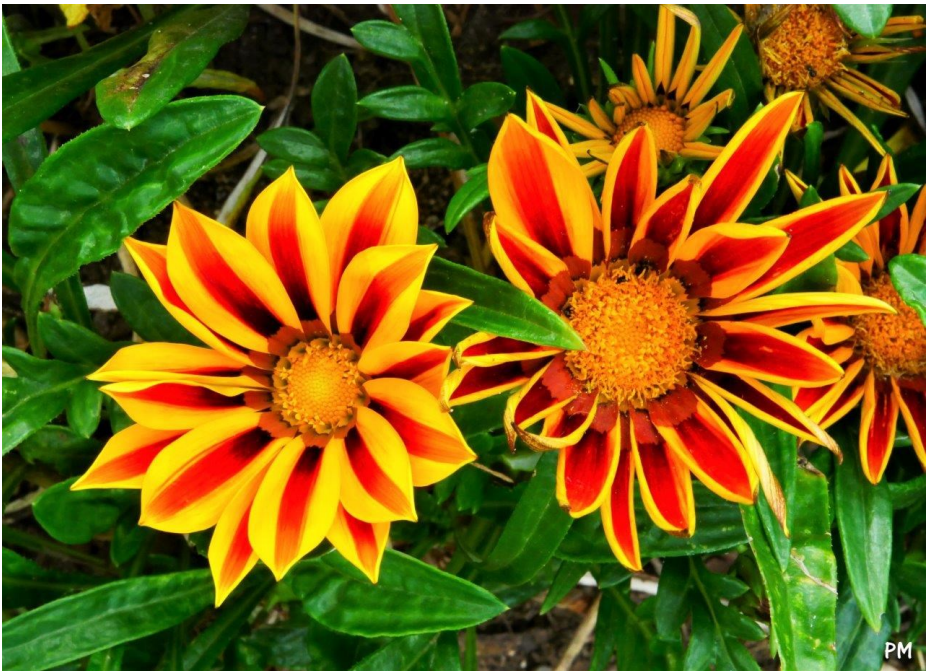


FARINGDON & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



Autumn 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 14th 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 Hobbiton 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 Tolkein. This talk will certainly appeal to all Tolkein fans and also to the many of us that regularly walk up on the Folly.

Thursday 12th 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 9th November 2023:

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE IN THE UNITED CHURCH.

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 14th 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!

Members News

We welcome the following new members:

From Faringdon: Debbie Isitt , Peter Wright

From Shrivenham: Steve Artingstall, Jonathan Sturt

From Stanford-in-the-Vale: Colin & Yvonne Chapman

We are sad to notify you of the deaths of : Valerie Burdall and David Turner



OPEN DAY 2023



Our annual Open Day will be held in the Corn Exchange on **Saturday 14th October** between **10:00** and **12:00**.

The event aims to attract new members.

So, if you know someone who is contemplating joining Faringdon and District u3a, do encourage them to come along .

Whilst for existing members it offers an opportunity find out more about Groups they are not already familiar with. Do come along, chat with Group Leaders and see if anything takes your fancy.

Refreshments will be available.

Thoughts from the Chair

Groups Fair Corn Exchange SATURDAY 14th October 10 - 12am.

We hope that not only will you come along to talk to the Leaders of Groups you might find interesting but also that you will use the intervening time to encourage acquaintances who are non-members to come along and see what is on offer. Note that we have changed to a Saturday in the hope of reaching a wider audience.

I am sure you will all agree that our U3a offers a lot to all sorts of people and we would like to spread that message more widely. To that end we approached the Advertiser who most unexpectedly have offered us a monthly half-page of advertorial. In the September edition we will have a piece kindly prepared by a retired professional Journalist distilling the ideas of the committee into something effective and promoting the Open Day in the Corn Exchange.

Ideas so far for subsequent editions are a focus on individual Groups or Member interviews "What u3a has meant to me". Photos to accompany the text are especially welcome and require less copy. If you have any other proposals for copy ideas please send them to me:

chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk I say to contact me, despite my appeal in the last edition for someone to take over Publicity answer came there none! Please give it more consideration than "I'm sure somebody else will volunteer" because we have had no luck so far. It would preferably be someone who uses Social Media as that is important and can have a far wider reach than The Advertiser alone.

When promoting Faringdon u3a bear in mind that we have a visibility problem - it is virtually only our members who know what we are and if anyone else has heard of us they think they do not qualify. u3a is open to all, it appears to be exclusive in that almost everything we do is during the day Monday to Friday for historic reasons but there is no rule that it has to be so and we can find a wider membership if we embrace other possibilities bringing the undoubted benefits, especially social, in an increasingly fragmented society, to a wider public. I would welcome your views.

Peter Hoole

FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A COMMITTEE 2023/24

Peter Hoole	Chairman	07385 297571 chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Rita Higazi	Events & Venue Team	01367 244494 events@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Peter Robinson	Events & Venue Team	01367 718566 events@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Sue Cain	Groups Co-ordinator & Newsletter	07731 675729 groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Ricky Cunningham	IT/Website Coordinator	01367 242626 itcoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Carol Jones	Membership Secretary	07955 443529 membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Tessa Timms	Programme Team & Newsletter	01367 358613 newsletereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Roger Wilkins	Secretary	01793 782498 secretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Shela Rowan	Speakers' Coordinator	07812 751165 speakers@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Peter Foot	Thames Valley Representative	01367 358046 tvnrep@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Christopher Langham	Treasurer	
Vacant	Vice Chairman	
Vacant	Publicity	

Activities Reports

Meeting – 8th June “Oxford’s Penicillin” *Marie-Louise Kerr,*

Marie-Louise Kerr, Curator without Museum, gave us a lively talk today about the development of Penicillin.

She also suggested a visit to Oxford’s History of Science Museum might interest us.

The discovery of penicillin is usually attributed to Sir Alexander Fleming however there others who should be credited equally with its development.

It was 1928 when Dr Alexander Fleming returned from a holiday to find mould growing on a Petri dish of *Staphylococcus* bacteria. He noticed the mould seemed to be preventing the bacteria around it from growing. He soon identified that the mould produced a self-defence chemical that could kill bacteria. Fleming conducted further experiments to isolate the antibiotic agent but found it difficult to isolate this precious ‘mould juice’ in large quantities.

Just as Fleming was contemplating retirement two scientists, Howard Florey, Professor of Pathology at Oxford’s William Dunn School of Pathology and Ernst Chain, a bio-chemist, became interested in penicillin. Picking up where Fleming left off, they confirmed that the mould produced substances that inhibited the growth of important bacteria; a proper laboratory was needed but the acquisition of materials for a lab to extract the ‘juice’ was difficult due to the war. The Team became innovative in what was

used as utensils; biscuit tins were welded together, ceramic bedpans and pie dishes were stacked in the makeshift lab.

‘Penicillin Girls’ were recruited by Howard Florey, these six wom-



en—Ruth Callow, Claire Inayat, Betty Cooke, Peggy Gardner, Megan Lancaster, and Patricia McKegney “farmed penicillin”, collecting a few milligrams of solid penicillin each week from hundreds of litres of what they called “mould juice”.

It was at the height of the Second World War when they conducted a critical experiment ; they took their crude Penicillium extract and injected it into a series of mice that had been infected by bacteria. Eight mice were given a lethal dose of *Streptococci* and four were given penicillin. The four mice that were not treated all died within 16 hours. The four mice that were treated all survived for several days. One of them survived indefinitely. Their experiment was remarkable!

The next step was to test the drug on humans, but a much greater quantity of penicillin was required.

Norman Heatley discovered that the

hospital bedpans he had acquired from the Radcliffe were a good place to grow the mould. He then commissioned a pottery company in Stoke to make 700 square containers so he could manufacture the amount needed. Heatley played a crucial part in the development of penicillin. However, the work the scientist conducted during 1939-43 has largely been overlooked by the history books. Norman Heatley was the key technical man whose innovations meant that the team could extract and purify the penicillin.

On 12th February 1941 the first human, Albert Alexander, an Abingdon policeman at the Radcliffe Infirmary, was injected with Penicillin by Dr. Fletcher, a young Oxford doctor. Within 48 hours Albert was sitting up but there was insufficient penicillin to kill the bacteria threatening his life and so additional penicillin was extracted from Albert's urine but he eventually died on 14th March 1941.



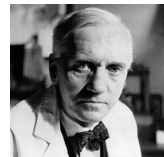
This led the Team to explore how Penicillin could be manufactured in large quantities; all the large manufacturing plants in the UK were manufacturing ammunition and so Heatley and Florey travelled to the USA with Penicillin in their pockets to ensure the mould was preserved in the event their plane was shot down across the Atlantic.

It took a woman, Margaret Hutchinson, the first female member of the Institute of Chemical Engineers to design the first plant to produce large quantities of Penicillin. This facility was set up in the USA as they were not yet in the war – it was

funded by the private sector and the US department of Agriculture. By 1945 enough Penicillin was being manufactured to treat wounded soldiers but in 1943 Churchill took the decision that only soldiers who were able to continue to fight after their 10-day Penicillin treatment was complete would be prescribed the antibiotic; this meant it was mostly soldiers with sexually transmitted diseases who received the drug.

Today, penicillin, considered the first wonder drug, is used to treat throat infections, meningitis, syphilis and other bacterial infections; at some stage I guess we have all been prescribed a course but a very interesting interview with Dr. Keiji Fuduka when he was Assistant Director-General of the World Health Organisation about the treatment of micro-organisms by antibiotics is definitely worth viewing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q23II5b9Rn0>

Alexander Flemming was awarded the 1945 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly with Ernst Boris Chain and Sir Howard Walter Florey "for the discovery of penicillin and its curative effect in various infectious diseases."



Chain **Florey** **Heatley**



Meeting - 21st July " Recycling "

Alex Pyle—Vale of White Horse Waste Management Team



One very simple thing that everybody can do is, of course, to ensure that we are recycling wherever possible. Whilst most of us already do this, it can sometimes be a little confusing trying to work out what can, and cannot, be recycled, and what all of the different symbols mean on packaging.

Our talk today by Alex Pyle from the Vale of White Horse Waste Management Team was very helpful in putting us on the right path. So, in order to help us all get to grips with recycling, here is a run-down on what the main symbols that you'll find on packaging mean. The numbers below relate to the symbols in the above photo.

1. Recycle: A fairly self-explanatory symbol to start with. If you see this

on your packaging, it means that it is collected by 75% or more of local authorities across the UK. You should be able to put it in any recycling bin.

2. Rinse: Another pretty straightforward one. If this is on your packaging, it means that it is recyclable, but you need to give it a rinse first, so that food residue doesn't contaminate other materials.

3. Not currently recycled: Again, pretty easy to understand. This means that less than 20% of local councils currently collect this type of packaging for recycling, and therefore you need to put it in with your general waste. You can check with your local council, however, to see if they are

one of the 20% that do collect for recycling.

4. The Green Dot: This one's a bit confusing. To look at it, you'd assume it means that the packaging is recyclable, but that's not necessarily the case. The symbol, which is used in some European countries, simply means that a financial contribution has been paid to a national packaging recovery organisation. The Green Dot may appear alongside another recycling logo.

5. Mobius Loop: To many people, this is the most recognisable symbol. It might sound like something out of a science fiction film, but what the Mobius Loop actually means is that the packaging can be recycled, but that it hasn't been made from recycled materials.

6. Plastic resin codes: Slightly more complicated, this one. It explains what kind of plastic an item is made of. The number in the middle will usually go from one to seven. Generally, one and two are okay to go in your recycling bin, but you can check with your local council to find out if they recycle any of the other numbers. If your council doesn't recycle the type of plastic, then unfortunately you'll need to put it in with your general waste

7. Glass recycling: Simply, this symbol means that the glass packaging should go into your home recycling bin. Glass that doesn't have this symbol (for instance, light bulbs), needs to go to your local recycling centre.

8. Recyclable aluminium: You'll see this one when something aluminium is able to go in your recycling bin, such as drinks cans. Aluminium packaging that doesn't have this symbol will need to be put in with your general waste.

9. Recyclable steel: Although steel is recyclable, you should take it to a recycling centre, rather than putting it in your home recycling bin.

10. Tidy man: The absolutely classic Keep Britain Tidy symbol. Basically, it means don't litter.

11. Waste electricals: You'll find this on electrical items that shouldn't be put in with your general waste.

12. Compostable: Some packaging can be put in with your home compost and some can't. Products which are industrially compostable may have this logo. Don't put them

in your home composting or food waste bin, but rather contact your local council to find how to recycle them.

13. Home composting: This is a symbol you will see when packaging is ok to be composted at home, including your food waste bin.

14. Forest Stewardship Council (FSC): The FSC logo means that an item has been made using wood from well-managed forests.

To check what our Vale of White Horse allows please go to:
<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/what-goes-in-what-bin/the-green-recycling-wheellie-bin/>

Some additional help from Alex :
 Textiles can be recycled – put them in a carrier next to the green bin and the Salvation Army collect from the Council.

Small electrical goods, e.g., kettle, toaster, hairdryer – put in a carrier and put next to the black bin.

Batteries including lithium iron – put them in a clear plastic bag on top of the green bin.

Gas canisters must be taken to the local recycling hub as they are a fire hazard in the trucks.

GENERAL WASTE:

Clear film used to wrap meat and fish

Film from the tops of plastic trays

Crisp packets

Fruit, veg and salad bags

Sweet wrappers

Bread bags

Plastic bags

Plastic pouches for pet food and baby food

RECYCLING ITEMS

PLASTICS

Cleaning product and beauty product bottles

Drinks bottles (and tops)

Food and drink cartons (like soup or juice cartons)

Food trays (including black trays)

Ice cream tubs

Large sweet tubs

Margarine tubs

Plastic milk cartons and bottles

Yogurt pots

Carrier bags

PAPER & CARDBOARD

Books – (can also be donated to charity shops etc)

Catalogues

Phone directories

Cereal boxes

Cardboard and cardboard boxes

Envelopes (including envelopes)

with plastic windows)

Greeting cards (no glitter as this remains in the water and contaminates the process.

Junk mail

Magazines and newspapers but NOT the Daily Mail as the ink is incompatible with the processing.

Shredded paper

Tissue boxes

Toilet roll tubes

Writing paper

Tetra Pak

GLASS

Bottles – any colour – the lids can go in your green wheelie bin too, but please remove them

jars – any colour

METAL

Aerosols

Clean foil

Food tins and cans including pet food

Steel and aluminium food and drink cans (please wash and squash them first)

Metal lids (bottle and jar lids)

What happens to your recycling:

Your recycling is taken to a Material Recovery Facility in London and separated into different materials. These are then processed and sold on to companies to be made into brand new products. If the recycling has too many non-recyclable

things in it the facility will not accept it so please make sure you recycle correctly.

Questions were asked regarding toothpaste tubes, wire coat hangers, the metal tomato paste tubes and these items should be placed in the black rubbish bin.

Our Food Waste is taken to an Anaerobic Digestion processing facility where it is broken down by bacteria to create gas and a liquid called digestate. The gas is used to generate electricity, and the digestate is pasteurised to become organic fertiliser. Anyone wishing to visit the recycling and waste processing plants to see what happens to our waste should contact Ron Colyer as he is arranging visits to these facilities.

COVID Guidance

Your Committee expect and trust that all those wishing to attend any General or Group meetings will ensure their vaccinations are up to date.

In the event of feeling unwell please do not attend your Groups or General Meetings.

Faringdon Interest Groups

Accessible Ukuleles	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Art	Sally Bull	07808 136919
Ashmolean	Shela Rowan	07812 751165
Astronomy	Stuart Priest	01367 240118
Books	Kay Chamberlain	01367 242647
Boules/Petanque	Peter Hoole	wolfitha@hotmail.com
Bridge - Beginners	Jill Ridley	07464 626188
Bridge - Int/Adv	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
Cryptic Crosswords	Peter Smith	pdes_smith@hotmail.com
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
Military history	Bjorn Watson	01793 782748
Music Appreciation	Groups Coordinator	See committee list
Opera	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Photography	Anthony Burdall	01367 240713
Pickleball	Peter Hoole	wolfitha@hotmail.com
Poetry	Dave Dalton	01367 241874
Quilters	Groups Co-ordinator	See committee list
Quiz	Danielle Mills	01367 718625
Ramblers	Mike Griffiths	01367 242714

Recorder Consort	Peter Smith	pdes_smith@hotmail.com
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

Notes for Members

If you have any questions about groups contact the Groups Co-ordinator

Sue Cain or email: groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk

Not all groups submit a news item for each Newsletter - a full list of groups is provided on pages **12-13**

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 and time.

Reminder for Group Leaders

Following a committee decision, your membership register needs to be added to Beacon. If you need any help please ask Sue or Ricky

Deadline for the Winter Newsletter

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

Editor: newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk

by **Wednesday 9th November 2023**

The Autumn Newsletter will cover **December, January, February**

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

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art

Please contact **Sally on 01367 242233** for information regarding the art group. 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

These visits always take place on the first Thursday in the month. Members make their own way to the Ashmolean Museum. 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 during the Botley Road works.

Talks for future visits include The Ashmolean Story and Textiles in the Ashmolean. For further details contact: **Shela Rowan, smr280652@gmail.com or 07812751165**

Boules/Petanque

If you are interested contact me **Peter Hoole woftha@hotmail.com**

Beginner's Bridge

A new course will start in January 2024. This is suitable for complete beginners or those who've not played in a long while. If you are interested, or would like more information, please let us know.

Dates: Lessons will run on the first and third Monday of the month, starting on 15th January

Venue: The Blessed Hugh Church Hall in Faringdon. Parking is limited outside the hall, but Budgens car park is only 2 minutes' walk away.

Time: 9.50 for a 10.00 start. We finish at 12.00 with a short break for coffee/tea midway through

Cost: dependent on numbers but approx. £2.00 a session

Contacts:

Jill Ridley: 07464626188 or jill.ridley.22@hotmail.com

Kim Townsend 07765460174 or kimma_a@tiscali.co.uk

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 Sep 11th Wed Sep 13th

Mon Oct 16th Wed Oct 18th

Mon Nov 13th Wed Nov 15th

Experienced

Wed Sep 27th

Wed Oct 25th

Wed Nov 29th

For further details contact **Steve Braithwaite** on: steve.bridge1@gmail.com or **07740306055**

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:**
pdes_smith@hotmail.com

Current Affairs

We meet at 10.30 on the second* Thursday of each month in the Faringdon Coffee House in the market square where we chat and at the same time are able to enjoy something from Nita's tempting selection of food and drinks.

We discuss and share all kinds of topical themes following an agenda which is, importantly, generated by members of the group. We're a small group of people

and discussion is always conducted within an atmosphere of mutual respect and friendship. Do get in touch to ask questions and to let me know you'll be attending:

joyhjermy@outlook.com

**Exceptionally September's meet up will be held on the first Thursday, that is 7th September.*

Embroidery

We meet every second Tuesday in the month at 44, Huntersfield, Stanford-in-the-Vale. SN7 8LX. A wide range of embroideries are worked from basic stitchery to gold work and fine silk techniques. New members always welcome, whether absolute beginners or more experienced embroiderers. For more details contact **Suellen Pedley. Tel 01367 710 680 or email suellenpedley@aol.com**

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: Sept. 7th Oct. 5th Nov. 2nd Dec.7th and Jan. 4th

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

Contact: Val Hudspeth on 01367 241035 or valhud@gmx.com

Foreign Language Films

The Foreign Language Films group continues to meet at The Pines. We are a small core group of 5 individuals with a few others joining us as and when they are able to.

In March we enjoyed 'Narvik': a WW2 narrative from Norway, focusing on the survival of a young family during the bombing of Narvik.

In April, we went for something more light-hearted: 'Have a Nice Day' from Mexico. This film focused on an inter-generational friendship and explored issues around work; love and ageism.

In June, we watched 'The Tunnel' – another one from Norway – which was based on true events. What might happen if there was a fire in the middle of a 3-mile tunnel (with no escape routes or exit plan)? This film was full of suspense and expectation. Thoroughly enjoyed by all!

After the film, we share our thoughts and ideas about the film, usually with a cup of tea and a biscuit or cake.

Next dates have been chosen: 20th Sept; 18th Oct; 22nd Nov. We meet at 2pm for a 2.15pm start. Venue: 6 The Pines. **Ring Julie 01367 242472** (and leave a message) if you would like to attend

Gardeners

Thursday 21st September: Visit to Cogges Manor Farm, Witney. Please let Christina know if you are coming and whether you can give someone a lift. Admission £9.00.

There is quite a lot to see, so we should aim to arrive at 2.15pm.

Thursday, 19th October: Visit to Batsford Arboretum and Garden Centre. Please let Christina know if you are coming and whether you can give someone a lift. Admission £8.95. I thought it would be nice to go before lunch so we should aim to arrive at 12 noon.

Thursday, 16th November: to be decided.

For further information contact **Christina Field on 01367 241265 or christinafield04@aol.com**

Golf Croquet

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

Mon Sep 4th

Mon Oct 2nd

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

Contact: **Steve Braithwaite: steve.bridge1@gmail.com or 07740306055**

History of Art

Our group restarts again on Thursday 21st September.

For more information please contact **Sue Thrower on 01367 240 949 or 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 710302** if you are interested in coming.

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 are welcome to 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: 01367 241927, or 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 on the third Wednesday of the month.

Future lunches are:

20th September - Greyhound Inn, Letcombe Regis;

18th October - Saracens Head, Highworth;

15th November - The New Inn, Lechlade;

20th December- The White Hart, Fyfield.

Please contact **Tessa Timms on 01367 358613 or 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 from the 100 years War to WW II and beyond.

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 or 01793 782748** to be included in the Zoom meeting

Music Appreciation

Anyone interested in continuing with music appreciation please contact the Groups co-ordinator at groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk

Opera Group

The Opera Group is thriving and enjoying our monthly opera screenings; we break midpoint and share a finger supper with a glass or two.

During the summer months (April to September) on the third Thursday of each month, we are meeting in The Jubilee Room on the first floor of the Faringdon Information Centre in the Market Square.

In the winter months (October to March) we are meeting in The Old Town Hall on the third Monday of the month.

Members select a different Opera each month which is shown 'on the big screen' by DVD.

The evenings start at 5pm and finish around 9pm depending on the length of the opera. All are welcome. Please contact **Tessa Timms 01367 358613 or tessaatimms@gmail.com** for further details.

Dates for Viewings:

18th September – Jubilee Room.

16th October; 20th November; 18th December – Old Town Hall.

Photography

Learning more about photography to produce better images

Of late, the Photographic Group has, for various reasons, had to cancel or substantially change events. In the circumstances there have been limited Photographic Group activities in June, July and August. However, we held a picnic lunch in August at Buscot Weir to discuss plans for 2023-2024

A detailed programme of events and activities will be circulated to members and posted on the web site. If you would like to receive a copy of the programme, please contact **Anthony**.

We will be holding a **Beginners Photographic Course**, starting in **November 2023**. This will be of interest to those with little photographic experience but who wish to produce better images. If you are interested, please contact **Anthony**.

The Group will meet 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**

PS: There is no truth in the rumour that the Group is to be renamed the Picnic Group. But we will be having more picnics as they are very much enjoyed.

Pickleball

Pickleball group meet Thursdays at 4pm at Faringdon Tennis Club. Please contact **Peter Hoole wolfitha@hotmail.com**

Poetry

The Poetry Group is alive and well and enjoying some well written verse dealing with, or inspired by, the monthly theme. The group meets in the Faringdon Library

on the first Monday of each month at 10.30am. September will be on the 4th, October 2nd, November 6th, and December 4th. The themes for the coming months are September – Schooldays; October – Illness; November – Parting; December – Passion.

Quilters

This is a new group in the process of being set up. We already have 12 people interested. Please contact Sue on groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk if you would like further details.

Quiz

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 in the Small Hall at the Faringdon United Church. 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 01367 718625** or danielle.mills1948@gmail.com

Ramblers

If you enjoy a 'medium' length walk and would like to know more, please contact **Mike Griffiths - 01367 242 714** or Michael@ukfsn.org

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 sopranino to bass, which allows access to a wide range of music. The Consort performed at Folly Fest in July 9th and will be playing in St Denys' Church, Stanford in the Vale on Saturday October 14th as

If you'd like to know more, contact the group leader, **Peter Smith:**
pdes_smith@hotmail.com

Science and Technology



The group enjoyed a visit to the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway.

September - No meeting

Tuesday 3rd October - Talk entitled "The Berlin Airlift - Personal Recollections" by Alec Chambers.

Thursday 16th November - Visit to the waste food processing plant at AD Wallingford.

Further details can be obtained from **Ron Colyer on 01793 782 363, roncolyersandt@gmail.com** or from the website.

Scrabble

Social Scrabble meets monthly on the first Thursday of the month at Faringdon Library 2.30pm sharp until +/-4.30pm

and weekly at the Pump House Project, Swan Lane (opposite Royal Mail) on Tuesdays from 9.30am until about 11.30 am.

Games for most degrees of ability at both venues. Details from **Dusty Miller 01367 240397, 07780210543 or dustymiller46@gmailcom**

Scrapbooking

The trip to Carterton to meet with Fay who runs the u3a Scrapbooking group, was very enjoyable and we came back enthused. We weren't able to finish the book binding project in June and July, so everyone agreed to an extra session to be held on 15th August when we'll hopefully finish the album ready to start a new project in September when we will be back to our usual slot on the first Tuesday of the month 10.30-12.30 at Shrivenham Memorial hall

Please feel free to drop in or contact **Sue Horton 07990010051 or alice_maud@yahoo.com** for more details.

Sewing

The sewing group has various levels of ability, consequently we have decided to split the group into two with a Beginners Group and a Sewers Group. Both groups

meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 2pm and we can now accommodate a few additional Beginners. Contact **Tessa Timms at tessaatimms@gmail.com or 01367 358613** to add your name to the waiting list

Social History Walks

A few snippets from the morning and afternoon groups.

We explored Stanford in the Vale in May when we heard that in the late 1700s Nanny Grundy used a pin to fix naughty girls' skirts to her cushion and that pupils had to bring a chair to school to sit on, which was usually a brick!

We visited Bampton in June and learned that the town's people mocked a man for throwing his wife out and taking up with her sister.

At Minster Lovell in July we found out about the Chartist fellow, Fergus O'Conner, and why the chocolate box cottages in the old village were left by the labourers who moved to take over the failed Chartist smallholdings.

We will be visiting Upper Wanborough in August and then just two more walks (Burford and Childrey) before we take a break until the Spring.

Stewart and Margaret Smith

Spanish Intermediates

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 or 01367 242490**

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**

Wine Appreciation Group

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

17th October: Speaker yet to be confirmed

15th 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. 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



The Thames Valley Network is the regional group of the national u3a that Faringdon & District members can benefit from directly – it provides Study Days and Events at minimal cost, to which we can subscribe and participate. The list of events planned between now and Christmas is not yet complete but the dates to note already are shown in the table below:

Tuesday 12th September – The Early Years of Rock ‘n Roll. A presentation by Clive Aronson at 10.30am

Friday 15th September – Autumn Quiz at 2pm. Questions set by Avis

Wednesday 4th October – Tickled to Death at 2.30pm. A talk by Simon Brett OBE about his life in broadcasting and becoming a prolific crime writer

Thursday 2nd November – Frida Kahlo & Georgia O’Keefe. A talk by Keith Appleby at 2 pm

Wednesday 15th November – Abba. A presentation from Clive Aronson at 10:30

Thursday 30th November- “My Falklands War”. A talk by (Admiral retired) Dr Chris Parry at 2.30pm

If your name is on the Faringdon & District u3a emailing list, you will be informed directly the booking opens on each event. Please contact **Peter** on **p.foot47@gmail.com** to be included. If not, you can always monitor the TVN Events page at **<http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>**.

Meeting - 10th August

Summer Lunch

Once again the 100+ members who attended the summer lunch enjoyed spectacular weather, a gourmet spread of salads followed by a fantastic choice of desserts.

We enjoyed music from our very own Recorder Consort and Accessible Ukuleles entertained us with some sing-a-long songs.

Our thanks go to Steve and Jenny Braithwaite for allowing us to use their garden and to the volunteers who helped set up and take down.

But above all thanks to the events team, Peter Robinson and Rita Higazi, without whom the event would not have been possible.

