

# FARINGDON & DISTRICT



**Spring 2024**

<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 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Our talks are usually informative, members learn something new or have the time to consider topics that are quite serious. This afternoon our speaker, **Dr Vivien Sieber** will give a talk entitled, **Kino and Kinder: A Family's Journey in the Shadow of the Holocaust**. This is the story of a European family's struggle to survive in the face of Nazi antisemitism and the Holocaust. Dr Sieber describes the terrible history of twentieth-century genocide through the lives and writings of the survivors. She has written a book, the title of the talk, which provides wonderful details about life in Vienna, Austria and Central Europe before World War Two and in post-war London. Dr Sieber worked in biosciences research at several UK universities before retirement.

### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024

This month we welcome to our meeting **Nick Brazil** who is a film maker, photographer and public speaker. He has chosen the intriguing title for his talk, **Castles in the Air-The Story of Bizarre Early Inventions**. A journey through the extraordinary world of early, mostly Victorian inventors with their bizarre ideas for improving the lot of their fellow human beings. Health was a major preoccupation with the Victorians with their suspicion that fresh air brought all sorts of illnesses so kept their homes hot and stuffy with their windows firmly closed. Nick has lived in many countries and promises to provide a new view of many previous discoveries.

### Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

A return visit from one of our previous guest speakers who brings a new talk, **A Buzz in the Garden**. **Richard Rickitt** is one of the UK's best-known beekeepers and co-editor of Bee-Craft magazine. In this talk he will introduce many of the bee species found in the UK and explain how you can save them by creating a pollinator oasis in your garden or window box. The talk includes statistics which are extraordinary, pictures that are amazing and Richard's commentary is full of humour and passion. It aims to make you think about bees and your garden in a different way. We were all very enthusiastic about this speaker when he visited in 2021 and so we look forward to his return visit.

## Members News

We welcome the following new members-

**From Ashbury:** Bill Leppard, Diana Leppard

**From Childrey:** Alan Mayhew

**From Faringdon:** Sarah Mais

**From Fernham:** Johnny Hume

**From Great Coxwell:** Siobhan Renfrey

**From Littleworth:** Lynda Rees

**We are sad to notify you of the death of:** Sylvia Bowley

## Deadline for Summer Newsletter

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc to the Editor - [newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk) by Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The Summer Newsletter will cover June, July, August. It will be emailed or posted to all members in **late May** and also available on the website.

## Chairman's Message

### Peter Hoole

#### Membership

Firstly we have been aware that some people found the online renewal process rather challenging this year and we are sorry if some people got a bit frustrated by it - sometimes things like that can get annoying. However I am told that the number who have not yet renewed for that reason is now very small and I hope that by the time you read this those remaining people will have been contacted and talked through it. Next year should be plain sailing.

#### Committee

At this time of the year a plea goes out for new committee members. In order to keep the Committee renewed we need to replace about 4 members each year and as I have said before this has not been happening and we MUST have new members, so please enquire of me what is involved and what you might do. I put this particularly to newer members so that we may have a younger average with perhaps skills which we lack. AGM is in April so act NOW.

## January Japes 2024

Another successful and greatly enjoyed January Japes. Our thanks go out to the Events Team for arranging a delicious meal and a joyful afternoon.



**Peter Orton** entertained us after our meal with his jolly songs and tuneful instruments. Describing himself as a folk based, musical comedian Peter sang whilst playing a variety of instruments, guitar, ukelele, didgeridoo, floral whistle and harmonica. He also played a Dulcimer. We all joined in with many of the chorus'.



## Faringdon & District U3A Committee 2024

<b>Peter Hoole</b>	Chairman	07385 297 571 <a href="mailto:chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk">chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Rita Higazi</b>	Events & Venue Team	01367 244 494 <a href="mailto:events@faringdonu3a.org.uk">events@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Peter Robinson</b>	Events & Venue Team	01367 718 566 <a href="mailto:events@faringdonu3a.org.uk">events@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Sue Cain</b>	Groups Co-Ord & Newsletter	07731 675 729 <a href="mailto:groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk">groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Ricky Cunningham</b>	IT/Website Co-ordinator	01367 242 626 <a href="mailto:itcoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk">itcoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Carol Jones</b>	Membership Secretary	07955 443 529 <a href="mailto:membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk">membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Tessa Timms</b>	Programme & Newsletter	01367 358 613 <a href="mailto:newsletereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk">newsletereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Roger Wilkins</b>	Secretary	07866 362 788 <a href="mailto:secretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk">secretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Shela Rowan</b>	Speakers' Coordinator	07812 751 165 <a href="mailto:speakers@faringdonu3a.org.uk">speakers@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Peter Foot</b>	Thames Valley Rep	01367 358 046 <a href="mailto:tvnrep@faringdonu3a.org.uk">tvnrep@faringdonu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Christopher Langham</b>	Treasurer	
Vacant	Vice Chairman	
Vacant	Publicity	

## Activities Reports

### Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> December “Scandals & Salacious Gossip of the Royal Courts—1660-1830”

*Sarah Slater*

Sarah Slater is a Lecturer and Guide at Hampton Court Palace. She is also a qualified Blue Badge Tourist Guide who shared a mine of information with us today.



The original Tudor Hampton Court Palace was begun by Cardinal Wolsey in the early 16th century, but in an effort to keep his head on his shoulders, Wolsey gave the palace to Henry VIII, who took all his six wives there. Surrounded by gorgeous gardens and the Maze and the Great Vine, the palace has been the setting for many nationally important events.

When William III and Mary II (1689-1702) took the throne in 1689, they commissioned Sir Christopher Wren to build an elegant new baroque palace. Later, Georgian kings and princes occupied the splendid interiors.

When the royals left in 1737, impoverished 'grace and favour' aristocrats moved in. Queen Victoria opened the palace to the public in 1838. It has remained a magnet for millions of visitors, drawn to the grandeur, ghosts and fabulous art collection.

The Stuart dynasty reigned in England and Scotland from 1603 to 1714, a period which saw a flourishing Court culture but also much upheaval and instability, of plague, fire and war.

The end of the Stuart line with the death of Queen Anne led to the drawing up of the Act of Settlement in 1701, which provided that only Protestants could hold the throne.

The next in line therefore was George of Hanover, yet Stuart princes remained. The Stuart legacy was to linger on in the form of claimants to the Crown for another century.

It was an age of intense religious debate and radical politics. Both contributed to a bloody civil war in the mid-seventeenth century between Crown and Parliament (the Cavaliers and the Roundheads), resulting in a parliamentary victory for Oliver Cromwell and the dramatic execution of King Charles I. England was classified as a Republic for eleven years from 1649-1660. In 1653 Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector of England. One of the most extreme

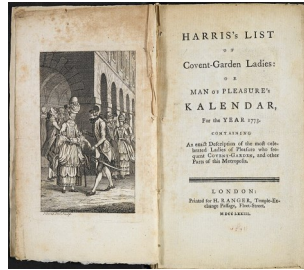
examples of Cromwell's Puritan rule was that Christmas was banned. Christmas was to be a purely religious celebration in which people contemplated the birth of Jesus. Festive food was removed from the streets which meant that the smell of a roasting goose could also bring trouble, while decorations were banned.

The Puritans encouraged industriousness: it was believed that hard work helped a person reach heaven. As such Cromwell believed that 'pointless' enjoyment was a sin while sports and entertainment were banned - theatres and inns were also closed. Plain dress



was also enforced. In 1651 Charles II was crowned in Scotland but spent the next years in exile in France. However, in 1660

he was invited back to London and restored as King. Many years of depravation of 'fun' likely changed the population into an age of liberty where gambling, whoring, women on the stage debauchery and immorality became the lifestyle. Charles II was known as The Merry Monarch; the king himself was such a shameless hedonist that he captured the hearts of his people and it is recorded in history that he and George Villiers, The Duke of Buckingham were lovers. Charles as known to have had many mistresses and fathered 14 illegitimate children.



After Charles II death in 1685 the monarchy became the Hanoverian reign of Georges until the mid 1800

when William IV become King. He never married but lived with his actress Mistress and had a number of children who died in infancy.

Was the Georgian era hedonistic and debauched ? Learn more about the Georgian era : [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian\\_era](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georgian_era)

**Harris's List of Covent Garden Ladies**, was an annual directory of prostitutes then working in Georgian London. A small pocket-book, it was printed and published in Covent Garden, It detailed the sexual expertise of the ladies and sold for two shillings and sixpence. Estimates of its circulation are about 8,000 copies annually.

The placement of beauty patches on a face sent a message as to status, morals, and political allegiance. George III also known as Mad King George and George IV's extreme debauched lifestyle enhanced the poor reputation of the Georgian era.

In 1837 when William IV died, his niece Victoria became queen.

Although the Victorian era is thought to be a prudish time it was far from it—it was a time of many unwanted pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, prostitution and mistresses.

## Meeting - 8<sup>th</sup> February

### “Food for the Gods—Chocolate”

*Melanie King*

Our talk today about the history of chocolate was given by Melanie King who is now a full-time writer after working all over the world in exceptionally varied careers. All of us at the meeting admitted we ate chocolate, but did you ever wonder about its origins ?



Researchers have shown that the Mayo-Chinchipe culture used cacao between 5,300 and 2,100 years ago by testing the presence of starch grains specific to the cacao tree inside ceramic vessels and broken pieces of pottery. The word "chocolate" comes from the Classical Nahuatl word *xocolātl*, meaning bitter (xoco) water and entered the English language via the Spanish *chocolate*.

The cacao tree is native to the tropics of the Americas and there are 22 varieties of the tree; the tree grows to between 4 - 8 metres high and bears fruit after 4 years. The large cacao pods grow on the trunk of the tree – not the branches



as with most fruits and the pod contains 30-40 seeds. The fruits need a certain midge about a pin-head in size called a ‘chocolate midge’ to pollinate the flowers.

The Maya crushed the bean, mixed it

with water and left it to ferment in the sun. Originally prepared as a drink, chocolate was served as a bitter liquid, mixed with spices or corn puree. In

Mesoamerica, it was believed to be an aphrodisiac and to give the drinker strength. The liquid was poured from one cup to another in long streams to create a frothy top



and ceramic containers were specifically crafted to drink the liquid. It was given to special guests, used in rituals and drunk only by the hierarchy of society. Today such drinks are also known as "Chilate" and are made by locals in the south of Mexico and the north triangle of Central America. In 1400, the Aztec Empire took over a sizable part of Mesoamerica; the Aztecs had not cultivated cacao themselves so were forced to import it. The cacao bean became a form of valuable currency and both the Maya and the Aztec’s agreed that chocolate was ‘A gift of the gods.’

Whilst exploring The New World in 1502 Christopher Columbus encountered a canoe laden with cacao beans; he was unable to identify them assuming they were almonds and of no particular value; as a result of Columbus sinking the ship, the natives



were observed clamouring to save the floating beans by Christopher's son, Ferdinand who was sailing with his father. Ferdinand realised that the natives greatly valued the pods and brought some back to Europe. However, it is likely that it was the Spanish who first developed chocolate in Europe when Hernán Cortés 1st Marquess of the Valley of Oaxaca conquered the Aztecs and returned to Spain in 1548 with valuable cacao beans. He had experienced rituals and observed how the Aztec's used and valued the cacao bean.

It is believed that a Florentine merchant



and explorer, Francesco Carletti (1573 – 1636), was the first to take a chocolate recipe to Italy. It is also believed that Madrid, Spain, in the 1500's, was the first country to create a 'chocolate factory'.

The 1690's saw the arrival of Chocolate Houses in Westminster – White's in St. James Street and the Cocoa-Tree in Pall Mall. White's is now an Exclusive Gentleman's Club and The Cocoa-Tree – The Royal Automobile Club.

Chocolate was 'the' drink of the European aristocracies - no upper-class home was complete without chocolate making and drinking paraphernalia.

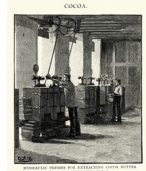
Up until this point, chocolate had only ever been consumed as a drink. But things started to change in 1828. Coenraad van Houten from Amsterdam was the man who changed the game: he invented the 'cocoa press', which could

separate the fat from a cacao bean, leaving behind a fine powder.

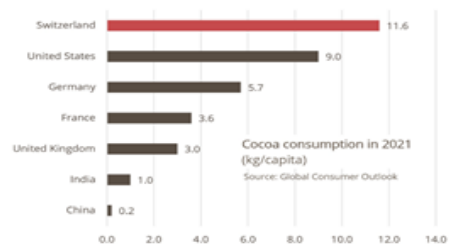
This powder was much more tasty to enjoy as a drink, and people started adding milk to it instead of water, making it more like the hot chocolate we'd drink today. This method also meant chocolate could be mass-produced, which made it cheaper and so the wider public could buy and enjoy it. Some called this the democratisation of chocolate.

Records show that Cadbury was in Birmingham in 1824.

In 1847 British chocolatier J.S. Fry and Sons had the novel idea of recombining the fat and liquor and adding sugar. He set this in moulds, and voila! The chocolate bar was born. The chocolate made through this method resembled a mild dark chocolate. The next big episode in the chocolate saga came in 1866 when Swiss chocolatier Daniel Peter with assistance from Henri Nestle added powdered milk to the mix, creating the world's first milk chocolate bar.



In the 20th century, chocolate was considered essential in the rations of United States soldiers during war. Chocolate's popularity soared and it's never really declined.



## Faringdon Groups

Accessible Ukuleles	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Art	Sally Bull	07808 136919
Ashmolean	Shela Rowan	01367 243636
Books	Kay Chamberlain	01367 242647
Boules/Petanque	Peter Hoole	wolfitha@hotmail.com
Bridge-Beginners	Jill Ridley	07464 626188
Bridge-Intermediate	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
Bridge-Advanced	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-Summer	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
History	Mike Iremonger	01367 241361
History of Art	Sue Thrower	01367 240848
Italian Improvers	Marion Turner	01793 710302
Jazz	Rachel Holt	01367 241927
Lunch Group	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Military History	Bjorn Watson	01793 782748
Opera	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Patchwork/Quilting	Sue Cain	sue.cain2@gmail.com
Photography	Anthony Burdall	01367 240713
Pickleball	Peter Hoole	wolfitha@hotmail.com
Poetry	Dave Dalton	01367 241874

Qui Gong	Peter Hoole	07759820311
Quiz	Danielle Mills	01367 718625
Ramblers	Mike Griffiths	01367 242714
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 Beginners	Tessa Timms	01367 358613
Sewing Garments	Elaine Gathercole	elaineg173@gmail.com
Singing for Pleasure	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Social History Walks	Stewart Smith	01793 710800
Spanish Intermediate	Carolyn Taylor	01367 242490
Wine Appreciation	Peter Robinson	01367 718566

**FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A**  
**Charity Number 1116311**

**This is Formal Notice of the**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024**  
**To be held at the**  
**FARINGDON CORN EXCHANGE**  
**at**  
**2.30pm on THURSDAY April 11th**

**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.

## News from the Groups

### Notes for Members

If you have any questions about groups please contact Sue the Groups Co-ordinator: [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 10 & 11.

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 days) and times).

## Accessible Ukuleles

### LEARN TO PLAY THE UKULELE

If you are interested in learning to play, please contact me and if there are enough people, I will arrange some dates.

I have Ukuleles to borrow.

**Jenny Braithwaite. [jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk)**

And

If you play already, please join our group, which meets on Tuesday mornings. Email for details.

## Art

The art group currently meet in the Great Coxwell Reading Room which is very comfortable and well equipped. Led by Sue Klemencic, we have recently been working in watercolour and charcoal, and are now looking forward to a planned session on acrylics.

We are a friendly bunch and would welcome new members - do come and try us! We meet at 9.45 for two hours on the second and fourth Thursday of the month.

The spring term finishes on the 28th March and the summer term starts on the 14th May.

Contact: **Sally Bull on 07808 136919 or [sally.bull@talktalk.net](mailto:sally.bull@talktalk.net)**

## **Ashmolean**

Visits are led by Ashmolean guides and are always very interesting. They 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 10.55 for 11am start in the Greek & Roman Sculpture Gallery. Each talk 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 will be two groups. The second 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 March: Valentine Artefacts, April: The Jewish Journey. Email for further details: **Shela Rowan [smr280652@gmail.com](mailto:smr280652@gmail.com) or 078 1275 1165**

## **Beginner's Bridge**

If you are interested or for more information, please contact:

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

**Kim Townsend: 07765 460174 or [kimmaa@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:kimmaa@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 Mar 11th	Wed Mar 13th
Mon Apr 8th	Wed Apr 10th
Mon May 13th	Wed May 15th

### **Experienced**

Wed Mar 27th  
 Wed Apr tba  
 Wed May 29th

Further details contact Steve Braithwaite: [steve.bridge1@gmail.com](mailto:steve.bridge1@gmail.com)  
 or **077 40 30 60 55**

## **Boules/Petanque**

If you are interested contact [Peter Hoole woftha@hotmail.com](mailto:Peter Hoole woftha@hotmail.com)

## **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 refreshment break.

The focus of the sessions involves the competitive solving of a cryptic crossword of *'The Times'*, *'Sunday Times'* or *'Observer'* standard. As a 'warm-up' we generally start with a recently-devised quick variant of the game. We also run a monthly clue-writing competition, discuss matters of interest to cruciverbalists 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**

Meetings takes place on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30 to 12.00. The venue is The Crown Hotel, in Faringdon market square, where participants can also enjoy hot or cold drink. This is a deliberately informal and convivial setting for what is in essence a

friendly chat about what's going on in the world - and inevitably attempting to put that world to rights at the same time!

We endeavour to keep our chat as current as we can, based on what is of particular interest that week. However, members are invited to submit in advance *any* topics that they are interested in, feel strongly about, or importantly that they feel the group as a whole would appreciate. Any kind of local, national or global subject is great and topics don't *necessarily* have to be of the serious kind, although these are clearly going to be the ones that spark most debate. Views will vary of course, but the intention is very much to let everyone have their say, within the framework of tolerance and understanding.

If you are interested in joining an upcoming meeting please contact **Mrs Joy Jermy** [joyhjermy@outlook.com](mailto:joyhjermy@outlook.com)

## Embroidery

A small group meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.00 pm till 4.00 pm, to follow many aspects of embroidery from basic stitchery to silk and gold work, depending on individual preferences. All levels of expertise are welcome, from absolute beginners to more experienced embroiderers.

For more information contact **Suellen Pedley 01367 710 680**

## Family History

Our 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 : March 7th; April 4th; May 2nd; June 6th;

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

**Val Hudspeth 01367 241 035 or valhud@gmx.com**

## Foreign Language Films

Our group continues to meet to view and discuss films from a variety of cultures.

We recently enjoyed a lively discussion after watching Goddard's 'Pierrot Le Fou' with responses ranging from: "fascinating" to "too abstract for me".

Our next meeting will be on Wed March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will be watching Kurosawa's 'Rashomon' (Japan, 1950).

Further meetings are scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> and May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Films yet to be decided.

If you would like to attend please contact me as our viewing space is limited and we currently have a dedicated group of attendees. However, we could probably squeeze in an extra couple of people!

**Julie Forth 01367 242 472** (leave a message; I'll get back to you)

## Gardeners

### Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

Visit to Bampton Garden Centre to view plants for the Spring Garden, aiming to arrive at 2.15pm

### Thursday, 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2024

Visit to Lime Close, 35 Henleys Drive, Drayton. This is three acre garden with rare trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs. Entrance £10.00 per person, with a minimum number of 10. The owner has suggested we start the tour of the garden at 2pm



**Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

Visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park to visit the gardens, as well as the animals.

Members thought it would be nice to have lunch there, so aim to arrive at 11.30 a.m. and meet in the car park Entrance fee is £13.00

**Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2024**

Visit to open Gardens at East Hendred. It is expected that 20 gardens will be open to the public. Details of this visit will be available later.

For all trips: Please let Christina know if you will be coming and whether you can give some-one a lift.

For further information contact:

**Christina 01367 241265 or christinafield@aol.com**

**History of Art**

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

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March:** A presentation on “The Bloomsbury Set” will be given by Sue Thrower

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April:** To be arranged.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May:** To be arranged.

New members are always welcome. Please contact **Sue Thrower** on **01367 240 848** or **smthrower@tiscali.co.uk** for more information.

**Italian Improvers**

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

## Jazz

A fond thank you to Patrick Wheare who has been successfully running this group for as long as most of us can remember. Jan Hall and Rachel Holt are now taking the lead with Patrick still attending. Our meetings will continue on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month in Faringdon Library. 10.30 until 12.00. There is a charge of £1 for tea/coffee and scrumptious lemon drizzle cake.

**March 11** our topic is "What connects Scotland, steel production and jazz?"

**April 8** our topic is "Jazz and Africa - the Chicken or the Egg"

**May 13** probably needs to be cancelled due to pre arranged holidays.

Jan Hall and Rachel Holt, rholt29@hotmail.com 01367241913.

## 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 12.30 at a different restaurant or pub each month on the third Wednesday. Please contact **Tessa Timms** on **01367 358 613** for further details.

**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 related sometimes loosely to military history.

In April David Rhys-Jones will be back to tell us about "The Swordfishes and Taranto" which promises to be intriguing!

You are welcome to join us and if you would like any more information, please contact:

Bjorn Watson at **bjornwatson@btinternet.com**

## Opera Group

From April we will meet in The Jubilee Room on the 1st Floor of the Information Office. We screen 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** for further details.

**Dates for Viewings** : 18 March; 18 April; 16 May; 20 June.

## Patchwork and Quilting

We are mixed ability group ranging from complete beginners to very experienced. At present the beginners are working on a joint project while they hone their skills. Others work on whatever they fancy and all share their experience.

The group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday each month, 2pm – 4pm, in the Untied Church small hall.

Dates: March 26th; April 23rd; May 28th;

Please contact **Sue, sue.cain2@gmail.com** for more information if you are interested in joining the group.

## Photography

*Learning more about photography to produce better images*

The **March Meeting** will be a briefing meeting for our next Photography Month; the subject will be History. Separate expeditions over the coming month or so will be to White Horse, Dyrham Park, Steam Museum, North Leigh Roman Villa, Donnington Castle, Blackfriars, Farleigh Hungerford Castle, and other locations illustrating history.

The **April Meeting** will be a Study Day 'To post process or not: Why and How?'

The **May Meeting** will be Seascapes Photography Month with expeditions to Hurst & Lepe, Clevedon to Burnham-on-Sea, and other locations.

Anyone who wishes to learn more about photography to produce better images and would enjoy expeditions with like minded U3A members, would be most welcome to join us.

The Group normally has met on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30pm at the home of **Anthony Burdall on 01367 240 713 or email: anthony.burdall@burdall.net**

## Pickleball

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

## Poetry

The Poetry Group is looking forward with a **March 4th** theme of Sunshine.

There will be no meeting in April but we will continue on **May 6th** (Shadows), **June 3rd** (Solstice), all in the Faringdon Library at 10.30. 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 quiz-masters) 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**

## Recorder Consort

The Recorder Consort usually meets on the third and fourth Thursday of the month in Faringdon Library starting at 2.00pm with sessions lasting about two hours.

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

Our new venue has the capacity to accommodate more players so, if you would like to know more, contact the group leader, **Peter Smith: 01367 241 241 or pdes\_smith@hotmail.com**

## Science & Technology

**Tuesday 5th March** - Talk entitled "AI and Machine Learning - Current and Future" by Louie Jones-Strong.

**Tuesday 2nd April** - Visit to RAL Space Laboratories, Harwell Campus.

**May** - TBA, but, visit to a local brewery or a local museum under consideration.

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

Email: **roncolyersandt@gmail.com** or from the website.

## Scrabble

We meet on the first Thursday of each month, 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.**

## Scrapbooking

We are a small group of scrapbookers who have been together for 4 years making albums and paper crafting. We meet at 10:30 on the first Tuesday of each month in Shrivenham's Memorial Hall. Please contact **Sue Horton** [alice\\_maud@yahoo.com](mailto:alice_maud@yahoo.com) or **07990010051** if you would like to either come along to see what we do or to join us.

## Sewing

**Beginners Contact:** **Tessa Timms** at [tessaatimms@gmail.com](mailto:tessaatimms@gmail.com) or **01367 358 613** to add your name to the beginners waiting list.

**Sewing Garments:** Contact **Elaine Gathercole** at [elaineg173@gmail.com](mailto:elaineg173@gmail.com) or **01367 248013** for Garment Sewing.

## Singing for Pleasure

This is intended for anyone who likes to sing, especially those who say they can't sing! Alternate Monday afternoons at 2.30pm at the Friends Meeting House

If you would like to join us please email [jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jennyridd@yahoo.co.uk)

## Social History Walks

Due to high numbers we now have three groups - Thursday morning and Thursday afternoon groups, plus a new Tuesday morning group. Walks will take place from March-September. Our first walk will be around the interesting village of Buscot. Members of the groups will receive further details nearer the time.

## Spanish - Intermediate

The Spanish group 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 242 490**

## **Wine Appreciation Group**

The Wine Appreciation Group (WAGs) is a group of like-minded people who enjoy wine and have a broad range of experience of the subject, from the “I know what I like” beginners, to the “fairly knowledgeable but by no means expert”.

Our meetings are held approximately every two months, usually at the Barber Rooms, All Saints’ Church, in Faringdon, from 2.00 to 4.00pm, but with occasional trips to interesting venues. Charges vary by meeting, but are set just to cover the cost of the wines we taste and talk about. More details are on the Faringdon u3a website.

**Tuesday 20 February Meeting** – Presentation and Tasting of Argentinian Wines by Oxford wine specialist, Lee Isaacs, DipWSET

**Tuesday 16 April Meeting** – Presentation and Tasting of Port and other Portuguese Wines by member David Burn, one of the Cellar Team

**Wednesday 19 June** – Visit to Woodchester Valley Vineyard  
 (please note change of date)

**Tuesday 15 October Meeting** – Food & Wine Matching by members

**Thursday 28 November** – Festive Lunch (please note change of date)

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

## **Thames Valley Network News**

You can keep up to date with TVN activities through this link:

**<http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>**.

If you would like to receive information directly from TVN with details of Study Days and Workshops, email **events\_info@u3a tvnetwork.org.uk** with your request to be put on the list.

You can, of course, use the same address to ‘unsubscribe’ at any time.



**Science & Technology Group Outing to the Severn Trent Compost & Anaerobic Digestion facility at Wallingford.**