



NOTES FROM THE CHAIR



Jingle Bells, Jingle Bells!!

Yes folks, it's that time of year again. Are you all ready for the festive season? Or is it a little early yet?

This is the last Newsletter for 2021 and what another strange year has passed us by. We've had Lockdowns, Lock ins, Lock ups. You name it, we've had it. At least the last few months have seen a return to some form of normality. How long it lasts is anybody's guess.

Outings and Speaker meetings have re-started and all have been extremely well attended. In fact, the last Speaker meeting was attended by approximately 90, yes, NINETY people. And that was at St. Mary's and doesn't count those on Zoom.

Another major change during the year was the change of chair from Malcolm Brooks to yours truly. A special thank you to Malcolm for leading our u3a through the most difficult times imaginable. Together with the committee, he held the line admirably.

Whilst on the subject of thanking people, a very special thank you to Audrey Maple who has decided to hang up her pinny and hand the reins over to someone else after too many years anyone cares to remember organising the Coffee Mornings. Enjoy your "retirement" Audrey.

And a big thank you to Jill Hughes for taking on Audrey's role.

Our other major change was from Speaker Meetings at the Baptist Church to St Mary-le-More Church. This has proved very successful and popular and we have the added benefit of being able to Zoom the meetings to those who can't attend in person.

And so we look forward to the next Speaker meeting which will be 600 Years of Christmas Music, and for those who have booked, our Christmas trip to the Mill at Sonning to see Top Hat. They should both be special occasions.

Which leaves me to finally wish every one of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and look forward to seeing you all in 2022.

Ken Johnstone

VOLUNTEERS THANK YOU PARTY

Friday 28th January

This is still going ahead at Centre 70.

61 volunteers have helped out in some way or another over the past year 2020-21. It was a difficult year to keep ahead of, and they managed it admirably keeping Groups and Speaker meetings going through Zoom, keeping Outings plans on standby, eventually opening up again to live gatherings, outings and providing refreshments. Invitation emails have been sent out to our valiant volunteers.

COFFEE MORNING

first Friday of every month

Friday 3rd December 10:30 am

at Centre 70 The Kinecroft (just off Goldsmiths Lane)
Wallingford OX10 0DT



A BIG THANK YOU

to Jill Hughes who will be taking over from Audrey Maple who has organised the Coffee Mornings for many a year and is now stepping down.



THANK YOU TO SHEILA

The Committee treated Sheila Findlay to lunch at the Home Sweet Home pub in November. They wished to thank Sheila for all her support over many years most especially for hosting the Garden Party each summer.

OUTINGS

17 Dec The Mill at Sonning

14 Jan Celebration Lunch

Feb To be advised

Mar Tyntesfield Bristol

Apr Brighton

May Watercress Line

June Regents Canal

SPEAKER MEETING

Please Note: usually third Wednesday of every month but one week earlier in December

Wednesday 8th December 2 pm

St Mary-le-More Church in Wallingford Town Centre

This will be live streamed,

the Zoom link will appear on Speakers page on our website on the day.

Green Matthews 600 years of Christmas

Sophie Matthews was one of our earliest Zoom speakers and many of you will remember her fascinating talk about musical instruments in Baroque art, which she illustrated lavishly with music from her various bagpipes. For this talk she will be joined by her collaborator, Chris Green, as they explore Christmas music over six centuries and entertain us in song and on a variety of instruments.

A real Christmas treat!

19 Jan Humanitarian Vision – Jim Holmes

16 Feb Last Supper at Pompeii – Paul Roberts

16 Mar How Tropical Rainforests Work – Dr David Jones

20 Apr Charles Darwin and the Beagle – James Taylor



THE MILL AT SONNING OUTING

Meal & performance of 'Top Hat'

Friday 17th December

Coach departs Wallingford Museum **4:45 pm**

Crowmarsh Church **4:50 pm**

Please Note: the coach departure times have changed & are now as above.

CELEBRATION LUNCH

Friday 14th January at 12:30 for 1:15pm

Friends old & new in the New Year

at Badgemore Golf Club Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 4NR

Bookings now closed (they closed on 30th Nov)

Organiser Jane Milne janemilneU3A@gmail.com



INTEREST GROUPS



Groups:

Please apply to Yvonne Griffiths if you want to join of these in particular:

Ukulele: 1 space available - first Monday afternoons.

Playreading: Further spaces available - first Wednesday mornings. We meet at the Corn Exchange and read through a play of many parts.

Cribbage is a card game very popular in pubs where many have their own leagues. We are quite competitive but the main aim is to have fun and enjoy each others' company. Sorry but unlike pubs, no accompanying alcohol!

We take complete beginners or experienced players. Group 1 has been running since

2013 when we started with just 3 players, the originals are still going strong and we are bursting at the seams if everyone turns up so another group Cribbage 2 will be starting

after Christmas on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Group 1 plays on the 1st and 3rd Mondays, all in the mornings.

The game helps with your maths in so much as you have to be able to count up to 31. There is a fascinating way of keeping score which has a language of its own - 15 two, 15 four, 2 for a pair, 4 for a flush, 1 for his nob etc. You usually play with a partner in a group of four, two against two, but you can also play as a threesome or a pair.

A very versatile game.

Proposed New Groups:

Is anyone interested in joining a **Golfers Group** for those members who would like an occasional 'knock around' rather than belong to a regular club.

Is anyone interested in joining a **Climate Change Group**. We propose to tackle 2 topics at each monthly meeting. One person will lead on each topic, present their findings in a brief talk or presentation, followed by a discussion. We will also make visits sometimes, and invite the occasional guest.

Cribbage 2 see above for description.

Is anyone interested in joining an **iPad Group** - Beginners or an Intermediate? A chance to improve & share your skills.

Contact Groups Coordinator **Yvonne Griffiths** if you want to join or form a group
groups@wallingfordu3a.org or **contact via website**

DECEMBER 2021

INTEREST GROUPS CALENDAR

* = spaces available, more members welcome

Antiques	<i>usually 10:30am fourth Wed</i> No meeting in December <i>Carole Johnson</i>
*Art/Painting	Thur 6th 9:45 am <i>first Thur</i> <i>Angie Thorrington</i>
Badminton	Berinsfield Sports Centre floor declared unsafe so no Badminton <i>Hilly Bailey</i>
*Birdwatching 1	Tues 2nd <i>usually first Thur</i> Dinton Pastures & Xmas lunch <i>Rosemary Garner</i>
*Birdwatching 2	Thur 20th <i>third Thur</i> Xmas lunch <i>Pam Johnstone</i>
Book Group 1	Tue 14th afternoon <i>second Tue</i> Red Lion, Cholsey - Announcement of 2022 new list - such excitement! <i>Sue Taylor</i>
Book Group 2	Thur 16th <i>usually fourth Thur</i> Choosing books for 2022 & share in mince pies or a savoury buffet <i>Di Young</i>
Book Group 3	Wed 15th <i>second Wed</i> 12:30 pm Xmas Party & choosing books for next year <i>Sheila Findlay</i>
*Book Group 4	Thur 9th 2 pm <i>second Thur</i> December book is <i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell More members very welcome <i>Dee Clarke</i>
Book Group 5	~ 2:30 pm <i>fourth Thur</i> No meeting in December <i>Margaret Wiggall</i>
History 1	Wed 1st <i>first Wed</i> <i>Ted Nelson</i>
History 2	Fri 17th 2:30 pm <i>third Fri</i> Xmas lunch <i>Patricia Shields</i>
*History 3	Wed 8th More members very welcome <i>second Wed</i> <i>Colin Clarke</i>
History 4	~ No meeting in December <i>Jen Potter</i>
*History 5	No meeting this month <i>in Jan & onward will be 2 pm fourth Wed</i> New members very welcome <i>Ray Verrall</i>
*Latin for Pleasure	Wed 15th <i>third Wed</i> <i>Roger Morgan</i>
*Lunch Club	Wed 1st <i>first Wed</i> <i>Rosemary & Tony Hines</i>
Lunch: Sunday 1	~ <i>usually third Sunday</i> Due to Xmas & the u3a Celebration Lunch our next meeting will be in February 20th <i>Ken Gough</i>
*Lunch: Sunday 2	Sun 26th <i>fourth Sunday</i> New group, more members very welcome <i>Carol Chaplin</i>
*Music: Broader	Tue 7th <i>first Tues</i> 2:00 pm Christmas music at Pamela's <i>Val Wolsey</i>
Music: Classical 1	Tue 28th 2:00 pm <i>fourth Tues</i> at Pam's house: Music to celebrate Christmas <i>Mike Sedman</i>
Music: Classical 2	Mon 13th 2:30 pm <i>second Mon</i> <i>John Cozens</i>

Craft 1 Mon 6th *first Mon*
Angie Thorrington

Craft 2 Fri 17th afternoon *third Fri*
Margaret Davies

***Craft 3** Fri 10th *second Fri*
New group, more members very welcome
Bas Sommerville

***Cribbage 1** Mon 6th & Mon 20th 10:30 am
More members very welcome
first & third Mondays
Joyce Kent

***Cribbage 2** ~
New Group starting up on January 11th
second & fourth Monday mornings
Joyce Kent

***Current Affairs 1** Thur 2nd after noon
first Thur
new venue at Ruth Pidgeon's in Winterbrook
Neil Kelly

Current Affairs 2 Mon 3rd
2:00 pm *first Mon*
Val Mowlam

***Current Affairs 3** Mon 13th *third Mon*
New group, more members very welcome
Jen Houston

***French Conversation 1** Thur 9th à 10:30
Chez Mike Sedman second Thur
Janet Franklin

***French Conversation 2** *first & third Mon*
Mon 6th & Mon 20th
more members very welcome
Margaret Husband

***French Conversation 3** *first & third Tues*
Tue 7th & Tue 21st
New group, more members very welcome
Marion Shipton

Genealogy 1 Mon 20th 10:30 am *third Mon*
Festive Brunch, venue & time as usual
Linda Matthews

Genealogy 2 Tue 14th *second Tue*
Mary Cozens

Genealogy 3 Thur 9th 10 am - 12 noon
second Thurs
Phil Grinham

German Conversation ~ *usually third Fri*
currently suspended.
Alec Hayton

***Pétanque** Each Tue 11:00 am
Wallingford Sports Park small fee applies
Loren Butt

***Photography** Wed 8th 10:00 am
Theme: Autumn
second Wed
Malcolm Brooks

***Play Reading** Wed 1st *first Wed*
9:45 for 10am start at Corn Exchange
Complete play read through
Further members very welcome
Philippa Davies

Poetry Reading Wed 8th *second Wed*
Jill Cooney

Science Tue 14th *usually 10am third Tues*
Xmas Lunch
Anna Harvey

***Scrabble 1** Mon 20th 2 - 4 pm *third Mon*
More members very welcome
Sarah Masters

Scrabble 2 Thur 9th 2:30 pm *second Thur*
Vee Hadley

***Seminar** Mon 27th *fourth Mon Gloria*
Hamilton-Peach

***Singing for Fun** Fri 3rd 2:00 pm
Baptist Church. Last meeting this month.
Back after Xmas on 7th Jan 2022.
Fridays every fortnight
More members very welcome
Helen Futcher

***Spanish Improvers** Wed 22nd
third Weds morning
More members very welcome
Val Mowlam

***Ukulele** Mon 6th 2pm *first Monday*
One space left!
Helen Futcher

Writing For Pleasure Mon 13th
10:30 am *second Mon*
Topic: a seasonal acrostic
Carolyn Newbert

Writing Life History Fri 10th
morning second Fri
Margaret Pritchard

* = spaces available, more members welcome

WALKING in DECEMBER:

Shorter 3-5 miles **Wed 1st** *first Wed*
Always starts between 9:30 & 10:30, usually from
Wallingford Market Place
If you have already signed up for Shorter Walking
but are not receiving your walking invitations please
drop a note to castlegarden31@gmail.com
Paul Booker

Rambling 5-6 miles **Thur 9th**
usually third Thur
Phil Richardson

Moderate 1 6-7½ miles **Wed 8th** *second Wed*
Julia West

***Moderate 2** 5-7 miles **not this month**
(usually first Tues) Julia West

***Moderate 3** 5-7 miles *third Tue*
New group, more members very welcome
starting next month Julia West

***Longer** 8-10 miles **Wed 15th**
usually fourth Wed
Julia West



We have 430 members.
Every month:

54 Interest Groups,

1 Outing, 1 Speaker Meeting, and 1 Coffee Morning.

Contact any of the committee via our [website](#)

[Contact page](#) or by email

chairman@wallingfordu3a.org

treasurer@wallingfordu3a.org

membership@wallingfordu3a.org

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outings@wallingfordu3a.org

groups@wallingfordu3a.org

COMMITTEE 2021/22

Ken Johnstone **Chair**

Neil Kelly **Deputy Chair**

Anna Harvey **Treasurer**

Paul Booker **Secretary**

Yvonne Griffiths **Groups Co-ordinator**

Anna Gordon **Membership**

Jane Milne **Minutes**

Ian Shipton **Committee member**

Neil Kelly **TVN Representative**

Malcolm Brooks **Database & website**

Sarah Robinson **Newsletter & website**

Sub Committees:

Jane Tuckett **Speaker Meetings**

Jill Hughes **Coffee Mornings**

Paul Booker **Outings**