet Franc, Gamay and Cabernet Sauvignon didn't fare too well against that region's better-known whites. Perhaps it's a bit too far north for fuller-bodied reds! Top marks went to a good old Muscadet, which seems no longer fashionable these days, for some reason.

We don't meet in January but we had a belated Xmas meal together in a local pub in Chorleywood. (cont.)

February's meeting was hosted by Tina and Michael, and the theme was 'off the beaten track' with wines from Majestic and some unusual grapes from both Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Surprisingly, the winner on the night was an *Incanta Pinot Noir* from Romania at just £6.50 a bottle! At the bottom was a Georgian white that was so poor that Majestic refunded an empty bottle!

Good slurping!

## Writers

Helene & John Bunyan



Illness has struck our Group and we find ourselves reduced in number, for the moment. However we have pressed on and written on the following topics in the last quarter: 'In My Opinion' garnered an eclectic response in December. January saw presentations on 'A Conversation with my Younger Self' and 'The Picture' was February's topic. The topic for March will be 'Senior Moments'.

With a smaller Group, we have decided to meet in rotation in members' homes (2.30pm, second Tuesday of the month). We are very keen to attract new members to the Group and extend a warm welcome to any CVu3a member who writes, in any capacity, and would like to share their work. If numbers expand we will return to bookings at the Quaker House. So get in touch at [writers@cvu3a.uk](mailto:writers@cvu3a.uk)

For this time of year, the poet of choice has to be Robert Burns:

### *Afton Water*

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,  
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise;  
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,  
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Thou stock-dove, whose echo resounds thro' the glen,  
Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny den,  
Thou green-crested lapwing, thy screaming forbear,  
I charge you disturb not my slumbering fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbouring hills,  
Far mark'd with the courses of clear winding rills;  
There daily I wander as noon rises high,  
My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green valleys below,  
Where wild in the woodlands the primroses blow;  
There oft, as mild Ev'ning sweeps over the lea,  
The sweet-scented birk shades my Mary and me.

Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides,  
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides,  
How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave,  
As gathering sweet flowrets she stems thy clear wave.

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,  
Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of my lays;  
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,  
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

# Mini quiz

- Geography:** What is the capital city of Bulgaria?  
To which country do the Galapagos Islands belong?  
In which city would you find La Sagrada Familia?
- Music:** Which composer became Master of Violin at the Ospedale della Pietà in Venice in 1703 and premiered many of his works with its orchestra?  
Who wrote *Semper Fidelis*, the official march of the United States Marine Corps?  
*Getting to Know You* is one of the best-known songs from which musical?
- Art:** *The Burghers of Calais*, a sculpture in Victoria Tower Gardens in London, was created by which artist?  
Which artist, who died in 2020, wrapped many public buildings including in 1995 the German Reichstag?  
Which brand of soup features in Andy Warhol's soup can series?
- Literature:** In what year did George Orwell publish *Nineteen Eighty-Four*?  
In Evelyn Waugh's *Scoop*, what paper does William Boot write for?  
Who wrote *The Picture of Dorian Gray*?
- History:** Which of Charles II's mistresses is said to have been instrumental in the foundation of the Royal Hospital Chelsea?  
Which French general was supreme commander of allied forces at the end of World War One?  
What city was formerly known as Constantinople and Byzantium?
- Transport:** Prototypes of which bus entered service in London between 1956 and 1958?  
Which major airline was founded in Italy in 1946 and entered administration in 2017 after years of unprofitable operations?  
Which transport service in Bangkok gets its name from the sputtering sound of its engine?
- Sport** Sir Lewis Hamilton currently tops the table of Formula One World Championships with seven wins. With whom does he share this record?  
Which British-based invitational rugby club plays in black and white hoops?  
When was the inaugural Premier League season?

*(Answers next time and in the March e-bulletin.)*

# Chess Valley u3a Groups Schedule

| FIRST in month   |                     |  |   |                        |
|--|---------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| MONDAY   | TUESDAY             | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                 |
| Art Discussion 2 (pm)  | Walkers 1           | Walkers 2/3 (occasional)                 | Wildlife  | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Pilates Classes 1,2 and 3 (am/pm)  | Striders 2          | Patchwork & Quilting (am)                | Current Affairs (pm)  |                        |
| Knitting & Other Crafts (pm)   | Tai Chi (am)        | Spanish Conversation (Intermediate) (am) | Keep Fit (pm) (currently suspended)   |                        |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve)   | Family History (pm) | German (am)                              | <i>Bowls (Green) meets every Wednesday of the month during the season</i><br><i>Tai Chi meets in school term-times only</i><br><i>MOTO 2 meets at irregular intervals</i> |                        |
| <i>Monday Groups' schedules are sometimes interrupted by public holidays; contact the Convenors for more information</i> | Ukulele (pm)        | Book 2 (pm)                              |   |                        |
|  |                     | Bridge (pm)                              |   |                        |
|  |                     | Wine 2 (eve) (pm)                        |   |                        |

| SECOND in month                 |                     |  |   |                        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| MONDAY                          | TUESDAY             | WEDNESDAY  | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY                 |
| History (pm)                    | Amblers             | Walks into History OR Walks into London (alternate months) | Art Discussion 1 (am)   | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Mah Jong (pm)                   | Striders 1          |  | Keep Fit (pm) (currently suspended)   |                        |
| Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm) | Art (am)            | Line Dancing (am)  | General Meeting (pm)  |                        |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve)      | Tai Chi (am)        | French Conversation (am)                                   | <i>The Chess Valley u3a Committee meets on the first or second Tuesday of each month, two days before the General Meeting</i> |                        |
|                                 | Dinghy Sailing (pm) | Bridge (pm)  |   |                        |
|                                 | Writers (pm)        | Folk Music (pm)  |   |                        |

| THIRD in month                  |              |  |  |                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|--|------------------------|
| MONDAY                          | TUESDAY      | WEDNESDAY                                | THURSDAY   | FRIDAY                 |
| Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm) | Walkers 1    | Patchwork & Quilting (all day)           | Book 4 (am)  | Railways (am)          |
| Canasta (pm)                    | Striders 2   | German (am)                              | Art Discussion 3 (pm)#   | Book 1 (am)            |
| Knitting & Other Crafts (pm)    | Tai Chi (am) | Spanish Conversation (Intermediate) (am) | Keep Fit (pm) (currently suspended)  | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve)      | Book 3 (pm)  | Photography (pm)                         | <i>#Art Discussion 3 is temporarily suspended</i><br><i>MOTO (Members On Their Own) have an 'anchor meeting' on the first Saturday morning of each month</i> |                        |
|                                 | Ukulele (pm) | Play Reading (pm)                        |  |                        |
|                                 |              | Bridge (pm)                              |  |                        |

| FOURTH in month                 |              |                          |                                     |                        |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| MONDAY                          | TUESDAY      | WEDNESDAY                | THURSDAY                            | FRIDAY                 |
| Digital Imaging (am)            | Striders 1   | French Conversation (am) | Walkers 2/3                         | Chess (pm)             |
| Mah Jong (pm)                   | Art (am)     | French Intermediate (am) | Poetry (pm)                         | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm) | Tai Chi (am) | Line Dancing (am)        | Keep Fit (pm) (currently suspended) |                        |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve)      |              | Dinghy Sailing (pm)      | Wine 1 (eve)                        |                        |
| Stamps (odd months only)        |              | Gardening (pm)           |                                     |                        |
|                                 |              | Bridge (pm)              |                                     |                        |
|                                 |              | Folk Music (pm)          |                                     |                        |



Members of our creative Groups have been hard at work over the winter months:

This wonderful plant study (above) is by Art Group member Mary Hooper. The red squirrel is by fellow member, Janice Gray.

Right: Knitting and Other Crafts Group member Jo Biggs has created this incredible crocheted throw.

Bottom Right: This 'Festive Throw' is by Dee Watson, the new Convenor for Patchwork and Quilting. Many of the P&Q Group's works are donated to charity, but Dee is keeping this fine example for use in her own family.



Top right: The Albert Ellis room at the Amersham Free Church was the venue again for this year's Singing For Pleasure Group's Christmas Concert on 12th December. The selection of Christmas pieces and secular items proved a triumph!



Mid right: It was a Christmas / New Year's lunch in January for the Play Reading Group's annual celebration. Held at a member's home, everyone contributed to the menu. Great food and company; what more could you want.



Below: Amazing work is coming out of the Digital Imaging Group. This fantasy shipwreck was created through working specifically on textures and backgrounds.

