

# NEWSLETTER

Chairman's thoughts | Dates for your diary | Interest Groups latest

## Thoughts from the Chair

Our quest for someone to take over our website & newsletter is over! Our thanks to Jonathan Hawkins for volunteering, and many thanks to Roger Rickard for all his work, which will come to an end in December. We now have a subcommittee to manage the changeover, taking this opportunity to revamp things. We would also like to gather your views, so please take a look at the attached questionnaire to let us have your responses.

In this 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the end of the First World War, on Remembrance Day, I will be laying a wreath on behalf of the U3A – a time to remember and give thanks to those who gave their lives to defend the oppressed and preserve our liberty. Long may we continue to do so.

Christmas is fast approaching, so don't forget our Christmas Extravaganza – see opposite. Rather early I know, but as this is our last newsletter of 2018, I would like to wish you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Sally

## Welcome...

...to our new-look newsletter. Please do let us know what you think! You can use the attached questionnaire to respond.

## Christmas extravaganza

A single December meeting in The Village Hall **at the earlier time of 2:00 for 2:15** will be led by The Waddesdon Manor Choir, conductor Russell Scott – with an opportunity for *ensemble* singing!



Waddesdon Manor Choir

**Come along and enjoy the music, festive food and drink, and a raffle for a Christmas hamper.**

### *General meetings*

Our November General Meetings are on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>. Steve Moll, a biologist and professional bee keeper, will present *The Incredible World of the Honey Bee*. Expect to learn some fascinating facts.

### *And for your diary...*

...our speaker at the January general meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> investigates *The Curious Disappearance of Major Glen Miller*. Another intriguing guest presentation.

## Interest Groups

**Full details** of interest group activities remain on the website. The committee believes that there is good operational communication between group leaders and their members. If we are wrong, please tell us. But if leaders want to promote their group to our full membership, just let us know.

In future, we hope leaders will share news of their group's past and planned activities with the wider Haddenham U3A membership through this newsletter.

### Square dancing

After an impressive eight years leading this interest group, Theresa Smith, now a committee member, would like to step down. Please contact her on 01296 747893 if you would like to discuss taking over from her.

### Discussion group 2

The group currently seeks new members. The monthly (Monday morning) meetings provide an open forum for discussion, with each attendee proposing a topic for discussion. The meetings are very informal, with new voices and opinions welcomed and respected. Call David Gregory on 01296 747528 for more details.

### Table tennis

This relatively new group is pleased to welcome any new members. Beginners or those who have not played for many years will be given tuition. The group meets fortnightly on Wednesday mornings at the Youth & Community Centre. Please contact Steph Everitt on 01844 299579 for more details.

## Theatre visits

29<sup>th</sup> November



We still have just a few tickets left for Agatha Christie's great courtroom drama *Witness for the Prosecution*, set in the magnificent chamber of London's old County Hall, where the audience will experience all the drama and intensity of a real life courtroom. Be there.

31<sup>st</sup> January

Matthew Bourne's *Swan Lake* returns with a fresh look for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. With great music by Tchaikovsky, this production is still perhaps best known for replacing the female corps-de-ballet with a menacing male ensemble. Bookings are now being taken.

*The contact for theatre bookings is Margaret*

*Ackroyd on 01844 292393.*



## Events highlights

### Films

3 December  
7 January

*Roger Rickard 01844 291613*  
Love Actually  
Shadowlands

### Earth Matters

14 November

*Sue Oswell 01844 290568*  
Talk: River Thames conservation

### Local History

24/25 November

*Steve Sharp 01844 290597*  
Events for 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Haddenham Museum

### Friday Lunch

9 November  
11 January

*Annette Marsden 01844 291022*  
The Crown, Cuddington  
The Thatch, Thame

### Sunday Lunch

9 December

*Annette Marsden 01844 291022*  
The Peacock, Henton

### Gardening

9 November

*Doreen Barker 01844 290377*  
Talk: Reinventing the garden border

## Out and about

### *Long Distance Walking*

Monthly, since July 2017, our long distance walking group have now covered almost 150 miles of the Chiltern Way – and still some distance to cover to complete late spring. The hidden woodland scenery on our doorstep is a delight.



### *Writers' Group*

Members of David Gregory's Writers' Group appeared alongside some national names at Thame Arts and Literature Festival last month. Before a packed audience, they illustrated some of their methods and showcased their own material, including, poetry, prose, monologues and short plays.

### *Cycling Group*

In September, sixteen members of the Cycling Group enjoyed a week boating and biking in the Bordeaux area, wining and dining on board!



Next year's "boating and biking" holiday starts from Prague from 6<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July. Cycling is optional — some can choose to remain with the boat. Also, some double cabins are still available.

#### **Any interest?**

*Please contact Eileen Monks on 01844 216033.*

### *Final plea for help!*

We would like to find a person with an electronic keyboard to play 3 Christmas songs for the audience to sing along to at the end of our Christmas Entertainment.

*Please call Angela Hart on 01844 292070.*



\*We also still need more volunteers to help with teas at general meetings, and to put out the chairs.

\*And remember, parking is very limited at HYCC, so please try to share a car or walk there if you can.

**HADDENHAM U3A is for the benefit of all members, through active participation and volunteering.**

The Committee currently helping to run our organisation would like some feedback from our members to help plan our future and development in this fast changing age so we have a short questionnaire for you. We would be grateful if you could complete and return it by email to **publicity@haddenhamu3a.co.uk** or print it out and give it to any Committee member or put it in the box at the December general meeting.

Why did you join the U3A?	
What do you like best about it?	
What areas do you think could be improved?	
Do you attend General Meetings/Talks? If not what is the reason?	very often / occasionally / hardly ever / never
Do you visit our website?	every week / once a month / as & when / never
If so, what information are you looking for?	
Do you read the Newsletter? If no, what is the reason?	
How often do you think it should be sent out?	Every 2 mths / quarterly / every 4 mths / never
Do you participate in one or more Interest Groups? If so, which ones?	
Would you like new Interest Groups and if so what subjects?	
Do you have any skills which could be used to teach other members?	
Do you receive a printed hand delivered newsletter through your letterbox?	If so, please tell us if there is any way you can instead receive it electronically.

Thank you for taking the time to complete our questionnaire. If you are happy to sign your name, please do so as this will enable a member of the Committee to contact you if necessary.

Name.....Contact details.....