

# FARINGDON & DISTRICT

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



**Summer 2023**

<https://faringdondistrictu3a.com/>

## MEETINGS CALENDAR

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, Peter Hoole 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 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

### **Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 :**

Think penicillin is just thanks to Fleming? Think again! The drug we use today was developed by a group of scientists based in Oxford. **Marie-Louise Kerr** is a wonderfully engaging speaker and her talk is called **Oxford's Penicillin**. She will tell the story of the life-saving work carried out in the Dunn School, Oxford and the trials and tribulations the scientist faced.

When Alexander Fleming was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1945, he shared it with Howard Florey and Ernst Chain. Why? Because while Fleming first observed and named penicillin, but it was Florey and Chain and a group of scientists working in Oxford who developed it into a viable drug.

Marie-Louise has the interesting job title of 'Curator without Museum' and travels widely giving talks to different groups.

### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023 :**

**Jessica Beare** is the **Recycling and Education Officer** at the Vale of the White Horse and in January 2021 gave an enlightening talk via zoom about what happens to the waste that is collected from the kerbside. This time, we are delighted that she will be with us in person and will explain what can and cannot be recycled from our bins. We all have various items that can cause confusion about whether to recycle or deposit in our black bins and Jessica aims to explain these queries. She is also very happy to answer all those questions about which bin different items of waste should be put in and any other questions we might have regarding recycling. So do come to the meeting armed with your questions!

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 – Summer Lunch**

### **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2023 :**

This month we are delighted to have a well-known local person as our speaker, **Sjoerd Vogt** who will give a talk linking **Tolkien to the Folly Tower**. Apparently, our Folly Tower was the likely inspiration for Saruman's nightmarish Tower and Hob-

biton Hill was maybe modelled on Folly Hill. Over the years, many admirers of the Middle-earth sagas have guessed at what might be the inspiration for this and other striking features of the landscapes created by JRR Tolkien. This talk will certainly appeal to all Tolkien fans and also to the many of us that regularly walk up on the Folly.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023 :**

**The Great Stink** is the title that **Doctor Tom Crook** has assigned to this talk. He is going to attempt to explain how we got from the cesspools of the medieval period to the sewerage systems of today. The answer owes a lot to the engineering ingenuity and ambition of the Victorians. We have come to take these systems for granted, but we shouldn't - the Victorians struggled long and hard, amidst numerous failed experiments before they eventually settled on the infrastructure we rely on today. Doctor Crook is a senior lecturer in modern British History at Oxford Brookes University .

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 :**

Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a Justice of the Peace? **Tony Hersch JP** is our speaker this month and he is going to give a talk entitled, **A Day in the Life of a Magistrate**. He will talk about the history of this role followed by giving several examples of real cases that he has faced in court. Each case is presented as it was in a court of law and he encourages discussion regarding the most appropriate sentence and then gives the actual sentence.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 :**

The title of the talk this month is, **Sex, Scandal, and Salacious Gossip of the Royal Court 1660-1830** by **Sarah Slater** who is a guide at Hampton Court Palace. Her talk will tell us about all the naughty bits of history that you probably would not have learnt at school! She has a particular interest in the human stories of those who have lived and worked within the palace. This talk promises to be great fun but certainly for an adult audience!

## 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. This is currently three vaccinations, and in some cases soon to be - or already - four jabs, including Boosters.

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

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Jenny Braithwaite who stepped into the breach when no one else was prepared to take the chair a year ago and our U3A which she was instrumental in founding was in danger of collapsing. She made it her mission to revitalise the Groups which had suffered during the period of Covid. That our membership now is only 10% down on pre-covid levels is a great achievement.

One of the legacies of covid has been that the make-up of our committee has been relatively static over that period and the members have mainly been in post for a long time. My aim is to try to restore the committee to the principle of a member, other than officers, serving for no more than 3 years. That means three or four new members each year. I have asked that any members of the committee who feel that they have done their time to try to replace themselves (since general appeals seem to fall on deaf ears) so if you feel a hand on your shoulder do please give an ear.

At the moment we are short of a Vice-Chairman but there is a possibility we are working on. However we are also short of a member for PUBLICITY. None of us on the committee feel comfortable with social media and if there is anyone out there who feels that it is a job they could take on please get in touch with me [chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk](mailto:chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk). It is possible that this might be managed without actually joining the committee if that would make it more doable for you.

Finally Beacon.

I have noticed a general level of ignorance about Beacon and I thought it would be worthwhile to explain what it is and how it works for us as the committee and for you as members.

Beacon is a computer programme written originally by U3A volunteers and managed by the Third Age Trust for the use of individual member U3As to allow them to manage and organise their U3As more easily and securely. Previously various members of a committee might have been managing their responsibilities on a card index or an Excel spreadsheet on their own devices which was insecure and often difficult to hand on to their successor. Now everything can be on Beacon, the data is not on your own computer there is no program to download, it is all safe and secure in the "cloud" and is a doddle to hand on to someone else.

Beacon has three main competencies. Membership, Groups and Finance.

Membership allows the Membership Secretary to organise all the information on individual members in an easily available form and we intend to put in place access for individual members to their own record to keep it updated with any changes (like email addresses) and we will have a campaign shortly to remedy an historic omission which is to get you to supply an emergency contact which our record has a facility for but which we have not previously requested. Currently we can call an ambulance but we don't know how to contact next of kin.

Groups allows Group Leaders a means to list all their members, to keep it up to date and to contact some or all Group members via email without cluttering up their personal address books and it avoids the eternal problem of scribbled email addresses you cannot read. Other things Leaders can do:- you can print out attendance sheets and you can elect to print other information such as the aforementioned emergency contacts, you can tell who has not paid their subscription,.

Finance has a package that allows anyone without a background in book-keeping to be Treasurer of a U3A, frankly as simple as that. It keeps the books, allows you to reconcile the bank statements and produce a Year-end statement of account besides reports to the committee as required, it also does the gift-aid claim for you, too simple for words. Not only that but it is very simple for the next Treasurer to pick up where the predecessor left off.

Finally I should add that access to Beacon is purely on a necessity basis, You have access to what you have to have access for and only that, based on "permissions" controlled by our IT co-ordinator Ricky.

I hope that gives you a flavour of Beacon and why we use it. If you have any questions email me as above.

**Peter Hoole**

### **DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN NEWSLETTER**

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc to the

Editor: [newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk)

by **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2023**

The Autumn Newsletter will cover **September, October, November**

It will be posted to all members in **late August**.

## FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A COMMITTEE 2023/24

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Vacant	Vice Chairman	
Vacant	Publicity	



# A Day to Remember!

By Bjorn Watson BEM

Last Saturday I had the immense privilege of being invited to their Majesties' Coronation in Westminster Abbey.

Nikki, my daughter, dropped me at Swindon Station on Friday afternoon and I checked into my hotel in Lambeth which was walking distance from the Abbey. I had the tiniest room one could squeeze into and I practically had to go in sideways. But in fairness it had all the facilities including a shower and a loo and that was all I needed for my big adventure.

After a very special supper with my granddaughters who live and work in London I got an early bed and slept like a log. I set the alarm for 5am but I needn't have bothered as I was wide awake at 4.30 and after squeezing round the door into the shower and having had a pear for breakfast I set off for the Abbey at six o'clock. The deserted streets of Lambeth seemed to be populated only by policemen at that hour. There were police vans and cars everywhere but as I drew near to Lambeth Bridge the crowds started to appear and as I crested the bridge I met a long line of smart folk all queuing for the Abbey. It was a grey old morning but I could see all the way up the Thames past Westminster Bridge, Big Ben, the Houses of Parliament and with the Millennium Wheel in the background.

The first person I encountered in the queue was a delightful lady dressed immaculately with a large hat perched jauntily on her head like the jib on a sailing boat. I had the idea that if we had a gust of wind she would be whisked into the waters of the Thames below! It turned out she was from Armagh in Northern Ireland not far from where my family used to live. She was the first of many friendly happy people I met. Indeed as the queue moved everyone was smiling and had a cheerful 'Good morning'. Our route into the Abbey was carefully cordoned off and we had to go through airport style security checks where we had to produce photo ID but we were not quite strip searched!

Once in the Abbey I found the nave filled with rows of extremely hard seats on either side of the central aisle and I bagged one almost on the front row. Then the seats began to fill with a truly diverse bunch of people. It was our new King's aim to reward the common folk who were mostly community volunteers and all around me, mixing with the great and the good, were other people sporting BEM medals on their chests. Next to me was a caretaker from Londonderry with a virtually incomprehensible Northern Irish accent. On the other side was a retired Gurkha officer with interesting tales to tell of training African Union troops in that war torn continent. In front sat some

Muslim clerics and opposite was a row of morning-suited worthies from The Establishment with their finely turned out wives.

On entering we were given an Order of Service - the like of which you have never seen. It was a 50 page booklet setting out precisely what was going to happen and when. This gave me something to look at because I had got in at well before 8.00am and things didn't start to hot up until around 10.00. The service proper kicked off at 11.00. What had much preoccupied me was how I would last for five and half hours without a pee as we had been warned that the facilities in the Abbey were extremely limited. In the event I carefully had had only a sip of water that morning and upto 9.30 there was no problem wandering off to the loo.

The proceeds started with swirling music which built up as the time of the service neared. Then came the processing clergy followed by the politicians past and present and I was within touching distance of them as they went by. We had an upright John Major, an ageing Tony Blair with Cherrie who had grown matronly with the years. We had a smiling Gordon Brown and David Cameron and his wife. Then of course there was a dishevelled Boris Johnson shambling along holding on to Carrie and Liz Truss smiling serenely with her husband. After that a blur of the present day lot, the only one of whom I could pick out was Jeremy Hunt. And I missed Kier Starmer fresh from his recent electoral successes. Then came ranks of foreign dignitaries followed most movingly by the Commonwealth heads of state from Antigua and Australia through to the United Kingdom. Each head of state was proceeded by his national flag culminating with Rishi Sunak bringing up the rear. After that came the procession of foreign kings and queens of whom I picked out King Carl-Gustav of Sweden and his Queen.

Finally a gaggle of Royals came solemnly in followed by a sad looking Prince Harry bringing up the rear. Now in the gallery just above us, a mighty fanfare that literally made the hair on the back of my head stand on end. Before I knew it the King was there in front of me looking tiny between the two burly clergy on either side of him. As the procession inched its way slowly past I could have reached out and touched the figures - the little pages in their scarlet and gold holding up the train - Prince George among them, each looking steadfastly ahead. Now came Camilla looking as tall and radiant as Charles was small and sombre. Then there was William in his Garter finery with Kate. I must confess to having tears in my eyes as the two little grandchildren went by - Charlotte holding Louis by the hand.

The coronation service started but we, the congregation in the nave, were shut off from the ceremony by the giant ornate golden rood screen between us and the action so we saw it all on huge TV screens suspended from the columns cunningly disguised to look like stonework when switched off. So we watched the proceedings just like the rest of the millions of viewers on TV. But of course the millions didn't have the atmosphere of the Abbey, the soaring vaults and the echoing sound. Neither did they have the living breathing congregation to spur them on.

I remember being bowled over by incomparable Bryn Turvill singing the magnificent Kyrie eleison in Welsh and when it came to the part where they



put screens up to shield the King in the most solemn and secret part of ceremony, the sound of Handel's famous 'Zadok the Priest' left me literally weak at the knees. As the ceremony progressed I couldn't help wondering what the multi faith leaders thought of the barbaric symbols of medieval power that they were required to offer up to the King. I must say that I thought that Archbishop Justin was the star of the show. He had stood at the door and smiling welcomed each high flying guest but he also went into the congregation and greeted people of different faiths. And now he lifts the great golden St Edward's crown with its 400 gemstones weighing nearly 2.5 kg or almost 5lbs and screws it firmly down on the King's head then stands back to see if it is aligned properly. I wonder if you like me thought - what if he had dropped it? And the crown of St Edward had come tumbling onto the floor! If I had thought about it I would have paid more attention to the regalia particularly the two sceptres – each a three foot long golden staff symbolising the power of Kingship. The older one had had the famous Cullinan diamond added in 1910. This remains the largest diamond ever discovered which made me wonder how much all this fabulous stuff was worth.

When it came the coronation oaths, the king swears to govern his people, to administer justice, to protect the church and the Protestant Succession but not, I noted, to protect Parliament which, given the state of our government in recent years, was a notable omission, I thought. The climactic conclusion of the service was a rousing GOD SAVE KING CHARLES. I have never sung the National Anthem more lustily.

Then suddenly the service was over and the clergy were progressing out of the church. The big wigs ended up standing around waiting in front of us and the tedium was enlivened by a bearded Muslim gentleman in front of me leaping up in strict contravention of all the regulations and putting his arm around round Rishi Sunak and saying "Can I have a selfie" to which Rishi duly obliged! Finally the King and Queen went slowly past. As they mounted the golden state coach for the procession back to the palace, the rest of us, led mostly by the great and the good, completely ignoring the strictures of the ushers piled for the entrance. I was lost in a scrum of top hatted gents and bejewelled ladies pushing for the door. I emerged into the London drizzle feeling the anti-climax of it all.

Unaccountably emotional, I couldn't stop the tears. At times a bit boring, I confess to nodding off sometimes. I had been up since 5 o'clock after all. But always spectacular, I couldn't help the feeling that this was the culmination of my long and lucky life and remembering my loved ones who had gone.

I wound my way disconsolately back through Westminster Palace Gardens and over Lambeth Bridge past the ranks of policemen through the dirty back streets to my hotel.

As I picked up my bag the receptionist asked "Have been you to the actual coronation? How was it?" "Beyond amazing", I replied!

## ACTIVITIES REPORTS

### Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> March

#### “Cloth from Thread; Curd from Milk; Ring of Gold”

*David Lacey*

The unusual title of the talk today was intriguing and if, like me, you wondered what it would be about it certainly proved to be a thought-provoking discourse.

David began by quoting the saying ‘Beauty is in the eye of the Beholder’ and suggested that we all look at the world in a different light; we view life through different glasses. We all have the power over how we see things. The philosophy behind David’s talk today is, are we asking ourselves enough about the world we live in; the things we see; what we buy; the food we eat.

**Cloth from Thread:** This statement was interpreted as how diligently we pursue questions about things. How we should be naturally curious. David linked this thought with the threads in a garment of clothing, a jacket made of wool or a dress made of silk. Both garments have a different feel and look but if the threads of a garment are analysed taking into account the colour, cost, warmth, stretch, weight, whether it's waterproof then it is clear to see how it is con-

structed and how the garment would be utilised as well as what it is actually made of.

**Curd from Milk:** What is curd (yogurt) made from? – Milk. What is milk? What was it earlier on? How did this come about? We can look into the past for the results of today. We were shown two maps of the UK; one reflecting today’s voting pattern and one showing the coal mining areas of years gone by. What David highlighted was the Labour party controlled areas of today were the coal mining areas of the past. Other thought provoking questions to consider –

- Why is there so much fighting in the Middle East?
- Why is owning a gun in the USA a right?
- Why is there oil under the North Sea?
- Why is English spoken almost everywhere in the world?
- Why was there a shortage of PPE in the NHS?
- Why is there personal free-

dom in the UK and not in China ?

- Why is the South of England more prosperous than the North ?
- Would Winston Churchill still be great if there had been no war ?

Would you call this talk a philosophical one with food for thought ?

**Ring of Gold** : The Ring is a form – a shape. The Gold is a substance. Form and Substance have differing qualities.

Form is Changeable : The Ring can be remoulded into earrings or a necklace. Form has an identity; it is time limited, it is imperfect; it decays.

Substance is always the same : it is indefinable; the same in every part; pure; perfect.

Components of a living being are the genes; the cells; but life history makes that individual being who they are; a product of parenting, culture, schooling.



David Lacey

**Who am I ?** To know thyself is the beginning of wisdom.

**Know Thyself !** *The two maxims that follow "know thyself" are "nothing to excess" and "certainty brings ruin".*

Will we now think more about the things around us as we go about our daily lives ?

## Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> April

### "The Mystery of Agatha Christie"

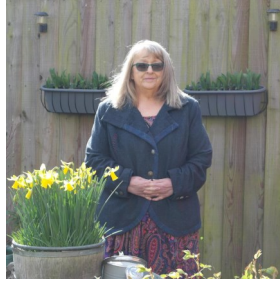
*Lynda Warren*

Lynda introduced herself as a keen researcher of Agatha Christie and has worked in the theatre and TV and visits Disneyland Paris as an educationalist. Agatha Mary Clarissa Christie was born in Torquay at the family home Ashfield on the 15<sup>th</sup> September 1890; she was the youngest of three siblings, a sister, Mary and a brother, Louis known as 'Monty'.

Agatha describes her childhood as happy although because her siblings were so much older, and there were few children in their neighbourhood, Agatha spent much of her time playing alone with her pets and imaginary companions. She eventually made friends with other girls in Torquay, noting that "one of the highlights of my existence" was her appearance with them in a youth production

of Gilbert and Sullivan's *The Yeomen of the Guard*, in which she played the hero, Colonel Fairfax. A year was spent abroad with her family, in the French Pyrenees, Paris, Dinard, and Guernsey.

According to Agatha, her mother believed she should not learn to read



until she was eight; thanks to her curiosity, she was reading by the age of four. Her sister had been sent to a boarding school, but their mother insisted that Agatha receive her education at home. As a result, her parents and sister supervised her studies in reading, writing and basic arithmetic, a subject she

particularly enjoyed. They also taught her music, and she learned to play the piano and the mandolin. By 1901, her father's health had deteriorated and he died in November 1901 from pneumonia and chronic kidney disease. Agatha believed her father's death when she was 11 marked the end of her childhood after which she spent many hours outside her mother's bedroom door listening to her breathing in the

fear of hearing it stop.

Agatha now lived alone at Ashfield with her mother. In 1902, she began attending Miss Guyer's Girls' School in Torquay but found it difficult to adjust to the

disciplined atmosphere. In 1905, her mother sent her to Paris, where



she was educated in a series of *pensionnats* (boarding schools), focusing on voice training and piano playing. Deciding she lacked the temperament and talent, she gave up her goal of performing professionally as a concert pianist or an opera singer.

At 18, Agatha wrote her first short story, "The House of Beauty", while recovering in bed from an illness. It consisted of about 6,000 words about "madness and dreams", subjects of fascination for her. The story became an early version of her story "The House of Dreams". Other stories followed, most of them illustrating her interest in spiritualism and the paranormal.

At a dance in October 1912 she met her husband, British businessman and military officer, Colonel **Archibald Christie**; they married in haste in 1914 prior to his leaving for France. In 1919 Agatha had a daughter, Rosalind Margaret. In 1922 Agatha and Archi travelled the world and in South Africa they were the first Britons who learned to surf standing up. She says "*Oh it was heaven! Nothing like rushing through the water at what seems to you a speed of about two hundred miles an hour. It is one of the most perfect physical pleasures I have known.*"

The ideas for Agatha's books were gathered through her experiences of world travel and during the war whilst working in a hospital dispensary and being exposed to poisons. The poem 'In a Dispensary' from the book 'Road of Dreams' is well worth a read.

Agatha and Archi separated in 1927 after a major rift due to his infidelity and

obtained a divorce the following year.

Agatha's disappearance after news of her husband's infidelity made international headlines and despite the extensive manhunt, she was not found for another 10 days where she was located in the Swan Hydropathic Hotel in Harrogate, Yorkshire, 184 miles north of her home in Sunningdale registered as "Mrs Tressa Neele", the surname of her husband's lover. She was diagnosed with an unquestionable loss of memory. Reflecting on the period in her autobiography, Agatha wrote, "So, after illness, came sorrow, despair and heartbreak. There is no need to dwell on it."

In 1927 she met her second husband, archaeologist Sir Max Edgar Lucien Mallowan on a dig in Iraq. They married in Edinburgh in September 1930 and their marriage lasted until Agatha's death in 1976.

Dame Agatha Christie has written 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, particularly those revolving around fictional detectives Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple. She also wrote the world's longest-running play, the murder mystery *The Mousetrap*, which has been performed in the West End since 1952. *Guinness World Records* lists Christie as the best-selling fiction writer of all time.

## Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> May

### Pop on the Box

*Jeff Evans*

Today our speaker was Jeff Evans with a Blast from the Past ! His talk was about the historical beginnings of Rock & Roll and Popular music on British TV. He's written a book about it and has also written a number of books about good British beer that may be of interest to some.

Rock and Roll emerged in the UK from the USA in the mid-1950s with artists such as Bill Haley & The Comets; Little Richard; Gene Vincent and Elvis Presley. The BBC's first attempt at a rock & roll programme was Six-Five-Special with Josephine Douglas and disc jockey Pete Murray as its first presenters, with Murray using the catchphrase "Time to jive on the old six five." Its resident band was Don Lang and His Frantic Five. The original programme included skiffle groups, school choirs, but also clips on current hairstyles, fashion, sport and popular films – more of a magazine programme for the young at heart. Jack Good at the age of 25, was drafted in by the BBC to help with the show and in his leisure time he watched the film Rock around the Clock and was excited to see the kids in the audience get up and dance in the cinema isles to the music on the big screen. He wanted to bring that excitement to Six Five Special but knew he needed to win over Jo Douglas and Pete

Murray and the conservative BBC. Jack Good introduced Tommy Steele to the show and in 1957 the first rock and roll programme took place with kids dancing when the music started – the show was a success from the beginning. The BBC and Jack Good didn't really see eye to eye about the programme content and so Jack and the BBC parted. Jack persuaded ITV – then ABC – to develop a pop programme and in 1958 Oh Boy, a pure rock and roll music show began. The show was given a slot on a Sunday morning but due to its immediate popularity

and in an attempt to compete with Six-Five-Special on the BBC at prime time on a Saturday evening, ITV changed the slot to a Saturday evening. Artists appearing on the show included Cuddly Dudley, Marty Wilde, Billy Fury, Shirley Bassey, Lonnie Donegan, Conway Twitty, Brenda Lee. Solo artists singing a medley of pop songs were supported by a specially created house band – Lord Rockingham's XI and the dancing girls were The Vernon Girls. Rehearsals at the Hackney Empire Stadium for Oh Boy were held during the week with Jack Good directing the artists where and how to look into designated cameras.



ITV wanted Oh Boy to move to a theatre in Manchester but it was too small for Jack Good and Marty Wilde and so a new show was developed by Jack Good called Boy Meets Girl. This show was conservative with ballads and wasn't successful. However, it was during this time Jack Good introduced a new singer on Boy Meets Girl named Cliff Richards. From Boy Meets Girl in 1960 Jack went on to create WHAM !! a more upbeat show where artists like Billy Fury, Cliff Richards and The Vernon Girls appeared – but this didn't really work either and Jack Good moved to LA to pursue a career in film and theatre directing. Later he went on to produce a US music show called Shindig where artists like The Everly Brothers, The Righteous Brothers, Tina Turner, Bo Diddley, Sonny and Cher, The Beach Boys, The Supremes and The Ronettes appeared.

Later shows featured performances that were taped in Britain - A set was used at Twickenham Film Studios, where British acts performed live for the cameras with the footage flown to be shown in the US; the first UK episode had The Beatles as the guests. The series later featured other British bands and performers including The Who, The Rolling Stones and Cilla Black.

Back to the UK pop industry and in 1958 the BBC scrapped Six-Five-Special and replaced it with Dig This. Dig This was replaced by DrumBeat which lasted only 4 months. In 1959 the BBC created Juke Box Jury hosted by David Jacobs; a panel of 4 reviewed new music releases and voted on whether they would be a Hit or a Miss. The programme was a great success and ran for seven and a half years. Do you remember Janice Nichols a young Lancashire lass on the panel who liked to 'Give it Five' when she liked a tune? Other one-time panel members were The Beatles. How did ITV bounce back – Autumn 1961

they created Thank Your Lucky Stars which was a TV variety show hosted by Brian Matthews. One snow bound evening when the Beatles appeared on the show singing Please Please Me, many people were at home as a result of the weather, the record shot to No. 1 the following week – would they have been so popular without the snow? – Probably!

In 1963 Ready Steady Go aired for the first time with presenter Cathy McGowen and continued for 4 years. The show gained its highest ratings on 20 March 1964 when it featured the Beatles being interviewed and performing "It Won't Be Long", "You Can't Do That" and "Can't Buy Me Love".

In the 1980s Dave Clark of the Dave Clark Five acquired the rights to the 1960s UK music show and bought the rights to the surviving recordings. It aired every Friday evening and the dancers were recruited from clubs around London for their looks, clothes and dance skills – it was the pop programme of the 60's.

Next on the BBC came Top of the Pops for a 6 week period which extended to 42 years making it the longest-running weekly music show. It was broadcast from 1 January 1964 until 30 July 2006. Records rising in the charts were played and the programme ended with the current No. 1. Dusty Springfield's "I Only Want to Be with You" was the first song featured on *TOTP*, while the Rolling Stones were the first band to perform, with "I Wanna Be Your Man". The first dancers on the show were the Go-Jos in 1964 followed by Pan's People. The show aired in colour in 1969 and at its peak had 20 million viewers. During the 80's popularity declined as the youth turned to music videos and internet. A new trend was setting.....

## FARINGDON GROUPS

Accessible Ukuleles	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Art	Sally Bull	07808 136919
Ashmolean	Shela Rowan	01367 243636
Astronomy	Stuart Priest	01367 240118
Books	Kay Chamberlain	01367 242647
Boules/Petanque	Peter Hoole	wolfitha@hotmail.com
Bridge - Beginners	Jill Ridley	07464 626188
Bridge - Intermediate/Adv	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
Cryptic Crosswords	Peter Smith	01367 241241
Current Affairs	Joy Jermy	joyhjermy@outlook.com
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
Golf Croquet	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
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
History	Mike Iremonger	01367 241361
Military history	Bjorn Watson	01793 782748
Music Appreciation	Beryl Cooper	01367 242908
Opera	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Photography	Anthony Burdall	01367 240713
Pickelball	Peter Hoole	wolfitha@hotmail.com
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

## Enter the u3a 2023 Short Story Competition

The u3a national short story competition is back for its fourth year, and the judges are looking forward to seeing what creative writing talents members have to offer. The theme for this year's competition is: '**Decision(s)**'. Enter your short story via this link <https://www.u3a.org.uk/learning/short-story-competition-2023>

**The deadline to enter is Monday 26 June 2023.**

## MEMBERS NEWS

We welcome the following new members—

**From Faringdon** : Audrey & James Dewhurst; Rosamund Gibson

**From Carterton** : Jo Drury; Janice Jones; Valerie Thomas

**From Duxford** : John Curtis

**From Lechlade** : Andrea Moss

**From Shellingford** : David Gantlett

**From Stanford-in-the-Vale** : Anne Robinson

**From Witney** : Lesley Edwards; Deborah Oloughlin

**We are sad to notify you of the death of Ian Clarkson a past chairman, group leader and valued long time member.**

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

### **Notes for Members**

*If you have any questions about groups contact the Groups Co-ordinator **Sue Cain** or email: [groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk)*

*Not all groups submit a news item for each Newsletter - a full list of groups is provided on pages 16 & 17.*

*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 and for a copy of "Guidelines for Interest Groups", and to check the proposed meeting day(s) and time(s).*

### **ART**

The art group started the summer sessions on 11<sup>th</sup> May with a 'regal' theme to our still life. Future dates are, as always, the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday in the month from 10am to 12 noon. (25<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> June and 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> July, after which we break for August and resume in September). Venue will be advised in advance. With luck we shall be able to paint en plein air when the weather allows! Do come and join our friendly group. All abilities welcomed.

### **ASHMOLEAN**

The Ashmolean visits recently have been popular with many members. We have enjoyed talks about Landscape Paintings through the Centuries with Gabriella Blake and Hoards and Treasures which was fascinating with Jude Barrett, head of adult education.

**Future talks: 1<sup>st</sup> June 2023 Coffers and Caskets and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2023 Aegean World.**

Members make their own way to the museum. 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 are two groups. The visit would be on the same day and is at about 12noon. New members are always welcome to attend and should email me for further information and payment details. Members usually travel to Oxford by bus or use the park and ride. The walk from the S6 bus is about 20 minutes at the moment.

Email for further details: **Shela Rowan** : [smr280652@gmail.com](mailto:smr280652@gmail.com) or **01367 243636**

## BEGINNER'S BRIDGE

We are approximately half way through the Beginners' Bridge schedule. The sessions are well attended and Players are beginning to show real progress. Currently we are not looking for new members to join unless they have played bridge before. For further information please contact **Jill Ridley 07464 626188** : [jillridley.22@hotmail.com](mailto:jillridley.22@hotmail.com) or Kim Townsend 07765 460174 : [Kimma\\_a@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:Kimma_a@tiscali.co.uk)

## BOULES/PETANQUE

At the time of writing 15<sup>th</sup> May less than a week after inviting interest I have 22 expressions of interest for the group which is very encouraging and I will be organising taster meetings very soon. If you are interested contact me **Peter Hoole** [woftha@hotmail.com](mailto:woftha@hotmail.com)

## 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 Jun 12<sup>th</sup>; Wed Jun 14<sup>th</sup>; Mon Jul 10<sup>th</sup>; Wed Jul 12<sup>th</sup>

**Experienced** : Wed Jun 28<sup>th</sup>; Wed Jul 26<sup>th</sup>.

For further details contact **Steve Braithwaite** on: [steve.bridge1@gmail.com](mailto: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', 'Sunday Times' or 'Observer' standard. We have recently developed a quick variant of the game with which to start our sessions. 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](mailto:pdes_smith@hotmail.com)).

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

We welcome new members to our group which meets on the **2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday** of the month 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 anyone who maybe interested in joining us.

For more information contact: **Joy Jermy** on [joyhjermy@outlook.com](mailto:joyhjermy@outlook.com)

## EMBROIDERY

The group is still slowly increasing in numbers following the long term effects of the Covid lockdown. Several of the group are progressing with projects in gold thread embroidery and other members are building their expertise and adding to their knowledge of basic techniques and stitchery. The group meet every second Tuesday in the month from 2.0 pm until 4.0 pm at 44 Huntersfield, Stanford-in-the-Vale, Faringdon. Oxon SN7 8LX. New members from absolute beginners to the more experienced are very welcome. For further details contact **Suellen Pedley** at [suellenpedley@aol.com](mailto:suellenpedley@aol.com) or phone 01367 710 680.

## FAMILY HISTORY

Our spring meetings have been a mix of introductory tips for newcomers to family history research, some real-time web searches and short presentations illustrating the way in which these can flesh out or corroborate family stories. Please phone **Marion Turner** on **01793 710 302** if you are interested in coming.

## FOLK DANCING

We meet on the **FIRST Thursday** of every month at the Catholic Church Hall, starting at 2.30 p.m. to approximately 4.00 p.m.

Dates : June 1; July 6; **NO MEETING IN AUGUST**; September 7; October 5. We look forward to seeing you. A warm welcome awaits. Contact: **Val Hudspeth** (**01367 241 035** or [valhud@gmx.com](mailto:valhud@gmx.com)).

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILMS

The Faringdon Foreign Language Films U3A group met in March to watch and discuss Narvik ( Norwegian) and in April to watch Have a Nice Day ( Mexican).

Our next meet is June 14. We plan to watch The Substitute ( Argentinian). Autumn dates are Sept 13 + Oct 18. Films to be decided. Suggestions wel-

comed. We meet at 2pm and start the film promptly at 2.15.

**Julie Forth**, 6 The Pines, SN7 8AU ; **01367242472** : [Juliekaren-forth@gmail.com](mailto:Juliekaren-forth@gmail.com)

## GARDENERS

**Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023:** Visit to Woolstone Mill House which is open for the NGS. Entrance £5.00. Meet at Woolstone at 2.30pm

**Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023:** Visit to Gaye Kyle's Garden at No 14 Church Street, Faringdon at 2.30pm. Details will be sent to Members later on how to find this garden.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023:** Visit to Friars Court, Clanfield. We need 12 members interested for this visit to go ahead. Entrance: £12.50 which includes a tour of the garden, visit to the Museum and a cream tea with cake.

**Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2023:** To be decided.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Christina Field on 01367 241 265 or [christinafield04@aol.com](mailto:christinafield04@aol.com)

## GOLF CROQUET

Will be held on the following dates: (weather permitting)

**Mon Jun 5<sup>th</sup>; Mon Jun 19<sup>th</sup>; Mon Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>; Mon Jul 17<sup>th</sup>**

At 19 Coxwell Road, Faringdon, starting at 2pm. No previous experience is required.

Contact: Steve Braithwaite at [steve.bridge1@gmail.com](mailto:steve.bridge1@gmail.com) or 07740 30 60 55

## HISTORY OF ART

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> June** when we plan to visit the recently restored Kelmscott Manor for lunch and an informal tour. Time to be arranged. There are no meetings in July or August so we shall meet again on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

For more information please contact Sue Thrower on 01367 240 949 or [smthrower@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:smthrower@tiscali.co.uk).

## ITALIAN IMPROVERS

We are of a level something above beginners and trying to improve. We meet on roughly alternate Wednesdays at 10am. Please phone **Marion Turner** on **01793 710 302** if you are interested in coming.

## JAZZ

On Monday June 12 we will have (or we have just had) our final meeting before the summer break when Peter Robinson will be telling us about The Ladies of Jazz. We meet on the second Monday of each month in the Library, Gloucester Street, from 10.30am to noon with a 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. Meetings begin again on Monday September 11 in the Library. You do not need to give advance warning. Just turn up. If you're interested or would like to know more or get on our mailing list, please email or ring me: **Patrick Wheare: 01367241927**, or [patwheare@gmail.com](mailto:patwheare@gmail.com)

## LUNCH CLUB

We are now a thriving group who welcome all to our outings. Pre-ordering our meal is usually required so please always book your attendance with Tessa. We meet at a different restaurant each month on the third Wednesday. Future lunches are : The Woodman, Fernham-21 June : The Lamb, Wantage-19 July: Bampton Garden Centre-16 August. Please contact **Tessa Timms** on **01367 358 613** for further details. [tessaatimms@gmail.com](mailto:tessaatimms@gmail.com)

## MILITARY HISTORY

The Military History Group normally meets on the first Thursday of the month and we consider an eclectic range of topics from the 100 years War to WW II and beyond.

We will not be meeting over the summer but we restart again in September when Peter Foot will be talking about Army Education and the Haldane Reforms of 1906 -12 which were very soon tested in 1914.

If you wish to join us, please contact **Bjorn Watson** at [bjornwatson@btinternet.com](mailto:bjornwatson@btinternet.com) to be included in the Zoom meeting or on **01793 782 748**.

## OPERA GROUP

The Opera Group is well attended and we are meeting in The Old Town Hall on the third Monday of every month. Group members are selecting a different Opera each month which is shown 'On The Big Screen' by DVD. 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 are welcome. Please contact **Tessa Timms 01367 358613** or [tessaatimms@gmail.com](mailto:tessaatimms@gmail.com) for further details.

Dates for Viewings : 19 June; 17 July; August—Holiday; 18 September.

## PHOTOGRAPHY

*Learning more about photography to produce better images*

The Photographic Group have just completed a Garden Photography project. And are now starting a Water Photography exercise visiting various venues

to photograph different aspects of water; over the following month (or so) we will be making expeditions to Buscot Wier and Lock and river, Devizes Canal including Caen Hill Locks, River Thames at Lechlade, Clevedon (for pier) to Burnham-on-Sea (for lighthouse), Cotswold Water Park, Purton Ship Graveyard, and finally Hurst Castle and Keyhaven.

The next monthly meeting of the Photographic Group will be on Wednesday 14 June 2023 and will be a Photographic Expedition to West Wycombe Park, Village and Hill 'Country House landscape'. July meeting will be a Photograph Review plus selecting Photograph of the Year. No meeting is planned for August.

Over the period Bi-monthly assignments will be Industrial architecture, Street Photography and finally Summer action.

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; Tel: **01367 240 713**; Email: [anthony.burdall@burdall.net](mailto:anthony.burdall@burdall.net) ).

### PICKELBALL

At the time of writing 15th May less than a week after inviting interest I have 22 expressions of interest for each group which is very encouraging and I will be organising taster meetings very soon. If you are interested contact me Peter Hoole [wolfitha@hotmail.com](mailto:wolfitha@hotmail.com)

### PLAY READING

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

### POETRY

The Poetry Group made hay,  
 When horses was the theme for May,  
 And June looks good, the theme is food.  
 For July, August and September  
 Insects, Holiday and Schooldays to remember  
 Meeting dates - June 5<sup>th</sup>; July 3<sup>rd</sup>; August 7<sup>th</sup>; September 4<sup>th</sup>;  
 All at 10.30 in the Faringdon Library  
 Contact - **Dave Dalton : 01367 241 874**

## QUIZ

We meet in the **SMALL HALL** at the **FARINGDON UNITED CHURCH**.

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

We meet on the second Friday of the Month, other than August. Doors open at 10.15 for the quiz to start at 10.30.

There is free car parking available for us, behind the Hall!

Contact **Danielle Mills** for details **01367 718625** or email [danielle.mills1948@gmail.com](mailto:danielle.mills1948@gmail.com)

## 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 on instruments ranging from soprano to bass, which allows access to a wide range of music. The Consort will be performing at FollyFest on Sunday July 9<sup>th</sup> [in Floyd's Grill, London Street] soon after lunch.

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

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> June** - Talk entitled "The James Webb Space Telescope and its Discoveries" by Robin Clegg at 1430 in the Barber Rooms, Faringdon.

**July meeting** - yet to be arranged.

**August** - no meeting.

Further details can be obtained from **Ron Colyer** on **01793 782 363**

Email: [roncolyersandt@gmail.com](mailto:roncolyersandt@gmail.com) or from the website.

## SCRABBLE

Due to several requests we are reintroducing our pre-COVID afternoon monthly Scrabble sessions from July 7.

On the first Thursday of each month, we'll meet at Faringdon Library from 2.30pm with games planned to end around 4.30pm. Refreshments will be available on a cost recovery basis. Shouldn't be more than £1 a head. For early risers and Scrabble addicts, we will continue with our weekly Scrabble games at the Pump House Project on Swan Lane (opposite GPO)



in Faringdon **EVERY** Tuesday from 0930 until +/-11.30pm.

Beautiful home baked cakes, pastries, biscuits and freshly brewed hot drinks are on sale at £1 per item No other fees are payable.

Suitable for most degrees of proficiency, good company and lots of fun.

Further details from **Dusty Miller 01367 240 397** or **07780 210 543**. (All welcome, but it would be useful to have an idea of likely numbers for afternoon sessions for first few meetings).

## SCRAPBOOKING

The scrapbooking group will be looking at book binding in June and July under the guidance of one of our group, Maggie Bohm and in the meantime 6 of us are looking forward to a trip to visit Carterton's u3a scrapbooking group to see what they do.

We normally meet on the first Tuesday of the month at Shrivenham Memorial Hall but there will be no meet in August. Please feel free to drop in or contact Sue Horton 07990010051 [alice\\_maud@yahoo.com](mailto:alice_maud@yahoo.com) for more details Please feel free to visit or contact **Sue Horton** on **07990 010 051** or [alice\\_maud@yahoo.com](mailto:alice_maud@yahoo.com)

## SEWING

The sewing group has various levels of ability but we are gaining in experience. We meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm however the class is now full. Contact **Tessa Timms** at [tessaatimms@gmail.com](mailto:tessaatimms@gmail.com) or **01367 358 613** to add you name to the waiting list.

## SOCIAL HISTORY WALKS

We have been overwhelmed with the interest in the Social History Walks and are running a morning and afternoon walk on the third Thursday of the month. There is a waiting list and, for the time being, we will not be taking any more names. In March we enjoyed finding out about the history of Bishopstone, including a crime of passion and what the Sparrow Hunters Club was! In April we had an interesting walk around Ashbury and Kingstone Winslow, which included a visit to the medieval Ashbury Manor. Our members also found out what a 'wayte' was (a lookout or an ambush - this is where we get the saying 'lying in wait' from) and that Ashbury once had a nuclear fallout shelter. We will be exploring Stanford in the Vale in May and different villages each month through to October.

*Stewart and Margaret Smith*

## SPANISH - INTERMEDIATE

The Spanish group is delighted to be able to meet again face to face in each other's houses. We meet every **Tuesday** afternoon but the group is in fact at maximum numbers for the moment. However, if

anyone wishes to start a new/beginners Spanish Group we have quite a few resources belonging to the U3A: books, DVDs etc., which could be used. Please contact **Carolyn Taylor** if this would be of interest. [carolyn.taylor2@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:carolyn.taylor2@tiscali.co.uk) or **01367 242 490**

### **TRANSPORT HISTORY**

I have had a lifetime interest in public transport history, whether rail, tram, or bus, and wonder whether there might be a following in U3A for a regular meeting of like-minded individuals?

At this stage, it's just a general enquiry to see the extent of interest.

If you are interested, please get in touch with **Colin Hamling** : [chtrainmaster22@gmail.com](mailto:chtrainmaster22@gmail.com)

### **WALKERS**

Any lapsed or potentially new members of the Ramblers' Groups interested in joining a new, medium-level Walkers' Group are invited to contact **Mike Griffiths—01367 242 714** or [Michael@ukfsn.org](mailto:Michael@ukfsn.org) to discuss options.

### **WINE APPRECIATION GROUP**

#### **Our most recent meeting - 18<sup>th</sup> April**

Glen Anderson gave an insightful presentation and tasting of wines from Bulgaria, Romania and Moldova. He presented wines produced from indigenous grape varieties as opposed to the predominantly French varieties that exist in two of the three countries. Glen is responsible for the management of the Wine and Spirits section at Waitrose's Faringdon store.

**The Wine Appreciation Group's calendar of events for the remainder of the year.**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2:00pm visit to Chiltern Valley Vineyard**

**(Please note the change of date from that in the Spring newsletter).**

The visit to Chiltern Valley Vineyard will consist of a two hour tour with tasting, together with an opportunity to visit the on-site Brewery and to purchase Wines, Beers and Liqueurs at 10% discounted prices. Cost of the wine tour is £22.50 per person plus an additional fee – yet to be

confirmed for organised transport. Please note that although the visit starts at the vineyard at 2:00pm, departure from Faringdon would probably be at around 1:00pm.

**17th October** : Speaker yet to be confirmed

**15<sup>th</sup> December** : Festive Lunch – Our annual, pre-Christmas, gastro-nomic 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. 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.



## **THAMES VALLEY NETWORK NEWS**



All members of the Faringdon & District

u3a have access to the Thames Valley Network offerings of Study Events, which are in addition to those provided by our own branch and groups. The Events are always via Zoom - by popular demand - and rarely cost more than £1 per viewing device (tablet, phone or laptop). If you are not yet registered on the TVN communications email list, please contact **Peter Foot** on [p.foot47@gmail.com](mailto:p.foot47@gmail.com). Once on the list, you will automatically receive timely notification of all events.

The next two confirmed Events are:

- **The Summer Quiz**, 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 14.30 (flyer already sent out)
- **The Conflict Over Ukraine**, 27<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30. Further Events will be announced over the Summer. However, it is always an idea to keep an eye on the TVN website <https://u3asites.org.uk/thame/page/68261>. Enjoy the Summer!

## IAN CLARKSON REMEMBERED

"It was through U3A that I knew Ian Clarkson. He joined the Committee in April 2007 and, much to my pleasure, became Chairman in 2009, leading the Faringdon U3A to increased membership and great activity – at the time Pam Jones, who was Area Representative and went on to become Third Age Trust Chair, suggested Faringdon U3A was the most active in the Thames Valley and how she wished others could follow our example. For many years Ian ran the Family History Group, for a period ran the computer group and led many walks for the Ramblers. I was one of the many U3A members who benefitted from his leadership and guidance, and I remember sharing many a pub lunch on a walk.

*Anthony Burdall*"



## PHOTOS FROM BJORN WATSON'S DAY TO REMEMBER

