

NEWSLETTER

Thoughts from the Chair | Dates for your diary | Interest Groups latest

Thoughts from the Chair

I imagine you're all looking forward to Spring (but fed up with the never ending Brexit Saga, whichever side of the fence you're on). It's fortunate that we have so many interesting U3A activities to keep us occupied.

Jerry Michell has decided to step down from the Committee, and I'd like to thank him for his 3 years of service. I'm reassured that he will continue to support the fantastic editorial team on our Newsletter and website.

We're lucky to have members prepared to commit their time and energy to keeping our U3A running so smoothly.

On that note, a reminder that, with our AGM approaching, we are still looking for a Vice-Chair. If you are interested in being involved then please contact me or any Committee member.

Also, do please take a look at our new website, which is now looking very smart and will give existing, new and prospective members an up-to-date view of how vibrant our U3A is.

Finally, may I wish you all a happy and, hopefully, sunny Easter! Best wishes

Sally

Mysteries ancient and modern

Our New Year General Meetings kicked off with a fascinating insight into the apparent conspiracy of silence surrounding the disappearance of Major Glenn Miller during the Second World War. Tony Eaton's well-researched talk demonstrated how a wartime cover-up affected the future of individuals and nations. In February, Christine Green shed light on the mysteries of the TV graphics

artist, with a well-illustrated talk about her long career in the BBC, including her Bafta award. Her work ranges from the title credits for *Foyle's War* and



Elizabeth R to a wide variety of children's programmes, which often involved working closely with animators and musicians.

Dates for your diary...

Our General Meeting on **18th April** will take us from "*Milton Keynes to Mississippi*" with Saffron Summerfield, whose career includes work on TV and radio. Saffron will both describe and play different guitars featuring classical Spanish and Mississippi blues music, together with her own songs and tunes. We will also see and hear the Latin-American cuatro – a much smaller instrument.

On **Monday 13th May** we have just the one meeting in the **Village Hall** at the **earlier time of 2.15pm**. After a brief Annual General Meeting, an international authority on Russian music will talk about music education in Tsarist times. In "*My Musical Life in Russia and How I met Shostakovich*" Prof. Gerald Seaman will recollect private conversations with the master. He will also discuss how Lenin used Greek ideals regarding the influence of music in society, the increasing role of the State, and how these impacted on the music of Shostakovich.

Interest Groups

The new Genealogy Group

has hit the ground running, with meetings at 10.30am on the first Thursday of each month in the Community Library, where members can take advantage of free-at-the-point-of-use access to Ancestry.com. Please contact **Sue Michell** on 01844 290595 if you are interested in family history.

Local History Group leader Steve Sharp has decided to step down after running the group very successfully for many years, during which he has arranged some illuminating talks and fascinating visits. We are extremely grateful for all the hard work which he has put into running the group. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact **Mary Paterson** at marypaterson208@gmail.com

The Table Tennis Group would welcome more members – call **Steph Everitt** on 01844 299579.

Square Dance Group

The group would love to increase its membership from 20 to 24, to enable 3 squares of eight. If you are interested, contact **Theresa Smith** on 01296 747893 or groups@haddenham.co.uk

The Poetry Group is set to restart under a new volunteer leader, so anyone interested in participating should initially call **Theresa Smith** as above.

The Opera Group is also planning to reconvene under the auspices of leader **Rosalie Sadler**. If you are interested, she can be contacted on 01844 290210 or rosaliemsadler@icloud.com

On **10th** and **20th June** we will be entertained by renowned expert Tony Ring with “*The Wit and Wisdom of PG Wodehouse*”, about the life and works of ‘Plum’.

On **8th** and **18th July** we will learn about *Leonardo da Vinci* with Paul Ranford, and on **12th** and **15th August** Paul Hislop will give a talk on *Lord Armstrong of Craigside*.

Theatre trips

Wednesday 17th April 2.30pm

There are still seats available for *Calendar Girls The Musical*, by Gary Barlow and Tim Firth. This award-winning production is based on the true story of the calendar girls – a group of ordinary ladies who achieved something extraordinary. Join us at Oxford’s New Theatre for £41.

Wednesday 17th July 2.30pm

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – Fantastic seats in row E of the stalls at the the New Theatre, Oxford. Retelling the Biblical story of Joseph, his eleven brothers and the coat of many colours, this magical musical is full of unforgettable songs including Go, Go, Go Joseph and Any Dream Will Do. Cost £36.

For theatre bookings contact **Margaret Ackroyd** on 01844 292393.



Film Club (open to all U3A members)

Thursday 2nd May 2.00pm – HYCC

Queen of Katwe – A Ugandan girl sees her world rapidly change after being introduced to the game of chess. With David Oyelowo, Lupita Nyong'o and Madina Nalwanga.



Monday 3rd June 2.00pm – HYCC

Their Finest – A former secretary, newly appointed as a scriptwriter for propaganda films, joins the cast and crew of a major production while the Blitz rages around them. With Gemma Arterton, Sam Claflin and Bill Nighy.

Monday 1st July 2.00pm – HYCC

Strictly Ballroom – A maverick dancer risks his career by performing an unusual routine and sets out to succeed with a new partner. With Paul Mercurio, Tara Morice and Bill Hunter.

Other visits

Tuesday 30th April

BBC Radio Birmingham Studios

Leave Haddenham Village Hall at 10.30am for a rare chance to see behind the scenes at the locations of The Archers, Midlands Today, local and national news and local radio. Includes studios tour and travel, £33.50.



Tuesday 11th June

Stowe House and Gardens

Leave Haddenham Village Hall at 9.30am to arrive at Stowe at 10.30am for coffee and guided tour of the house. Lunch afterwards (at extra cost) will be at the New Inn Café, followed by a guided tour of the gardens. The cost is £28.50 (plus an additional charge for non NT members).



Monday 5th August 12.45pm

Ashridge House and gardens

Originally a monastery, Ashridge has had a variety of owners, from Henry VIII to the canal-building Duke of Bridgewater, and the gardens have been landscaped by Capability Brown and remodelled later by his student Humphrey Repton. Used by the Army in both World Wars, the house has also been a convalescent home for St Albans Hospital and is now used as a management training institution.



To attend any of the events above, contact Mary Paterson on 01844 291919 or email marypaterson208@gmail.com

Events roundup

Gardening Group

Monday 15th April 2.30pm

Visit to Foxington, Britwell Salome, Watlington OX49 5LG where the Chilterns provide a wonderful backdrop for this impressive garden, remodelled in 2009 and offering easy level walking. Patio, heather and gravel gardens contrast with vegetable gardens and an orchard, with a wildflower meadow, wood and neighbouring fields beyond. Look out for a flock of white doves and vintage tractors! The entrance fee of £10.00 includes tea and cake.

Monday 20th May

Visit to Dadbrook House, Cuddington HP18 0AG where a 3-acre garden with three terraced lawns leads down to a small lake. A formal terrace features lavender-edged beds filled with hebe and alliums with a box knot at its centre. Views of the adjoining 11-acre parkland field beyond a ha-ha are framed by a new rose border and a mixed border backed by clipped yew hedges. The walled kitchen garden is laid out to a strict pattern with box-edged beds containing vegetables and ornamental herbs, flowering annuals and topiary shapes. Entrance fee of £7.00 includes tea and cake.



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To attend either of these visits, please contact Doreen Barker on 01844 290377 or email twobarkers@btinternet.com

Local History Group talk

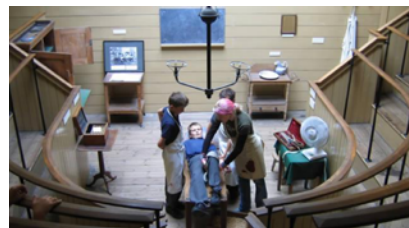
Wednesday 24th April 2.30pm – Haddenham Methodist Church

Coaching Days on the Oxford Road by Julian Hunt – Tracing the history of stage coach services and overnight accommodation in coaching inns on the route. There will be a small charge to cover room hire and a donation to Bucks Archaeological Society. *Contact Mary Paterson on 01844 291919 or email marypaterson208@gmail.com*

Technical Group

Friday 24th May

Visit to St Thomas' Old Operating Theatre, Southwark, with optional lunch at The George – London's oldest galleried inn. There will also be opportunities to visit nearby Borough Market and Southwark Cathedral afterwards.



Thursday 13th June

Visit to Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST). There will be a talk and guided tour if we can get a large enough group together. Although priority will be given to Technical Group members, we may open the visit up to partners, friends and other U3A members if we are short of numbers.

Please contact Roger Rickard on 01844 291613 or rarickard@aol.com



U3A more widely

Early booking is recommended if members wish to join the following events elsewhere in the region.

Thames Valley Network offers the following educational days – *details at u3atvnetwork.org.uk*

Tuesday 30th April

History on Film – St Helen's & St Katherine's School, Abingdon

Tuesday 4th July

First Aid day – at Benson

Tuesday 30th August

The Work of William Morris – Kelmscott Manor



Forthcoming S E Region events – *details at u3asites.org.uk/south-east/events*

Friday 21st June

Study Day – *Mathematics in Action* by Roger Luther – Menuhin Hall, Cobham KT11 3QQ

Monday 24th June to Thursday 27th June

Fifteenth Annual S E Forum Summer Schools – 12 courses are on offer at the University of Chichester.

National Summer Schools – *details at u3a.org.uk/events/summer-schools*

Monday 12th August to Thursday 15th August

Aston University, Birmingham

Tuesday 10th September to Friday 13th September

Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester

Out and about

Happy Easter...or is it Eostre?

At the Local History group's March meeting, Colin Oakes gave a fascinating talk entitled *Pagan Easter (or Eostre) to Christian Easter*, in which he outlined the background to the Easter traditions and how many of these can be traced to our pagan past. He explained how a number of pagan festivals, including Eostre, were subsumed by the Christian Church, and how the change from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar impacted Easter and our other annual festivities.



From pig slurry to bacon and eggs!



In early April, Brian Bowman led a visit by 21 members of the Technical Interest Group to a fascinating bio-gas plant hidden away in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty near Wallingford. Operating almost fully automatically, two vast underground anaerobic digesters turn pig slurry, silage and grain products into ten million cubic metres of bio-gas per year. A small amount is used to run the plant and the rest is filtered and pressurised to be pumped directly into the gas grid, meeting the needs of up to 3000 homes. Bacon for breakfast anyone?

High Fliers

At the beginning of February around 15 members of the Technical Interest Group assembled in Haddenham Methodist Church for an excellent talk on gliding, given by Andrew Reid, a member of Greater Thame U3A.

Fascinatingly, modern gliders have small pop-up engines that enable them to stay aloft between thermals on long-distance flights, and we also learnt that 21st June 2018 was a record day for British gliding, when no fewer than

four pilots managed flights of more than 1000km – unassisted by engines.



Points of order

Want to start a new interest group with fellow members?

If members have particular skills or expertise they could share with others in a new interest group, do please discuss your thoughts with *Theresa Smith* on 01296 747893 or at groups@haddenhamu3a.co.uk. Similarly, let her know if you have identified a need which a new group might help to fulfil.

What's happening with our Social Prescribing initiative?

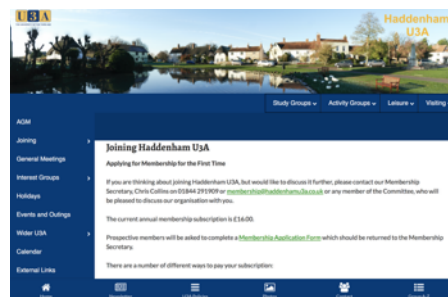
The initiative mentioned in the last newsletter has come to fruition. We now have U3A notice board space at Haddenham Medical Centre, shared with the Patients Participation Group (PPG). The display focuses on the benefits to be gained from joining our U3A and includes several relevant leaflets in table-top dispensers underneath. Nationally, the Third Age Trust held a Social Prescribing day in March. They defined it as being “for people who visit their GP but who would benefit from friendship, learning and exercise instead of drugs or medicine.” The Trust has now written to every CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) and Regional and Local Health Board in the UK, to see how the U3A model can help support schemes such as ours, that are taking place around the country.



New Communications Subcommittee

A sub-group of U3A Committee members is now focused specifically on bedding in the new quarterly Newsletter – the latest of which you are currently reading. We hope you like the new format! Your email details held by group leaders and on our U3A database will be used to send these to you. If you currently receive a **printed version**, but have an email address, **please reconsider** receiving it by email so that we can be fair to all members, and save money and the extra effort expended by hard-working Committee members in printing and distribution. Please note the deadline for articles for the August Newsletter is **Friday 9th August** – to be sent to neil.dury@btinternet.com

Also under continuous development is our new website at haddenhamu3a.co.uk which we plan to have fully functional by the time of the AGM in May. We want the site to serve everyone, but if you are sending material to webmaster@haddenhamu3a.co.uk please ensure that it is brief and fits with existing formats. The result should appeal to general readers, including prospective new members. Please bookmark the site and take a look occasionally to keep up to date with events – and to improve the visibility to search engines such as Google, so that others can find it easily. Group Leaders should note that the web pages are not intended as a substitute for their normal communications with their members. *Note: the old “Bucks Voice” site is no longer being updated.*



Opinion survey

Final returns from our membership survey have now been analysed. Thank you to all 27 who responded. One lovely comment referred to the “welcoming and friendly environment” and being able “to easily establish a social life with so many interesting and enjoyable activities”. We must be getting some things right!

We note again the importance to members of the website and will endeavour to ensure it carries full forward details of all the meetings, visits, events and holidays. This should complement the “internal” communications from group leaders. Opinion was split on newsletter frequency; we were quite touched when one respondent recognised the “time and trouble” taken!

For the moment, we would like to stick with a newsletter every three months and we’ll aim to ensure as much information as possible is included for each quarter ahead.

All you need to know about Haddenham U3A interest groups

GROUP	MEETING DAY/TIME			LEADER	CONTACT
Book Group 1	4th	Tuesday	14.30	Ann Warris	01844 292273
Book Group 2	2nd	Tuesday	10.15	Elaine Parkes	01844 292184
Card & Board Games	4th	Thursday	14.30	Ann Rickard	01844 291613
Computers	1st	Friday (Chinnor)	14.30	Angus Mylles	01844 290727
Cycling	4th	Tuesday	10.00	Marie Woodrow Malcolm White	01844 292012 01844 291667
Square Dancing	Every	Thursday	12.15	Theresa Smith	01296 747893
Digital Photography	3rd	Friday (Thame)	10.00	Carol Mason	01844 292236
Discussion 1	3rd	Monday	10.00	Tricia Hirst	01844 291117
Discussion 2	4th	Monday	10.00	David Gregory (temp)	01296 747528
Earth Matters		Various		Sue Oswell	01844 290568
Film	1st	Monday	14.00	Roger Rickard	01844 291613
French Conversation	2nd & 4th	Monday	12.45	Paul Dickinson	01844 215140
Friday Lunch	3rd (alt)	Friday	12.30	Annette Marsden	01844 291022
Gardening	3rd	Monday	14.30	Doreen Barker	01844 290377
Genealogy	1st	Thursday	10.30	Sue Michell	01844 290595
German Conversation		Wednesday		Paul Dickinson	01844 215140
Golf		Various		Chris Vernon	01844 291783
Local History	4th	Wednesday	14.30	Mary Paterson	01844 291919
Mah Jong	1st & 3rd	Friday	14.00	Helen Wild	01296 748679
	2nd & 4th	Wednesday	10.30		
Music Appreciation	1st	Monday	14.00	Ed Bullimore	01844 291011
Music Appreciation 2	1st	Tuesday	14.00	Hugh Stradling	01844 291607
Opera		Occasional		Rosalie Sadler	01844 290210
Out with Friends		Various		Shirley Gray Pam Harding	01844 237362 01844 291872
Poetry (proposed)		TBC		Theresa Smith (temp)	01296 747893
Sunday Lunch	3rd or 4th	Sunday (alt. mths.)	12.30	Annette Marsden	01844 291022
Table Tennis	Alt	Wednesday	10.00	Steph Everitt Sylvia Eyles	07885 149477 01844 260778
Tai Chi	Every	Tuesday	14.00	Mike Moore	01844 290258
Ten Pin Bowling	Every	Monday	10.00	Michael Walden	01844 291617
Technical		Various		Kevin Nash	01296 658810
Theatre		Various		Margaret Ackroyd	01844 292393
Walking Group 1	3rd	Tuesday	10.00	Ingrid Holmes Mary White	01844 291331 01844 291677
Walking Group 2	3rd	Friday	10.00	Helen & Andrew Wild	01296 748679
Long Distance Walking	Last	Thursday	10.00	Neil Dury	01844 291809
Wine Tasting	2nd	Wednesday	19.30	Richard Moore	01844 290972
Writers	1st	Wednesday	10.30	David Gregory	01296 747528
Yoga	Every	Wednesday	14.30	Jan Baker	07969 779222
Correct as at April 2019					