

# FARINGDON & DISTRICT



u3a learn,  
laugh,  
live

Spring 2023



<https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/>

## Chairman's Report

This is my final report before the AGM, when our new Chairman, Peter Hoole, takes over. It seems no time at all since I was writing my first!

During December, many of the groups had their own social occasion, such as the Wine Tasters' dinner, and the Bridge Group's party. Other groups, including the History of Art, Gardeners, Jazz and quite probably others, had refreshments way beyond the usual tea or coffee to celebrate the festive season.

Our social event of the season, a hot meal in the coldest part of January, followed by an entertainer, was very much enjoyed by all who attended. Apparently, both the food and the magician were excellent.

I am pleased to announce that the winner of our Short/Flash Story competition is Anne Gough. Runners up are Joy Smith and Cleve Gibson. Congratulations to all of them. Thank you all for your entries.

A Coffee Morning held at the beginning of December was not well attended and I have been undecided as to whether to hold another one. I enjoyed it, and I think others did too, so I shall have another bash sometime!

The last of the Zoomed Study mornings for this winter took place in February, and I would like to thank all those who have given wonderful presentations which have been of interest to so many.

Starting shortly are the upcoming language taster sessions, and visits to various places of interest not covered by any of our existing groups. Please see separate entries in the newsletter for both of these.

Again, may I ask if some of you would consider coming on the committee and/or starting new groups? Our U3A depends on its groups and those who volunteer to run them. If you are in doubt, please speak to me or the Groups Secretary.

Lastly, and I am writing this on what is probably the warmest and sunniest day since Autumn, let's look forward to Spring, and continue to enjoy our U3A.

*Jenny Braithwaite*

Chairman

### **COMMITTEE VACANCIES**

Your u3a **NEEDS YOU !**

Our u3a depends on volunteers – without such people it would not exist.

**At the next AGM we will be looking to fill a few key roles on the committee. If you feel you would be interested then do get in touch.**

Please contact our Chairman, Jenny Braithwaite at [jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk) if the answer is 'YES, I'm interested in helping.'

### **FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A**

**Charity Number 1116311**

**This is Formal Notice of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023**

**To be held at the  
FARINGDON CORN EXCHANGE**

**at**

**2.30pm on THURSDAY 13th APRIL 2023**

## Meetings Calendar

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2023:** A rather unusual title has been given to this month's talk, **Cloth from Thread, Curd from Milk and Ring of Gold** which was scheduled for September 2020. The talk will consider three ways of looking at the world. **David Lacey**, the speaker, intends to examine the thinking framework which we use to interpret the facts. He considers that they are the glasses through which we see the world and hopes to open our eyes to seeing the world afresh. This will certainly be rather different from many of our talks which are mainly about facts and unfamiliar life situations.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2023 :** We all enjoy a good mystery and this month we welcome **Lynda Warren** who will talk about **Agatha Christie, her life, her books and characters including her disappearance.** Agatha Christie is the world's best known mystery writer. In a career spanning 60 years she wrote more than 120 short stories as well as plays, poetry and an autobiography. Lynda will also talk about some of Christie's most famous characters like the retired Belgium detective Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple the amateur detective and elderly spinster. She also includes Agatha Christie's alter ego Mary Westmacott. Lynda's talk will remind us all about many of our favourite books.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 :** We all love a walk down memory lane and our speaker this month, **Jeff Evans** will tell the story of 60 years of music on television in this fully illustrated talk called **Pop on the Box.** He will remind us of shows like Six-Five Special and Oh Boy and continue through the decades to Juke Box Jury and many more that you might have forgotten. Expect lots of warm memories and more than a few surprises. Jeff is an acknowledged expert in popular culture and has written numerous books about television. He is a man of many talents having appeared on quiz shows and is on the Mastermind question setting team. His talk is sure to bring back memories of times gone by.

Our main meeting is held at **2.30 pm** in **Faringdon Corn Exchange** on the **second Thursday** of the month. Meetings begin with a warm welcome from our Chairman and any notices from the groups. The talk, from a visiting speaker then follows. After the talk there are free refreshments and a chance to talk to Group Leaders and socialise.

If you would like to give a talk to our members, have a topic that you think might be of interest to our members or you have heard of a good speaker, do please contact me. I am always on the look-out for new topics and interesting speakers.

We look forward to seeing you in the Corn Exchange.

Shela Rowan

### Member News

We welcome the following new members:

**Ashbury:** Stewart Smith; **Brize Norton:** Benita Wallace;

**Buckland:** Clare Cottingham; **Carterton:** Jo Drury, Janice Jones, Valerie Thomas; **Faringdon:** Helen Barter, Ian Brown, Jane Cadogan, Anne Chapman, Colin Dyer, Susanna Hunt, Jeff Jackson, Maddy Robinshaw;

**Leafield:** Deborah Oloughlin; **Lechlade:** Andrea Moss;

**Shrivenham:** David Jepson; **Stanford in the Vale:** Joyce Gardner, Stephen Corbett

**Witney:** Bharat Aggarwal, Rita Aggarwal, Lesley Edwards, Sarah Galloway

We are sad to notify you of the death of: Peter Wentworth (see page 9) and Ian Clarkson, former chairman of our U3a.

Our thoughts are with their families at this sad time.

### COVID GUIDELINES

Mindful of the continuing need for all Members to keep themselves and others safe, and protected from Covid-19, your Committee expect and trust that all those wishing to attend any General or Group meetings - either in Public buildings (Corn Exchange, Sheldonian, Town Hall, etc.) or in Group Leaders' private homes - will ensure that they are vaccinated to the recommended level.

However, irrespective of the number of vaccinations received, in the event of feeling unwell, please do not attend meetings.

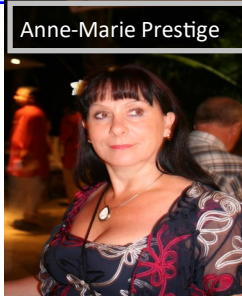
## Activities Reports

Meeting - Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022

“Samaritans”

*Anne-Marie Prestige*

Fellow member, Anne-Marie Prestige, today's speaker, was once a Samaritan volunteer and has been able to provide a wide-reaching insight into the organisation. Although not a religious organisation the Samaritans was founded in 1953 by a vicar, Chad Varah based in a church in central London. Chad was the eldest of nine children and studied natural science at Keeble College. The idea of the Samaritans was born when Chad officiated at a funeral of a 14 year old child who had committed suicide. Chad knew the service would only work if people knew about it. Luckily, his work writing and illustrating articles for children's comics meant he had contacts at many national newspapers. In December 1953, just a month after launching, the Daily Mirror coined the phrase, 'Telephone Good Samaritan', the name stuck and word spread far and wide. Chad and his secretary Vivian



Anne-Marie Prestige

Prosser received calls from people who needed support on the phone and face to face and also from many, many people who wanted to volunteer.

Chad and Vivian soon became overwhelmed with people wanting to talk to them. Volunteers had been making tea for people who queued at Chad's church and were encouraged to talk to those waiting in the queue. It soon became clear that they were equally helpful to the victims and so the concept of training up volunteers around the country to listen to people needing to talk was developed. The power of volunteers, to listen, confidentially and without judgement, turned out to be the real strength of the service. Today, there are around 22,000 volunteers and more than 200 branches and locations across the UK and Ireland. Every 10 seconds, Samaritans respond to a call for help. The service operates a 24-hour listening service. It has come to be



much more than Chad Varah first envisioned.

In 2021, Samaritans volunteers held over 1,500 outreach events and raised awareness at events with over half a million attendees. They went to schools, prisons, hospitals and communities and have a long-running partnership with Network Rail to reduce suicides on the railways. They also have a representation at festivals where people can speak to volunteers.

Anne-Marie explained that anyone can be a volunteer. There is however a selection process to ensure the right people are chosen. Volunteers include a Princess and a Rock Star. The Prince of Wales is also a Patron. Volunteers undertake one day time shift and one overnight shift per month; two people are always on duty to support each other. After each shift a volunteer can talk to a team leader in order to 'off-load' any harrowing talks they may have experienced. Any

serious concerns are referred up to a director who follows up if necessary. A new volunteer is mentored by an experienced volunteer until they are confident to 'go it alone'. Roles within the Samaritans include Trustees, Leaders and Fund Raisers. In 2021, there were 5,583 suicides registered in England and Wales, equivalent to a rate of 10.7 deaths per 100,000 people; while this

was statistically significantly higher than the 2020 rate of 10.0 deaths per 100,000 people, it was consistent with the pre-coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic rates in 2019 and 2018. Around three-quarters of suicides were males (4,129 deaths; 74.0%), consistent with long-term trends, and equivalent to 16.0 deaths per 100,000, the rate for females was 5.5 deaths per 100,000. Among females, the age-specific suicide rate was highest in those aged 45 to 49 years (7.8 deaths per 100,000), while among males it was highest in those aged 50 to 54 years (22.7 deaths per 100,000). Globally 800,00 people die from suicide each year and volunteers respond to a call every 10 seconds and some calls can last for hours. Funding for the Samaritans comes from donations; some local councils, some areas receive funds from the NHS when volunteers attend hospitals.



**It all began when one man decided to help and thought he was “Just a man willing to listen”.**





## Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023

### "Being a Test Pilot"

*Chris Taylor*



What do you need to be a test pilot in the UK? You need an Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL) and a Class 1 Medical Certificate to become a commercial airline pilot. The minimum age to commence pilot training is 18, but you cannot get an ATPL until you're 21. It can take 16-18 months to qualify as a pilot if you've no previous flying experience.

What does a test pilot do? A test pilot is an aircraft pilot with additional training to fly and evaluate experimental, newly produced and modified aircraft with specific maneuvers, known as flight test techniques to ensure that flying is as safe as it can be.

How did it all begin for Chris Taylor? Chris's father was in the RAF during WWII and flew with the Battle of Britain Squadron, sharing many stories from the war. Under that influence and as a child, during a family holiday on a beach he recalls looking up at a helicopter and deciding that was what he wanted to do.

Chris gained his private pilot's licence at the age of seventeen. He joined the Royal Navy whilst studying for a degree in Electrical Engineering and after serving as a Navigation Officer on numerous ships; he went on to operate Wasp and Lynx helicopters.

At the age of 22 the Navy sent Chris to Hong Kong on a minesweeper patrol flying Wasp helicopters that launched torpedoes into the sea. When Chris had only 5 hours of flying time experience his Wasp engine

failed and he crashed into the sea. This was the least amount of flying time of any pilot to have a crash.

In 1994 Chris applied for a job at Boscombe Down where The Empire Test Pilots' School is based, the first of its kind. He flew and tested a variety of aircraft from that base, including Jaguars, Hunters and fast jets.

After five years instructing, he became a test pilot and flew experimental aircraft for research and development purposes before returning to the ETPS as a tutor. Having served at Boscombe Down for ten years he joined the UK Civil Aviation Authority as an aeroplane and rotorcraft test pilot.

In 2001. With the closure of the CAA's Flight Test Department, he formed Dovetail Aviation Ltd and has continued to test fly a wide variety of aircraft ever since.

Chris has flown 400 different kinds of aircraft, is a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Test Pilots and is a licensed Category 1 Test Pilot and Flight Test Instructor for both aeroplanes and helicopters, which arguably makes him one of the best qualified and most widely experienced test pilots working today.

Finally when Chris told us what he considered was the most difficult and most dangerous flying machine I was surprised to learn it was The RAF2000 Gyrocopter.



## Peter Wentworth - 1940 to 2023



Peter was a talented magician, a wonderful entertainer and a member of the Magic Circle. For the Queen's Silver Jubilee he entertained 100's of people with his magic in the Market Place.

He entertained many local groups including Faringdon WI, the Faringdon U3A and other U3A's in the area. However, one of his acts was to stand on a stool with a noose around his neck. This frightened the ladies so much that he realised that he had to abandon using this trick

Peter created Bizarre Walks around the Town Centre performing more magic tricks at various locations. It was as if the Market Place became his stage. He then emerged as our modern-day impersonator of Lord Berners and turned up regularly at town events. Of course the original Lord Berners was the Lord of the manor but Peter will always be remembered as "Our Lord Berners"

As a key member of the team managing the Folly Tower and Woodland, he came into his own at Halloween dressed as an ogre. On the first event he scared almost all of the visitors, including adults. He was able to scale this down for future events.

He will be sadly missed by his wife Su, grandson Finn and his parents Nick and Delores.

With thanks to Eddie Williams.

<b>Faringdon &amp; District U3A Committee 2022/23</b>		
Jenny <b>Braithwaite</b>	Chairman	01367 240 929 <a href="mailto:chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk">chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
Rita <b>Higazi</b>	Events and Venue Team	01367 244 494 <a href="mailto:ritahigazi@hotmail.com">ritahigazi@hotmail.com</a>
Peter <b>Robinson</b>	Events and Venue Team	01367 718 566 <a href="mailto:peterrobinsonnew@aol.com">peterrobinsonnew@aol.com</a>
Neal <b>Cotton</b>	Groups Co-ordinator	01367 252 495 <a href="mailto:91gometz@gmail.com">91gometz@gmail.com</a>
Ricky <b>Cunningham</b>	IT/Website Coordinator	01367 242 626 <a href="mailto:itcoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk">itcoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
Carol <b>Jones</b>	Membership Secretary	07955 443 529 <a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk">membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
Sue <b>Cain</b>	Newsletter Editor	07731675729 <a href="mailto:newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk">newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
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Roger <b>Wilkins</b>	Secretary	01793 782 498 <a href="mailto:rogatmidfield@aol.com">rogatmidfield@aol.com</a>
Shela <b>Rowan</b>	Speakers Coordinator	01367 243 636 <a href="mailto:smr280652@gmail.com">smr280652@gmail.com</a>
Nigel <b>Wilkinson</b>	Treasurer	
Peter <b>Foot</b>	Thames Valley Representative	01367 358 046 <a href="mailto:p.foot47@gmail.com">p.foot47@gmail.com</a>
Alison <b>Thomson</b>	Vice Chairman/ Publicity	01367 241 204 <a href="mailto:amthomson7691@gmail.com">amthomson7691@gmail.com</a>
Peter <b>Hoole</b>	Co-Opted	07385 297571 <a href="mailto:wolfitha@hotmail.com">wolfitha@hotmail.com</a>

### **Summer Newsletter Deadline**

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc covering **June, July, August** to the Editor: [newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk)  
by **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2023**  
It will be posted to all members in **late May**.

## FARINGDON GROUPS

Accessible Ukuleles	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Art	Sally Bull	07808 136919
Ashmolean	Shela Rowan	01367 243636
Books	Kay Chamberlain	01367 242647
Bridge Beginners	Jill Ridley	07464 626188
Bridge - intermediate/adv.	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
Cryptic Crosswords	Peter Smith	01367 241241
Current Affairs	Sheila Giles	01367 870265
Embroidery	Suellen Pedley	01367 710680
Family History	Marion Turner	01793 710302
Folk Dancing	Val Hudspeth	01367 241035
Foreign Language Films	Julie Forth	01367 242472
French Advanced	Carolyn Williams	01367 241208
French Conversation	Francoise Stacey	01367 241813
Fun Language Tasters	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Gardeners	Christina Field	01367 241265
History	Mike Iremonger	01367 241361
History of Art	Sue Thrower	01367 240848
Italian Improvers	Marion Turner	01793 710302
Jazz	Patrick Wheare	01367 241927
Lunch Group	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Military history	Bjorn Watson	01793 782748
Opera	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Photography	Anthony Burdall	01367 240713
Play Reading	Mary Love	01367 710754
Poetry	Dave Dalton	01367 241874
Quiz	Danielle Mills	01367 718625
Ramblers	Mike Griffiths	01367 242714
Recorder Consort	Peter Smith	01367 241241
Science & Technology	Ron Colyer	01793 782363
Scrabble	Dusty Miller	01367 240397
Scrapbooking	Sue Horton	07990 010051
Sewing	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Social History Walks	Stewart Smith	01793 710800
Spanish Intermediate	Carolyn Taylor	01367 242490
Transport History	Colin Hamling	chtrainmaster22@gmail.com
Wine Appreciation	Peter Robinson	01367 718566
Writers group	Lesley Fraser	lesleygfraser@icloud.com

## News From The Groups

### *Notes for Members*

*If you have any questions about groups contact the Groups Co-ordinator  
**Neal Cotton** Tel **01367 252 495** or email: **91gometz@gmail.com***

*Not all groups submit a news item for each Newsletter - a full list of groups is provided.*

*Groups are open to all U3A members but you should check with the Group Leader beforehand about the level of the Group and that it has room for new members. All U3A members are encouraged to start new interest groups, but before taking the matter too far please contact the Groups Co-ordinator to discuss the idea, for a copy of "Guidelines for Interest Groups", and to check the proposed meeting day(s) and time(s).*

*For members not familiar with Faringdon, GSCP stands for Gloucester Street Car Park, entered past the Library in Gloucester Street.*

### **Accessible Ukuleles**

We are a very relaxed group of various levels and abilities, and welcome anyone who can play, even just a little. We meet on Tuesday mornings at 10.30am in the garden of 19 Coxwell Road.

In winter we migrate to the Quaker Meeting House, but we did manage to stay outdoors until the middle of November last year. Subject to demand, we shall hold a Beginners Workshop later in the year, so please let me know if you might be interested.

For all enquiries, please ring **Jenny** on **01367 240 929** or email: **jen-nyridd@yahoo.co.uk**

### **Art**

The Art group have been meeting in various houses this winter, but hope to be invited to some inspiring gardens again this coming summer to paint *en plein air*. With Felicity Cormack's help we have explored a variety of media and interesting topics and techniques. All levels of ability are welcome - the more the merrier.

We next meet March 9th and 23rd 10am to 12noon.

As venues vary please contact

**Sally Bull** - **sally.bull@talktalk.net** or **07808 136 919**

### Ashmolean

The Ashmolean visits recently have been popular with many members. We have enjoyed talks about Prominent Leaders, Paintings and Caskets and Coffins.

The topic for future visits is still to be decided as there are fewer guides since the pandemic and so it's not as easy to plan a programme for the year. The visits always take place on the first Thursday in the month.

The meeting starts with the group gathering at 10.50 for 11am start in the Greek & Roman Sculpture Gallery. Each meeting lasts for one hour. There is a non-returnable fee of £10 per person attending, which is required at least a week before each visit. If for any reason members are unable to attend there will be no refund as we notify the museum in advance of our group numbers.

There is no limit to the number of members in this group as if the number for a particular visit is high then there is a facility to offer two groups. This would be on the same day. Members usually travel to Oxford by bus or use the park and ride. New members are always welcome to attend and should email me for payment details.

**Shela Rowan: smr280652@gmail.com or 01367 243636**

### Beginners Bridge

The beginner's classes are now well under way and well attended. As we are now so far into the schedule it would not work to take on any more people at this stage, unless you are already a bridge player and are just in need of a refresher.

Dates: March 6th & 20th : 10-12am @ Faringdon Catholic Church Hall.

For further information please contact

Jill Ridley: [jillridley.22@hotmail.com](mailto:jillridley.22@hotmail.com) or 07464 626188 or

Kim Townsend: [Kimma\\_a@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Kimma_a@tiscali.co.uk) 07765 460174

### Bridge - Intermediate and experienced

All Intermediate and Experienced lessons take place in Faringdon Catholic Church Hall (rear entrance from Portway behind Southampton Street car park) from 9.50am to 12 noon.

**Provisional dates** are given below. Members will be notified of any changes.

#### Intermediate

Mon Mar 13<sup>th</sup> and Wed Mar 15<sup>th</sup>

Wed Apr 12th

Mon May 8<sup>th</sup> and Wed May 10th

### **Experienced**

Wed Mar 29th

Wed Apr 26th

Wed May 24th

For further details contact Steve Braithwaite on:

**steve.bridge1@gmail.com** or **077 40 30 60 55**

### **Cryptic Crosswords**

**We usually meet on the third Friday of the month** in Faringdon, starting at 2.00pm. Sessions are about two hours long and include a break for refreshments.

The focus of the meetings is a game involving the competitive solving of a cryptic crossword of '*The Times*' or '*Observer*' standard.

We also run a monthly clue-writing competition, discuss matters of interest to cruciverbalists that have caught our eye during the month and occasionally compile our own crosswords.

If you would like to know more, contact the group leader

**Peter Smith: 01367 241 241** or **pdes\_smith@hotmail.com**

### **Current Affairs**

We are a friendly and welcoming group always on the lookout for new members. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month in Faringdon Library at 10.30am. The group discusses subjects/topics which are "current" both in the UK and globally. We have a core group of approximately 8-10 members and would welcome newcomers. For more information contact:

**Sheila Giles: 01367 870 265** or **Sheila@tjg00.plus.com**

### **Embroidery**

The group is slowly growing in numbers and welcome those with embroidery experience and beginners willing to learn this ancient art form. The group meets on the second Tuesday of each month, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at 44, Hunters Field, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon. Oxon SN7 8LX. For more details contact **Suellen Pedley on 01367 710680**

### **Family History (beginners and old hands)**

We meet 3rd Friday of alternate months at 10.30am in the Barber Rooms.

Next meeting 17th March 2023

Please contact **Marion Turner** (acting for Ian Clarkson pro tem)  
**marionlturner@me.com 01793 710302**

### **Folk Dancing**

We are now a thriving group and always on the lookout for new members. We meet on the FIRST Thursday of every month at the Catholic Church Hall from 2.30 - 4.00 p.m.

Dates as follows -

March 2nd: May 4th: June 1st.

PLEASE NOTE - THERE WILL BE NO SESSION IN APRIL AS IT FALLS ON MAUNDY THURSDAY AND THE HALL WILL BE NEEDED BY THE CHURCH

We look forward to seeing you. A warm welcome awaits.

Contact: **Val Hudspeth (01367 241 035 or valhud@gmx.com)**.

### **Foreign Language Film Group**

Robin Stewart has been the group leader for this group for a number of years: many many thanks, Robin! He has now handed the group over to Julie Forth of 6 The Pines, Faringdon SN7 8AU.

We met in December to watch Fellini's masterpiece, La Strada. This film was well received. Interestingly, several of us had seen this film before but still enjoyed watching it again, picking up on some nuances that had been missed when watching the first time around.

In January, we watched the Korean Oscar-winner, Parasite. This film provoked a lot of discussion on social issues and where the audience's empathy was placed.

**March 15<sup>th</sup>** is already scheduled: we will be watching Narvik: Narvik is a Norwegian historical film depicting the Battles of Narvik from 9 April to 8 June 1940, directed by Erik Skjoldbjaerg and made by Nordisk Film.

We will be continuing on **April 19th** and **June 14th**. Films have yet to be decided. Requests will be considered but the aim of the group is to watch as eclectic a range as possible, from all countries and cultures.

There is no set pattern to the meetings. However, we usually meet on Wednesdays at 2pm for 2.15pm start.

Space in our lounge is limited and some of the meetings are very cosy. The group already has a committed core of attending members. However, if you wish to join us, please contact Julie Forth at **Juliekaren-**

**forth@gmail.com** or **01367 242472** and we will endeavour to accommodate



you, especially if you are able (and happy!) to sit on the floor if chairs are already taken.

### **Fun Language Tasters**

This will be a series of sessions on either the third or the fourth Friday of the month. A different language each month. It's not intended to turn you into a budding linguist, rather so that you can say a few words in an assortment of languages, such as "please, thank you, two cups of coffee, go away" and so on. I hope it will appeal to anyone who already speaks another language or two as well as those who struggle even to remember a little schooldays French. We kick off on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10.30am at 19 Coxwell Road, Faringdon (parking for several on the front drive)

Ron Colyer will give us an introduction to TURKISH

**EVERYONE WELCOME, SO PLEASE GIVE IT A TRY!**

Please let me know if you are coming: [jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Gardeners**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2023:** Visit to Burford Garden Centre to view their Spring displays. Please let Christina know if you will be coming and whether you can give some-one a lift. We aim to arrive at 2.30pm.

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023:** Visit to Rare Plant Sale and Garden, The Old Rectory, Quenington

Admission: Plant Sale and Garden £6.00. leaving Faringdon at 1.30pm.

Please let me know if you will be coming and whether you can give some-one a lift

**Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2023: to be decided**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Christina Field on **01367 241265** or [christinafield04@aol.com](mailto:christinafield04@aol.com)

### **History of Art**

We shall be meeting as usual in Faringdon Old Town Hall on the third Thursday of the month at 2.30pm. The dates are as follows:

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March:** Mike Iremonger will talk about The Dutch Golden Age

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April:** Subject to be arranged

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May:** Subject to be arranged

New members are always welcome. Please contact Sue Thrower on **01367 240848** or [smthrower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:smthrower@tiscali.co.uk) for more information.

### Italian Improvers

We are of a level something above beginners and trying to improve. We meet on roughly alternate Wednesdays at 10.30am. Please phone **Marion Turner** on **01793 710 302** if you are interested in coming.

### Jazz

On Monday March 13 in the Library at 10.30am Sheila Donovan will be telling us about Blue Note records, that most famous of all independent (for most of its life) record label.

Then on April 17 (the third Monday because the second - April 10 - is Easter Monday) Rachel Holt and Jan Hall will bring us up to date with the local jazz scene.

The following month, May, brings the coronation of King Charles and, because three of the five Mondays are bank holidays, I thought it practical to miss that month altogether and not meet again until Monday June 12, speaker to be announced.

We've now returned to the revamped Library, Gloucester Street, to hold our meetings on the second Monday of each month, usually from 10.30 till about noon. We break in the middle for tea/coffee and lemon drizzle cake. We charge £1 a meeting to cover costs and also to pay for the occasional visiting speaker. We try to cover all aspects of jazz from the early days to the present.

If you're interested or would like to know more email or ring me:

Patrick Wheare: **01367 241927** or [patwheare@gmail.com](mailto:patwheare@gmail.com)

### Lunch Club

We are now a group of 40 members, but still open to others. If more than 20 are the normal monthly numbers who attend a lunch date we may split the Club in half but currently we average 20 each month and restaurants can manage with pre-booking our meals.

We meet at a different restaurant each month on the third Wednesday of the month:

**March 15<sup>th</sup>; April 19<sup>th</sup>; May 17<sup>th</sup>; June 21<sup>st</sup>;**

Please contact Tessa Timms on **01367 358613** or [tessaatimms@gmail.com](mailto:tessaatimms@gmail.com) for further details.

### Military History

The Military History Group normally meets on the first Thursday of the

month and we consider an eclectic range of topics. Of necessity our meetings have been on Zoom over the lockdown but we will be returning to face-to-face meetings next month

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 2nd March at 10.30 am back at Walnut Tree Cottage, 9A Stainswick Lane, Shrivenham SN6 8DU when John Varney will be talking about the Parliamentary General Monk who was responsible for the Restoration of Charles II. This follows on from this month's talk on Oliver Cromwell by Bjorn.

We will be continuing in April and May with two talks by Alison Thomson on the History of the Royal Navy. There will be no talk in June but in July Peter Foot will be talking about Army Education.

If you wish to join us, please contact

Bjorn Watson: [bjornwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:bjornwatson@btinternet.com) or on **01793 782748**.

### Opera

The Opera Group is meeting in The Old Town Hall on the third Monday of every month. We have set a programme for 2023 and DVDs are shown 'On The Big Screen'. We each bring a plate of snacks to share and break mid-evening to socialise with a glass of your own choosing.

The evening starts at 5pm and finishes around 9pm depending on the length of the opera. All welcome.

Dates of Viewings: **March 20<sup>th</sup>**; **April 17<sup>th</sup>**; **May 15<sup>th</sup>**;

Please contact **Tessa Timms 01367 358613** or [tessaatimms@gmail.com](mailto:tessaatimms@gmail.com) for further details.

### Photography Group

#### *Learning more about photography to produce better images*

Following the festive expeditions and night photography, and associated photograph review, the next meeting of the Photographic Group will be on Wednesday 8 March 2023 at 2:30 pm at my house (2 Fernham Road, Faringdon). The meeting will be a briefing meeting for our Garden Photography Month; over the following month (or so) we will be making expeditions to gardens such as Buscot Park, The Laskett, Great Chalfield, Hidcote and other locations.

In April we will be having a Study Day on 'Composition and critique of 'images'. Followed in May with Water Photography Month with expeditions to Hurst & Lepe, Clevedon to Burnham-on-Sea, River Thames, Cotswold Water Park, and other locations.

Over the period Bi-monthly assignments will be Industrial Architecture and Street Photography.

If you are interested in photography and would like to join the group discussions, please do get in touch.

The Group normally meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm at the home of Anthony Burdall: 2 Fernham Road, Faringdon; **01367 240713** or **anthony.burdall@burdall.net**

### Play Reading

We meet on a Wednesday about once a month to read through a play. No acting required! We welcome new members. If you are interested please contact **Mary Love** on **01367 710 754** or **maryvivenlove@yahoo.com**

### Poetry

The Poetry Group, meets in the Faringdon Library at 10.30 the first Monday of each month, it is alive and thriving, even after struggling with the February theme of Sport (which wrinkled Care derides). It turns out there are some hidden jewels among the works of Betjeman, Pam Ayres, and even P. G. Wodehouse. The theme did produce its share of group members' own poetry, always a good thing.

In other words May Day and D-day. An eclectic selection that should produce an interesting variety of poems to enjoy - the object of the meetings. One of the interesting aspects is the exchange of information about the poets quoted and the views about their work.

Dates and themes for the next four months are:

March 6th - Trees; April 3rd - Music; May 1st - Horses; June 5th - Food.

Please contact **Dave Dalton** for further details.

**sullatoberdalton@gmail.com: 01367 241 874**

### Quiz Group

Do you like to find out all sorts of interesting facts and maybe tell us some more? Our quizzes are very varied (different quizmasters) and we try not to have too many about celebrities! Small charge to cover rental and refreshments.

The next date will be Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 10.30 in **The Old Town Hall** 14th April, 12th May and 9th June at 10.30 **The Small Hall, at Faringdon United Church Coxwell Street**. Car parking will be available.

**Contact** Danielle Mills **01367 718625** or **danielle.mills1948@gmail.com**

### Ramblers

Ramblers meet on the last Friday of every month. Walks are not too strenuous and usually last between 1½ and 2½ hours (around 5 or 6 miles). Details of each walk are circulated by e-mail a few weeks in advance. To be added to the list contact Mike Griffiths: **mpg9000@gmail.com** or **mi-chael@ukfsn.org** or **01367 242714**.

### Recorder Consort

The Recorder Consort **usually meets on the fourth Thursday of the month** in Faringdon starting at 2.00pm. Sessions are about two hours long and include a break for refreshments.

The Consort - which started in 2013 - plays interesting music in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere in instruments ranging from sopranino to bass, which allows access to a wide range of music.

If you'd like to know more, contact the group leader, **Peter Smith: 01367 241 241** or **pdes\_smith@hotmail.com**

### Science and Technology Group

Tuesday 7th March - Visit to the National Self-Build and Renovation Centre, Swindon SN5 8UB, to start at 1430.

Tuesday 4th April - Talk by Tony Crabtree entitled "The Science of Bell Ringing", in the Barber Rooms, Faringdon to start at 1430.

May - Yet to be decided - any suggestions would be welcome.

Further details can be obtained from Ron Colyer on **01793 782363** or **ron-colyersandt@gmail.com** or from the website

### Scrabble

Social Scrabble (very social Scrabble!) is now held every Tuesday morning from 9.30am until +/-11.30am at the Pump House Project Cake Cafe in Swan Lane, Faringdon, opposite the Royal Mail depot. No entry fee or other charges other than an optional £1 for a large hot drink and another £1, if you are peckish, for delicious home-baked cakes, scones, biscuits etc. Good company, nice refreshments and fun games suitable for most levels of skill. Further details from **Dusty Miller 01367 240 397** or **07780 210543**

### Scrapbooking

In February we invited a guest demonstrator Trudy Roberts to show us how to make a wire bound album for our photographs using a Bind-It-All ma-

chine. A surprisingly versatile technique which we plan to explore at our next session.

We meet once a month on the first Tuesday at the Memorial Hall in Shriv-  
enham and our next session will be 7<sup>th</sup> March

Please feel free to visit or contact **Sue Horton**:

**07990 010051** or **alice\_maud@yahoo.com**

### **Sewing**

We now have 10 members in the group and this number makes us full for the time being. If anyone is still interested there is a waiting list.

Contact **Tessa Timms** at **tessaatimms@gmail.com** or **01367 358613**

### **Social History Walking Group**

We have been delighted with the response, which has resulted in forty members showing an interest in joining the group. Due to safety, and being able to hear, the number in the group is restricted to 15 and a waiting list is in place. Interested members will be contacted to see if they would like to join either the group walking at 10.30 am or 1.30 pm.

We will be walking through local villages looking at historic buildings. Along the way members will hear about events, ghosts and crimes of passion! Members who have registered their interest will receive an email at the beginning of March with details about the first walk.

**Stewart and Margaret Smith: mbsmith5@hotmail.co.uk** or **01793 710800**

### **Spanish Intermediates**

Learning a new language is very good for your brain, as is reacquainting yourself with a language. Using another language regularly really is the best way of keeping it working for you and a great way to experience more of a country and enjoy more of another culture on your holidays. It really is not that difficult to say "hello" "please" "thank you" "goodbye" in any language.

But to converse you need vocabulary and grammar. Given that you're off!

The Intermediate Spanish Group is full at the moment with a waiting list, but we have a lot of U3A resources available for anyone who wants to start a new group. Why not give it a go? We can help you get started. Please contact Carolyn Taylor 01367 242490 for further information.

### **Thames Valley Network**

The Thames Valley Network, to which Faringdon & District u3a belongs will

be providing 2 online events each month for at least the first half of 2023. Zoom, for the moment, seems to be the preference for almost everyone involved. If you are signed up to the mailing list, you will receive a notice of the next event for which booking is available almost as soon as booking arrangements are released. If you are not on the mailing list, please let me know on **p.foot47@gmail.com**.

TVN's Events Team are working hard to confirm the rest of the Spring programme. I will keep you informed!

### **Transport History**

Sadly not enough interest for this group. However it is hoped that talks or visits can be arranged on a transport theme within the remit of existing groups. Contact: **Colin Hamling: chtrainmaster22@gmail.com**

### **Wine Appreciation Group**

The Wine Appreciation Group's Festive Lunch, last December, was a great success. Everyone appeared to approve of the new venue at the Corn Exchange which not only allowed for an increased number of participants, but also provided plenty of room to mingle and socialise.

Local restaurant, **Sadlers**, provided a wonderful, tasty feast, and the serving team were both attentive and efficient. Please note the date for this year's Festive Lunch, which is **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2023**

The Wine Appreciation Group has a full calendar of events which we hope many of you will take the opportunity to attend.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> February Meeting**

By the time you read this Newsletter, the first event of the year will have taken place. "Members' Musings" presented an eclectic selection of wines by four members - ranging from South Africa through to the North-West Iberian Peninsula, on to the South of France and the Rhône Valley.

The Cellar Team thanks the four presenters for their insight into what was a most interesting selection of wines.

**Next Meeting, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2.00 pm** Guest speaker Glen Anderson

Glen is a local man and is responsible for the management of the Wine section at Waitrose's Faringdon store. The title of his talk is still to be confirmed, but is likely to focus on, or at least include, wines of Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

**20<sup>th</sup> June:** Visit to a local vineyard. Again, details are yet to be finalised

**17<sup>th</sup> October:** TBA



**15<sup>th</sup> December:** Festive Lunch – Our annual, pre-Christmas, gastronomic and oenological highlight.

### **New Members Welcome**

The Wine Appreciation Group (WAG) is a friendly group of like-minded people who have an interest in, and passion for wine. It is **not** just for “wine buffs and connoisseurs”, but just as much for people who “know what I like”. The focus of the group is to share our knowledge and understanding of wines from around the world, and to learn from each other about the wines we have discovered - whether from a supermarket, a wine merchant or buying at the “cellar door”. All Faringdon u3a members are welcome to join the Group - and there are no annual subscriptions or fees, just a charge for each event you attend - but please register as a WAG member. More details are available on our web page.

We look forward to seeing all of our existing, and future, members over the next couple of events, and beyond.

### **Writers Group**

A new group starting.

It is envisaged that the group will meet monthly, in people's homes rather than in hired premises. A leader is waiting to hear from you!

If you are interested, please get in touch with Lesley Fraser:

**lesleyfraser@icloud.com**

## **Photos From The Groups**



**The Scrapbookers with their work**

### **Folk Dancing Fun!**



**January Japes**  
**With Magical Entertainment from Wayne Trice**  
**12<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

