



# HADDENHAM U3A

Newsletter May – June 2018

## Chairman's Thoughts

*Elaine Parkes (292184)*

Hello everyone

I would like to say a huge thank you to all the members who have already returned their Subscription Renewal Forms. We have already received 320 correctly completed forms with another 50 or so which have some sort of problem, such as no signature. Chris will be contacting all these people so that they can finish completing their form. Nevertheless this is very impressive and we are very grateful to you all. We look forward to receiving the final few forms and subscriptions!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the AGM on **Monday May 14<sup>th</sup>**. Please remember that the meeting will be starting earlier than usual, **2.00 for 2.15 and that the venue is St Mary's Church**. You will all be aware that parking around the Church is limited so please do try to share cars or walk if that is possible. The AGM will be short and will be followed by our usual meeting with the excellent speaker, Jonathan Jones talking about Charles Dickens and his Public Readings. The afternoon will be rounded off with tea and cake.

U3A National Office now sends out a monthly Newsletter which gives information about all the events organised by TAT, as well as what is happening throughout the country. If you like to attend events like the Royal Institution Lectures it would be a good idea to sign up for the Newsletter as you get advance notice of all events, just log on to [u3a.org.uk/email](http://u3a.org.uk/email). (note, when asked: our region is South East)

It does seem very odd to be writing my final 'Thoughts' for the Newsletter. The last four years have been very enjoyable (most of the time!) and very rewarding. Membership has substantially increased and reached the dizzy heights of 414 members last year. Lots of changes have taken place while I have been Chairman. The permanent AV system in HYCC has made preparing the hall for General Meetings much more straightforward. The days of setting up our own projector and our own sound system are now just a distant memory. Do you remember the old, uncomfortable chairs? We were very glad to see those go! I have tried to ensure that we play our part within the community and as part of this we made contributions to the purchase of both the AV system and the chairs. We also made a contribution to the new notice boards around the village. In addition, I felt that as one of the largest organisations in the village we should be represented at the annual Remembrance Day Service. I have therefore laid a wreath on your behalf for the last two years. Your data is now kept much more securely on our membership database, replacing the old Excel spreadsheet. This means that we can easily produce documents like the Subscription Renewal Letters and Membership Cards. By the way we will be producing new membership cards once most of the subscriptions have been received.

Chris Collins and I were co-opted on to the committee at the same time in 2012. I soon took on the role of Vice Chairman and later Chris became Membership Secretary. Since then the committee has changed completely. I would like to thank everyone who has served with me during my 4 years as Chairman. I could not have asked for a more supportive committee. I wish Sally and the committee all the very best for the future.

With very best wishes  
Elaine

## Our Thanks

*U3A Committee*

Your committee is sure all members would want us to express our sincere thanks on their behalf to Elaine for her heroic stint as U3A Chair for the last 4 years. As she notes, membership continues to increase – and the very latest count it is up even more, to 423! Having proved herself "a hard act to follow", there was some delay in appointing a successor and Elaine kindly agreed to extend her tenure by a year, remaining in post until now.

As Elaine's work finishes, the Haddenham U3A is now a strong and vibrant group with over thirty interest groups and an enthusiastic and expanding membership. Some of her many challenges



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and achievements are mentioned above. The committee has really enjoyed working with her and we thank her for her enthusiastic and dedicated leadership, and offer our very best wishes for the future. We would also like to give our thanks and best wishes to husband, Geoff, who has also done so much for our U3A, particularly through his technical work on our systems and database.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome Sally Lajalati as our new Chair and we very much look forward to working with her in the coming years.

## Notices

### U3A Bank Accounts

From April 1st new Charity Commission rules required us to merge our main bank account and our Outings account. Thus now you will pay money into the main account whether you are paying your membership subscription or paying for outings. If you pay for Outings by BACS please ensure that you use the correct Account Number 00021010, with the event name as the reference.

## General Meetings

**Organiser: Angela Hart (292070)**

**Monday 14th May – "Charles Dickens; His Public Readings" by Jonathan Jones - 2.00 for 2.15 at Haddenham St Mary's Church**

Most of us will remember the wonderful performance Jonathan Jones gave us last year as Rudyard Kipling. Now he presents Charles Dickens, undoubtedly one of our greatest writers, but also a very talented actor – a talent which he brought to life during the staged readings of his novels. We hear the story of how the readings came about, interspersed with examples of Dickens' public readings. There will be a short AGM before the presentation. Please note the change of LOCATION AND TIME. There is NO Thursday meeting. Share cars if possible to ease parking.

**Monday 11th and Thursday 21st June – "A Number of Parliamentary Scandals surely not!" by Colin Oakes – Youth and Community Centre 2.15pm**

The talk takes a light and humorous look at the problems M.P's have got into over the last 400 years. Far from being a recent event our parliamentary representatives have found themselves in trouble over financial, sexual and political events of both their own and others doing since long ago. We will look at how some got out of their situations, whilst others have paid the ultimate price for their indiscretions. Whether in the House of Commons or "the other place" Liberal, Tory or Labour members problems will be observed

## Events and Outings

**Coordinators: Margaret Ackroyd (292393), and Mary Paterson (291919)**

**Rousham House & Gardens – Tuesday 22 May 2018**

The house, built in 1635 by Sir Robert Dormer, is still in the ownership of the same family. William Kent 1685-1748 added the wings and the stable block. The south front is almost as Kent left it. Kent made alterations to the interior of the house, which retains some 17<sup>th</sup> century paneling and the original staircases, furniture, pictures and bronzes. The garden at Rousham represents the first phase of English landscape design and also remains almost as Kent left it.

**Sulgrave Manor, George Washington's ancestral home – Thursday 21 June 2018**

Sulgrave Manor was built by Lawrence Washington, George's five times great grandfather in the mid-1500s. The original Tudor features include the Great Hall where Lawrence, his wife and eleven children lived. Other original elements include the entrance porch, the Great Chamber and two smaller rooms on the first floor. In 1700 a North Wing was added. The garden remains largely unaltered since this time with formal hedges and topiary, an orchard, herb garden and beautiful borders for all seasons.

Organiser: Mary Paterson 291919 or [events@haddenhamu3a.co.uk](mailto:events@haddenhamu3a.co.uk)

For updates and further information, go to [www.bucksvoice.net/u3ahaddenham](http://www.bucksvoice.net/u3ahaddenham)



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## **U3A Holidays**

*Refer to website and organisers*

**Walking and Sightseeing in St Ives, Cornwall - 26 to 30 May 2018.**

Now fully booked

**Bologna and region, Italy - 11 to 16 June 2018**

Now fully booked

**Cycling in Bordeaux, France – 1 to 8 September 2018.** Our U3A cycling group are embarking on a boat/bike holiday next September in the Bordeaux area of France. Anyone interested in cycling and not a member of the cycling group is welcome to join us on this adventure.

The holiday is on a river boat with hired bikes on board, and varying distances (20-32 miles) are cycled daily to the next embarkation point. Cycling is not compulsory and there is an option to stay on board.

Organiser: Eileen Monks (01844 216033 or [emonks@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:emonks@tiscali.co.uk))

## **Wider U3A News**

*further details from Elaine Parkes  
(292184)*

### **Thames Valley Network Study Days**

The Work of William Morris - Kelmscott Manor - 10 May

Kelmscott Manor is a limestone manor in the Cotswold village of Kelmscott, near Lechlade. It dates from around 1570, with a late 17th-century wing, and is Grade I listed. It is probably the most evocative of all the houses associated with Morris and contains an outstanding collection of the possessions and works of Morris, his family and his Arts & Crafts associates, including furniture, original textiles, pictures, carpets, ceramics and metalwork.

17th May - Study Day "Inspiring Photography"

The study day aims to inspire you to improve the composition of your photographs whether you are using the camera on your phone or a top-of-the-range Digital Single Lens Reflex. The talks will focus on recognising the best photos to take and how to capture them, then what you can do with those photographs.

19 June - TVN Study Day - The Drama of Dunkirk

This event takes place in the stunning setting of the Thames Room of the River and Rowing Museum, Henley, looking out over the river.

The intention of the study day is to further our understanding of one of the most important operations of the Second World War – the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force under the constant bombardment of the German guns. A panel of knowledgeable and enthusiastic speakers will lead the day.

For details see [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk) . Each of the above is fully booked but you can join a waiting list

### **U3A Summer School 2018 - Chichester University 18-21 June**

Choose from 13 courses and full supporting programme. See website for further details and book early to avoid disappointment. [u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum](http://u3asites.org.uk/southeastu3aforum)



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## National U3A Events

7 June - After the Impressionists: The Post Impressionists to Picasso

Join National Gallery experts for a day of talks exploring the radical diversity of late nineteenth and early twentieth century-painting. From the blazing visions and emotional intensity of Van Gogh to the quiet stillness of Hammershoi, discover the art that followed in the wake of Impressionism.

Tickets: £25 per person (lunches & refreshments not provided), from:

[www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/after-the-impressionists-the-post-impressionists-to-picasso-tickets](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/after-the-impressionists-the-post-impressionists-to-picasso-tickets)

## Notes from the Interest Groups *(telephone 01844 unless otherwise stated)*

### Book Group 1

**Leader: Ann Warris (292273)**

22 May "The Forsyte Saga" by John Galsworthy, presented by Nancy Wallace, hosted by Carole Fryer

26 June "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, presented by Elaine Parkes, hosted by Diane Hartley

### Book Group 2

**Leader: Elaine Parkes (292184)**

May 8 "What Masie Knew" by Henry James, presented by Heather, hosted by Jackie

12 June "Behind the Scenes at the Museum" by Kate Atkinson, presented by Maggie and hosted by Rosanne

### Card & Board Games Group

**Leader: Ann Rickard (291613)**

Group meets 24 May at 16 The Gables and 28 June at 12 Wykeham Gate

### Computer Group

**Leader (Chinnor U3A): Robin Preston-Whyte (350382)**

**Haddenham U3A Liaison: Angus Mylles (290727)**

4 May "Gary's Computing Talk"

1 June "Clinic and networks, communications" (both at Chinnor Village Centre)

### Cycling Group

**Leader: Marie Woodrow (292012)**

**Malcolm White (291677)**

The group will ride on 22 May and 26 June – usually around 20 miles

1 to 8 September 2018 - Cycling Holiday in Bordeaux (see Holidays)

### Dance Group

**Leader: Theresa Smith (01296 747893)**

Square dancing continues every Thursday lunchtime at 12.15 in Haddenham Village Hall

### Digital Photography Group

**Leader: Bernard Warner (296118)**

Meetings with the Greater Thame U3A Photography Group on the Third Friday of each month, 10-12am, at Thame Guide Hut, Southern Road, Thame

### Discussion Group 1

**Leader: Tricia Hirst (291117)**

Member meetings 21 May (please note change of venue to 12 Wykeham Gate, Haddenham) and 18 June

### Discussion Group 2

**Leader: John Holloway (290247)**

Member meetings 28 May and 25 June

### Earth Matters Group

**Leader: Sue Oswell (290568)**

9 May 2018 - Visit to Wallingford Museum

### Film Club

**Leader: Roger Rickard (291613)**

3 May - "Hunt for the Wilderpeople" (NB this is a THURSDAY)

4 June - "The Piano." Both at Youth Community Centre

### French Conversation Group

**Leader: Paul Dickinson (215140)**

Group meetings on 14 and 21 May, 4 and 18 June at The Seven Stars, Dinton



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## **Friday Luncheon Club**

11 May : The Bell at Hardwick

**Leader: Annette Marsden (01844 291022)**

## **Gardening Group**

21 May - Group visit to Meadow Cottage, Christmas Common

18 June - Group visit to Kingsbridge, Steeple Claydon

**Leader: Doreen Barker (290377)**

## **German Conversation Group**

Fortnightly group meetings – 9, 23 May; 6, 20 July

**Leader: Paul Dickinson (215140)**

## **Golf Society**

Rounds to be confirmed

**Leader: Chris Vernon (291783)**

## **Local History Group**

23 May – Talk: "The Suffragists" by Jane Robinson in Haddenham Methodist Church

27 June - Visit to Wallingford – guided walk round town and castle with opportunity to visit museum.

**Leader: Steve Sharp (290597)**

## **Mah Jong Group**

Wednesday meetings at Haddenham Catholic Church: 9 and 23 May; 6 and 20 June

Friday meetings at Community Library: 4 and 18 May; 1 and 15 June

**Leader: Carol Mason (292236)**

## **Music Appreciation Group**

7 May – "Vivaldi and ...." – programme compiled and hosted by Tricia and Richard Hirst

4 June – "Music that tells a Story" – programme compiled and hosted by Hugh Stradling

**Leader: Ed Bullimore (291011)**

## **Opera Group**

No events planned in May/June

**Leader: Rosalie Sadler (290210)**

## **Out with Friends Group**

Group meetings 2 May, 6 June at Bradmoor Farm. See website for events and outings for members

**Leader: Pat Woodward (290460)**

## **Sunday Lunch Club**

20 May: lunch at The Angel, Long Crendon

June lunch: to be announced

**Leader: Ray Price (299320)**

## **Table Tennis Group**

**Joint Leaders: Steph Everitt (01296 748780)**

**and Sylvia Eyles (eyless@msn.com)**

Fortnightly sessions at Youth and Community Centre: May 9 and 23, June 6 and 20

## **Tai Chi Group**

The group will meet on Tuesday afternoons at the Youth and Community Centre during May. June to be confirmed.

**Leader: Mike Moore (290258)**

## **Technical Group**

19 June – TVN study group: The Drama of Dunkirk. See above under Wider U3A news

25 July - Visit to Amazon Fulfilment Centre, Hemel Hempstead

**Leader: Kevin Nash (01296 658810)**

## **Ten Pin Bowling Group**

Weekly sessions each Monday morning at 10.00 am, excluding Bank Holidays, at Rogue Bowling Centre, Aylesbury

**Leader: Michael Walden (291617)**

## **Theatre Group**

Sue Benwell has taken over leadership of the Theatre Group. Our thanks to Hilary.

24 May – "The Best Man", The Playhouse, London. A star-studded cast including Martin Shaw and Maureen Lipmann in a drama based on power and corruption in American politics

19 July – "Birdsong", Oxford Playhouse. Story of love and courage during WW1

23 Aug – "Sweet Charity", The Watermill, Newbury. Popular musical

6 Sept – "The Wipers Times", Oxford Playhouse. Satirical newspaper from WW1 trenches

27 Sept – "The King and I", London Palladium. Possibly greatest musical?

**Leader: Sue Benwell (01296 394101)**

## **Visiting Country Churches**

### **Group**

May 24th 2018 - St Peter & St Paul Church, Wingrave

**Leader (GTU3A): Elizabeth Bridges (216646)**

**Haddenham U3A Liaison: Jane Brown (261195)**

## **Walking Group 1**

Group 1 meets on the third Tuesday of each month. Route to be announced

**Leader: Malcolm White (291666)**



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## **Walking Group 2**

**Leaders: Andrew and Helen Wild (01296 748679)**

Group 2 meets on the third Friday of each month.

## **Walking – Long Distance**

**Leader: Neil Dury (291809)**

31 May from near Caversham to near Goring, led by Anne Gatward and Rosanne Ward

28 June from Goring to Ewelme will be led by Neil Dury and Ed Skipsey.

Volunteer leaders will be sought for the next 5 Chiltern Way walks of approx. 10 miles

## **Wine Group**

**Leader: Richard Moore (290972)**

The Wine Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month

## **Writers Group**

**Leader: David Gregory (01296 747528)**

The Writers Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month



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## Calendar

## MAY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	1	2 10.30 Out with Friends Gp meeting	3 12.15 Dance 2.00 Film Club	4 2.00 Mah Jong 2.30 Computers (Chinnor)	5	6
7 BANK HOLIDAY 14.00 Music Appreciation	8 10.15 Books Gp 2	9 10.15 Mah Jong 10.00 Table Tennis 10.30 German 2.30 Earth Matters 7.30 Wine	10 12.15 Dance	11 12.30 Friday Luncheon	12	13
14 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 12.45 French Conversation 2.15 GENERAL MEETING	15 10.00 Walking Gp 1	16	17 10.30 Writers 12.15 Dance	18 10.00 Walking Gp 2 2.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Photography (GTU3A)	19	20 12.30 Sunday Lunch
21 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00 Discussion Gp 1 12.45 French Conversation 2.30 Gardening	22 10.00 Cycling 13.00 VISIT 2.00 Books Gp 1	23 10.00 Table Tennis 10.15 Mah Jong 10.30 German 14.00 Local History	24 12.15 Dance 12.30 Theatre 2.15 Visiting C Church 2.30 Card & Games	25	26 U3A HOLIDAY	27 U3A HOLIDAY
28 BANK HOLIDAY U3A HOLIDAY	29 U3A HOLIDAY	30 U3A HOLIDAY	31 Long Distance Walkers			

This calendar is compiled from dates notified to Haddenham U3A website. Please send any corrections to RARickard@aol.com

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## June

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1 2.00 Mah Jong 2.30 Computers (Chinnor)	2	3
4 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 12.45 French Conversation 14.00 Film Club 14.00 Music Apprec'n	5 14.00 Tai Chi	6 10.00 Table Tennis 10.30 Out with Friends Gp meeting 10.30 German 10.15 Mah Jong	7 12.15 Dance 2.00 Film Club	8	9	10
11 U3A HOLIDAY 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 2.30 GENERAL MEETING	12 U3A HOLIDAY 10.15 Books Gp 2 2.00 Tai Chi	13 U3A HOLIDAY 10.15 Mah Jong 7.30 Wine	14 U3A HOLIDAY 12.15 Dance	15 U3A HOLIDAY 10.00 Walking Gp 2 2.00 Mah Jong 10.00 Photography (GTU3A)	16 U3A HOLIDAY	17
18 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00 Discussion Gp 1 12.45 French Conversation 2.30 Garden Visit	19 10.00 Walking Gp 1 2.00 Tai Chi	20 10.00 Table Tennis 10.30 German 10.15 Mah Jong	21 12.15 Dance 13.00 VISIT 2.30 GENERAL MEETING	22	23	24
25 10.00 Ten Pin Bowling 10.00 Discussion Gp 2	26 2.00 Books Gp 1 2.00 Tai Chi 10.00 Cycling	27 10.30 German 14.00 Local History	28 LD Walkers 12.15 Dance 2.15 Visiting Country Churches 2.30 Card & Games	29	30	

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