

NEWSLETTER

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

Thoughts from the Chair

In a mixed summer of weather it was good to meet some of our members at Haddenham Fete. Thanks to Chris Collins for running our stall and to David and Margaret Ackroyd for helping to erect and dismantle it. The gazebo was quite a challenge in the strong wind!

I'm sad to report that, in December, Chris will be leaving the Committee and his job as Membership Secretary. He will be greatly missed and I would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to him for all he has done.

Theresa Smith has also just decided to step down from the Committee. I want to thank her for all her hard work supporting our Interest Groups. So we are looking for an enthusiastic person to encourage both existing and new groups.

Please think about **how you could help** fill these Committee vacancies (see back page).

On a brighter note, our lunch for Group Leaders was an enjoyable chance to thank them for all the hard work they do. We are fortunate to have such a wide variety of groups to join. If you are interested in starting a new group, please contact me to chat about it. Best wishes

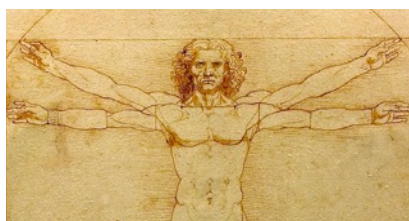
Sally

Great men and Greek myths

At our General Meeting in June, Tony Ring, ably supported with readings by Elaine Parkes, gave us *The Wit and Wisdom of P G Wodehouse*, as well as insights into his collaboration in many well-known Broadway musicals. Answering questions afterwards, Tony explained in detail the background to the great novelist being *persona non grata* in the UK after the Second World War.



Leonardo da Vinci was the subject of our July meeting, when Paul Ranford revealed both the wide scope and limitations of da Vinci's achievements in the sciences and the arts.



Indisputably a gifted painter, the great man was also a visionary sculptor, engineer and architect, but many of his concepts and designs were never

tested or completed, and it was left to others to realise his ideas – sometimes hundreds of years later.

In August, Nick Cook led us on a voyage of love, hate, jealousy, rage and joy with *Jason and the Argonauts* in a surprisingly contemporary take on their journey, tracing the evolution of Greek mythology through the ages and cultures of several millennia BC.



Details of future meetings are on page 2.

Interest Groups

New Spanish Group? A native Spanish speaker is moving to Haddenham soon and would be happy to set up a Spanish Conversation Group – if you are interested in learning or brushing up your Spanish, and to help us determine demand, please contact Sally Lajalati at chairman@haddenhamu3a.co.uk

The German Group now has a number of spare places and would welcome new members wishing to improve their conversational German. Call Paul Dickinson on 01844 215140 or paul.dickinson2007@btinternet.com

The Table Tennis Group is also looking for more players in a friendly and inclusive environment that is not overly competitive, with three tables available. Contact Steph Everitt on 01844 299579 or everwade@aol.com



The Yoga Group which focuses on postures, breathing and relaxation, would also welcome more members. If you would like to join, please contact Jan Baker on 07969 779222 or at janbakeryoga@gmail.com



Discussion Group 2 is under way again, having held its first meeting, and is looking for two or three more members to join them. Contact David Gregory at davidgregory@aol.com

If you think you can help run our interest groups, we are looking for a new Coordinator (see back page).

Dates for your diary...

At our General Meetings on **9th & 19th September** Serena Quartermaine will give us her *Desert Island Pictures*, twenty paintings that she would endlessly enjoy looking at without growing tired of them – perhaps some old favourites and some that are new to us. On **14th & 17th October** Geoffrey Farrar Brown will ask *Can dogs detect cancer?* and show how Medical Detection Dogs use the amazing power of their noses to detect human diseases. At the last meeting before our traditional Christmas Extravaganza, Ken Satterthwaite will give a talk about *The American Civil War* from a naval perspective on **11th & 21st November**.

Theatre trips

Thursday 21st November

Run for your Wife – The Mill at Sonning. Includes coach, evening meal and show. Coach departs Haddenham Village Hall at 5pm. Cost £65.

For theatre bookings contact Margaret Ackroyd on 01844 292393 or theatre@haddenhamu3a.co.uk



Film Club (open to all U3A members)

Monday 2nd September 2.00pm – HYCC

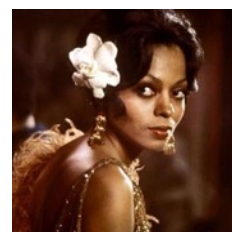
Heavenly Creatures – Two teenage girls share a unique bond.

Their parents, concerned that the friendship is too intense, separate them, and the girls take revenge. With Melanie Lynskey, Kate Winslet and Sarah Peirse.



Monday 7th October 2.00pm – HYCC

Lady Sings the Blues – The story of the troubled life and career of the legendary jazz singer, Billie Holiday. With Diana Ross, Billy Dee Williams, Richard Pryor.



Monday 4th November 2.00pm – HYCC

The Man Who Invented Christmas – The journey that led to Charles Dickens' creation of "A Christmas Carol", a timeless tale that would redefine Christmas. With Dan Stevens, Mark Scarier and Patrick Joseph Byrnes.



Earth Matters (open to all U3A members)

Wednesday 11th September - 1.00 pm

Ardley Energy Recovery Facility

You might have wondered what this building near the M40 at Bicester was, or perhaps you visited the comparable facility at Greatmoor with the Earth Matters Group and would like to know the differences and similarities – or just what happens to your non-recyclable waste. This visit is open to all members, but please contact Ann Atkins of Greater Thame U3A on 01844 214313 or annatkins@btinternet.com if you are interested.



Wednesday 13th November - Haddenham Methodist Church - 2.30 pm

Holton – geological and archaeological finds

Jack Turner set about recording the geology and his finds from the area around Holton near Wheatley as a result of the restrictions on his customary cycling and dog walking following a hip operation. Jack, an engaging speaker with very sharp eyes who has researched his items thoroughly, will initially concentrate on his pre-Roman finds, with a view to covering later periods at a future talk.

Members wishing to attend these events can contact Sue Oswell on 01844 290568 or sue.oswell@btopenworld.com

Gardening Group

Monday 16th September 2.30pm

Church Barn Garden, Church Road, Puttenham, Tring HP23 4PR, shows how rural crafts and bee-friendly plants have been chosen to blend within a rural setting. Willow woven in situ provides stock-proof fencing, a shelter has been crafted in locally grown sweet chestnut, and hedges of Hornbeam give structure to tall, wild, colourful borders. Later flowering perennials and grasses self-seed amongst roses, annuals and dahlias. There are welcoming seats and the garden is mainly flat with a lawn and stone path. Entrance fee of £9.00 includes tea and cake.

Contact Doreen Barker on 01844 290377 or email twobarkers@btinternet.com



Technical Group

Thursday 3rd October

Boots and canal boats! Visit to the Doc Martens boot and shoe 'old factory' near Northampton, with a pub lunch beforehand and cream tea afterwards at the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum, including a talk, an optional boat trip and a wander round the museum. Provisional cost £20 plus transport, leaving around 10.30am. Please contact Mike Darnell as soon as possible at mike@mikeandsarahdarnell.com

Tuesday 5th November

Visit the Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton to learn about the history of the base and the people who served there. Full details can be found at www.trenchardmuseum.org.uk.

For security reasons names must be provided by 28th October to Kevin Nash at kevinpnash@yahoo.co.uk Please arrange to share cars where possible.



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A visit to a bell foundry is proposed for later this year. If you are interested, please contact Kevin Nash on 01296 658810 or kevinpnash@yahoo.co.uk

Haddenham Feast

Haddenham Screen

Saturday 14th September – HYCC – 7.30pm

Haddenham Feast Arts & Culture Festival will open with a sing-along screening of the cult 1975 film *Rocky Horror Picture Show* at HYCC from 7.30pm, featuring audience participation and a bar, and an after-show party. Tickets cost £6 online at haddenhamscreen.org.uk



Local History Group

Wednesday 18th September – Haddenham Methodist Church – 2.30pm

Alan Rose will give an illustrated talk about the history of the Haddenham Feast. Alan wrote on this topic in the first Haddenham Chronicles. Cost £5 including refreshments.

Writers Group

Thursday 19th September – Haddenham Library – 10.30am

The U3A Writers Group will showcase an hour of plays, poetry, fiction and factual writing for your amusement and involvement, followed by questions and answers. Entry is free.

U3A more widely

Thames Valley Network offers the following educational days. Details are at u3atvnetwork.org.uk

Courtesy Kevin McCarthy



Tuesday 22nd October

Ukulele Activity Day – at Benson

Thursday 21st November

Britain's Ancient Past Study Day – at Benson

Thursday 19th September – Long Crendon Library – 2.00pm

Local U3As talk – Why does health run in the family?

Contact Mike Price on 01844 208637 or mmpri12@gmail.com

Out and about

Beware dropping off to sleep!

At the Local History group's April meeting, Julian Hunt gave an excellent talk on *Coaching Days on the Oxford Road*. Some of the numerous coaching inns along this route still exist, including the Mitre in Oxford, while at the Golden Cross (now Pizza Express) you can still see the 16th century wall paintings familiar to coach passengers of the time. Incredibly, Thame in 1686 had 407 stables at the various inns. Apparently, the phrase 'Dropping off to sleep' refers to people falling asleep on the roof of the coach and dropping to the ground, where they were potentially run over by the rear wheels...



Coaching days – David Brown
Courtesy Oxford Mail



David Ackroyd anticipates someone else volunteering

No waiting at this surgery...

On a May trip to Europe's oldest operating theatre, at St Thomas' Hospital in Southwark, (scene of the pilot for BBC's black comedy, Quacks) the Technical Group were led through almost 900 years of history. Here, the mysteries and horrors of 19th century diagnosis, surgery and treatment were explained in part by the differences between the educated physicians, the barber surgeons and the borderline quackery of the apothecaries.

A hearty lunch at the nearby historic George Inn provided essential recuperation for the group after this harrowing visit!

Where's that draught coming from?

Some of the 20 or so Technical Interest Group members who visited the Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) Museum in June can be seen here standing next to a 30-foot laminated mahogany-bladed fan that once drew air at up to 112mph through the largest concrete wind tunnel in the world. The building housing the tunnel is Grade 1 listed and its sheer scale certainly lives up to its nickname of The Cathedral.



The Peak District? On bicycles?

If you're wondering if this was a wise choice, in the event it was one of the most enjoyable trips the Cycling Group has had. Buxton is an excellent centre for exploring delightful trails along old railway lines, with the added excitement of dark tunnels, staggering viaducts and wonderful countryside. Return routes were somewhat more challenging. The e-bikers definitely had the edge on the hills, but were kind enough to wait for those of us who occasionally had to give up and walk!



Courtesy Robert Harding

We dodged hail and thunderstorms but still managed to enjoy ice cream in the sunshine in the Pavilion Gardens. On the Monsal Trail (left) we were intrigued by the disappearance of the river into underground caverns from which it re-emerges after heavy rainfall. We were also fascinated by haunting memories of the Great Plague at Eyam and its community's survival against the odds. Together with an excellent hotel, convivial evenings, good food and Prosecco (that was welcome for a number of reasons!), it was a very pleasant trip.

Dreaming spires and smoking chimneys...

If you had looked at the skyline of Oxford in the 18th and 19th centuries you would have seen smoking chimneys among the dreaming spires. The Local History Group discovered this preserved chimney on a walk around Oxford's Industrial Buildings, escorted by historian Liz Woolley. The industrial buildings are surprisingly close to the city centre – Morrell's Lion Brewery was just behind the Castle. Most people will be familiar with the old Cooper's Marmalade Factory in Frideswide Square, which was strategically sited to be close to the stations and goods yards of the LNWR and GWR. The old gasworks, which at one time had seven gasometers, was just behind what is now the Westgate Centre. In Queen Street we could see the façade of Hyde's Clothing Factory appropriately opposite Marks & Spencer. We may not think of the centre of Oxford as 'industrial' but in fact, surprisingly, it was!



Morrell's Brewery chimney
Courtesy Oxford History Centre

Points of order

Events and outings

At its recent meeting, your Committee discussed the disappointingly low uptake on some of the trips we organise. For the benefit of all it would be helpful to have members' views on why this should be, and to find out what members really want as an Events programme – so please do think about what destinations we should be planning. Mary Paterson (events@haddenhamu3a.co.uk) would welcome your comments and suggestions. Equally, Margaret Ackroyd (theatre@haddenhamu3a.co.uk) is always pleased to hear your ideas for future plays and shows. Your views really matter – so please get in touch!

New members' meeting

There will be a meeting at Bradmoor Farm on Friday 4th October at 10.00am to welcome new members to our U3A. Here is a chance to chat to Committee and other members over coffee and cake about all the opportunities to participate in and contribute to our organisation.



Trouble getting about?

Members who are unable to travel to appointments or events locally – including getting to and from U3A General Meetings – can take advantage of the Haddenham Community Vehicle. Carrie, as she is affectionately known, is a wheelchair-friendly vehicle driven by volunteers providing a door-to-door service for people who can't access public or private transport. There's easy access for wheelchair users, who can sit safely alongside the driver, and the service is free to residents of Haddenham and surrounding villages. More details from Neil Dury on 07940 576088 or publicity@haddenhamu3a.co.uk

And finally...

Remember, there is a wealth of information on our website haddenhamu3a.co.uk, so check regularly.

Please note: The copy deadline for the next issue of the Newsletter is 1st November.

Meet your incredible shrinking Committee

The very existence of Haddenham U3A depends on all members playing a part, not least those on the Committee. As you can see, there are several vacancies here which are critical to succession planning and the continued smooth running of our very successful U3A. Please talk to any member of the Committee if you feel able to help. Full contact details are available at www.haddenhamu3a.co.uk



Sally Lajalati – Chair



Tony Barker – Secretary



David Ackroyd – Treasurer



Deputy Chair



Chris Collins* –
Membership Secretary



Angela Hart – Speakers
Secretary



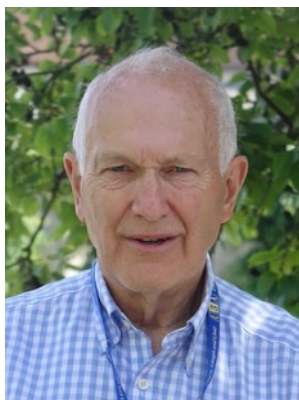
Mary Paterson – Events &
Outings Coordinator



Doreen Barker – Welfare
Officer



Interest Groups
Coordinator



Neil Dury – Publicity &
Newsletter Editor



Coordination Officer

***The U3A is not a
service charity and
all members have
responsibilities –
according to
U3A founder
Eric Midwinter***

**Leaving end of 2019*