

# MAY NEWSLETTER

## • NOTES FROM THE CHAIR •

This is the last song I'm ever going to sing, the last time I play my old guitar. Well, that was the song that went through my mind as I started to think of what to write this month. Amazing really, as I hadn't heard this old Everly Brothers song for many years!

This is actually my last newsletter before standing down at the AGM on the 19<sup>th</sup> May. We'll be in good hands as Ken Johnstone takes over. It's been an interesting two years, to say the least. In May 2019 we had all our plans for the next few months laid out, and as we moved into March 2020 this continued, despite this new virus thing that was hitting the news.

Then lockdown came and everything went into abeyance. It wouldn't last long really, would it? But it did and we had to rethink how we did u3a. Had anyone heard of Zoom back then? Suddenly everything had to be done by Zoom & our wonderful Speaker Meeting team went into action & arranged Zoom meetings to replace our normal ones. We were able to offer our

Zoom Pro account to the interest groups with a good take up, & some groups used their own Zoom accounts as well. Outings became impossible but the Outings team have continued to monitor the situation and they will restart as soon as the venues open. Plans are afoot.

The Newsletter came good with an extended layout, with as much information as we could glean, also adding quizzes, photos and articles (supplied by you), all to keep you informed and entertained.

I must also commend my whole committee, who've supported me as chairman through thick and thin. Well done guys! We're still not out of the woods yet, though things are beginning to open up, we're still not sure whether further lockdowns will occur. If they do, we'll be able to continue functioning.

Keep reading the newsletter and the website for the latest news.

Malcolm

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## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2021-22



Good news - most of you have renewed so far.  
**BIG BIG BIG THANK YOU** for being so prompt.

For those that might still be considering, renewal reminders were sent out on 1<sup>st</sup> April and payments were due in by the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Please let us know via [website Contact form](#) if you have any queries about paying or if your Renewal email has gone astray.

Please note if you **don't** renew you **won't** be able to take part in u3a Activities, Groups & Outings.

## MAY EVENTS

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> May** Coffee Morning

**Wed 19<sup>th</sup> May 2pm**

**Speaker - from Barrow to Baghdad and Back again**  
**And our AGM**



## STILL URGENT: WE STILL NEED A TREASURER

Can we ask for a volunteer to fill this invaluable role, without which we could not continue.

The accounts are organised, neat & spreadsheet tidy. If you would like to consider taking this on then please send a message to Malcolm Brooks on the [website Contact form](#), and Malcolm will phone you and provide further details.

Clicking on **bright blue text** will take you somewhere, & clicking on the blue arrows or top/bottom of each page will bring you back to the Contents list



# AGM 2021 WED 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY

## 2:00 PM

The AGM this year will be via Zoom again.

As always, the AGM will take up a small part of the May Speaker Meeting.

The AGM documents - Agenda, 2020 Minutes, 2021 Report, Financial Report, Treasurers Report - are on [2021 AGM](#) on the website.

If you would like to join the Committee, you will be most welcome to join our friendly team. We meet about six times a year (at the moment monthly via Zoom until we can get back to 'proper' meetings)

You will find the Nomination Form and how to submit it on the website [2021 AGM](#).

## AUGUST GARDEN PARTY 2021



It is **very** likely that our traditional annual Garden Party will happen this summer. We had to postpone last year's. Above is a photo of the year before (2019) when we were innocent of the word Covid.

This year the Garden Party will be at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> August.

It will be our first big get together so is good cause for celebration. Buffet food and celebratory drinks will be provided.

Nearer the date there will be Invitations to RSVP to (for catering purposes).

There will also be a shout out for help on the day for two 'gangs' - Heavy Gang to setup chairs and gazebos outside, and Light Gang help to serve food & drinks.

Watch this space!

# SPEAKER MEETINGS

From Jane Tuckett & the Speaker Meetings Team:

We hope that after all the disruption of the past year we have now managed to set up a fully future-proof programme of speaker meetings.

We are assuming that talks will take place via Zoom until the autumn when, all being well, we might be able to return to live meetings. However this will depend on the availability of the Baptist Church; all our future bookings should be able to take place either live or via Zoom so we are looking forward to an interesting and stimulating series of lectures without further disruption.

See this and next page for full descriptions of speakers booked over the next 12 months.

To join the Meeting go to the [Speaker page](#) on our website.

## Talks to come:

16 <sup>th</sup> June	Graham Harrison	Chloroform - Sense and Insensibility
21 <sup>st</sup> July	Steve Jellyman	Memories of a TV Cameraman
18 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Thameside u3a	(Garden Party hopefully)
15 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Timothy Walker	The Land of Giants & Volcanoes
20 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Julie Summers	Remembered - the Commonwealth War Graves
17 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Muriel Pilkington	The Mitford sisters in the Cotswolds
18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Green Matthews	600 Years of Christmas

## 2022:

15 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Jim Holmes	Humanitarian Vision
19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Dr Paul Roberts	Last Supper at Pompeii
16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Dr David Jones	How Tropical Rainforests Work
20 <sup>th</sup> April	James Taylor	Charles Darwin and The Beagle

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2:00 pm

Philip Caine

From Barrow to Baghdad and Back again



Philip Caine was born in Barrow-in-Furness, beginning his working life in the hotel business.

He then headed to the off-shore oil rigs in the North Sea and began a career that spanned thirty years operating projects across three continents. The end of the Iraq war in 2003 took Philip to Baghdad where he directed the operations and project management of multiple accommodation bases for the American Coalition. After working all over the world he returned to Barrow where he now lives with his family. He began writing his first novel which was published in 2015 and since then there have been five further novels in his exciting thriller series.

## 16<sup>th</sup> June - Graham Harrison Chloroform: Sense and Insensibility

Graham Harrison is a member of the group Sunjester who would, in more normal times, be offering their presentations at National Trust and English Heritage properties around the country. After a long career in educational workshops Sunjester have, over the last six years, developed a successful series of adult talks. Graham will be talking to us about the history of anaesthesia and the quest to transform surgery from terrifying ordeal to pain free experience which resulted in alarming degrees of both bravery and recklessness. Horror and humour combine in tales of how early doctors and scientists experimented with anaesthesia.

## Zoom talks already given:

Sept	Tom Way	Wildlife on your Doorstep
Oct	John Ericson	Art Inspired by Wine
Nov	Sophie Matthews	Music in Art
Dec	Tim Barron	London in time of Shakespear
Jan	Mary Smith	A Schoolgirl's War
Feb	Siobhan Clark	House of the Romanovs
Mar	Don Brown	Treasures of British Museum
Apr	Andy Smith	Sing a Century



## **21<sup>st</sup> July – Steve Jellyman Memories of a TV Cameraman**

Standing behind his camera, Steve Jellyman has witnessed some of the iconic moments of the last 50 years. In his talk he will share some of the most memorable of these events with us and shed fascinating insights on people and situations. A real trip down memory lane and chance to revisit some of the later 20th century's most newsworthy stories and characters.

## **18<sup>th</sup> August - Garden party (hopefully)**

## **15<sup>th</sup> Sept – Timothy Walker The Land of Giants and Volcanoes**

We welcome a return visit from Timothy Walker (lecturer in botany at the University of Oxford and erstwhile Horti Praefectus of the Botanical Garden) who last spoke to us about the importance of plants in so many aspects of our everyday activities. This time he will talk about the Pacific States of America, the home of giant redwoods and volcanoes. In addition there are spectacular alpine meadows and some of the most dramatic coastline in the world. This talk will look at the botany of the region and the influence of the volcanoes on its geology, geography and flora.

## **20<sup>th</sup> Oct – Julie Summers Remembered, the Commonwealth War Graves**

Julie Summers, our most regular and popular speaker, returns to give a talk based on her own highly acclaimed book 'Remembered' which tells the human story behind the extraordinary efforts of those who felt that the fallen should be remembered in perpetuity, and with dignity.

## **17<sup>th</sup> Nov – Muriel Pilkington The Mitford Sisters in the Cotswolds**

Most of us have heard of the five Mitford sisters who first began to make headlines in the late 1920's and have rarely been out of the news since. Between them they were close to many key figures of the last century. They knew Churchill, John F Kennedy and Hitler and entertained the Queen and Duchess of Windsor. Fewer of us probably realise that their childhood was spent at Asthall Manor near Burford from where they went on to dazzle in many different political and social spheres.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Dec – 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!

## **15<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022 – Jim Holmes Humanitarian Vision**

Jim Holmes is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a professional documentary photographer. His career has taken him around the world to more than 50 countries and into some amazing landscapes. He has been particularly involved in photographing the work of humanitarian organisations such as Oxfam, Save the Children and the United Nations. He promises us an uplifting and insightful talk visiting some of their projects in Afghanistan, Laos, Mongolia, India, Myanmar and many other countries.

## **16<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022 – Paul Roberts Last Supper at Pompeii**

Paul Roberts is a classical archaeologist who holds the title of Sackler Keeper of the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum. He was the Curator of the recent exhibition 'Last Supper at Pompeii' at the Ashmolean and he will talk to us about the catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. This is the third time that his name has featured on our programme with previous appearances having to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We very much hope that his talk will be able to go ahead this time!

## **16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – Dr David Jones How Tropical Rainforests Work**

David Jones is a research biologist at the Natural History Museum in London. He specialises in rainforest insects and ecology and spoke to us in 2019 about the most dangerous animals on earth. He returns to speak to us about the main ecological processes that keep rainforests functioning and the threats that currently surround their long-term future. All very relevant to our current times. This is another talk which has been rescheduled more than once and again we sincerely hope that it will go ahead without any further delays.

## **20<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – James Taylor Charles Darwin and the Beagle**

James Taylor is the author of 'The Voyage of the Beagle' which follows Charles Darwin's extraordinary and momentous journey aboard Fitzroy's famous survey ship. James Taylor is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and has a particular interest in marine paintings. We look forward to hearing some of the inside story of this perilous and momentous voyage which proved to be the watershed in our understanding of the development of biological species.





# OUTINGS

## MAY MESSAGE FROM THE OUTINGS TEAM

There will be no outing in May.

We were planning to ride on the Watercress line followed by a visit to Jane Austen's house with a substitute being Gilbert White's residence. All these have had to be cancelled and many other enquires to other venues proved fruitless. The problems have been at many destinations there are skeleton and furloughed staff and the uncertainty of whether they will be able to comply with Covid rules even if they can understand them. Communication has been very difficult.

Better things are bound to come. The Isle of Wight trip in July is still on and Sue Wright is busy planning the visit to Ancient Butser farm in August. We will our best to continue to organise one outing per month.



\* The April visit to Gilbert White's House followed by Jane Austen's house in Alton has been cancelled due to venue unavailability.

\* 27<sup>th</sup> June to 1<sup>st</sup> July. **Jewels of Northumbria.** We have availability of one single & one twin/double due to cancellations. Contact Mike Sedman [outings@wallingfordu3a.org](mailto:outings@wallingfordu3a.org) or [website contact form](#) for further information.

\* 13<sup>th</sup> July - **Cruise to the Isle of White.** To include cream tea, coach tour of the Island and more. Tickets £49.50 each.

\* August - **Buster Hill Farm Historic village.** Details next month.

\* September - **Salisbury Cathedral.**

\* October - **Gloucester Docks and Cathedral.**

\* November - **Bristol Aerospace Museum**

\* December - Seasonal visit and entertainment

## INTEREST GROUPS

No face to face meetings at the moment. Most Groups are keeping themselves in touch with each other by all means electronic. Several are meeting via Zoom monthly. Our ZoomPro (with unlimited time) is proving popular. Bookings are made via [Contact](#) website page.

Big thanks to Group conveners for keeping things going.

You can apply to join an Interest Group even now to be ready for fresh times

Contact Yvonne Griffiths [via our website](#)

<b>Antiques</b>	Carole Johnson
<b>Art/Painting</b>	Angie Thorrington
<b>Craft</b>	Angie Thorrington
<b>Photography 3</b>	Malcolm Brooks
<b>Music Broader</b>	Val Wolsey
<b>Music Classical 1</b>	Mike Sedman
<b>Music Classical 2</b>	John Cozens
<b>Singing for Fun</b>	Helen Fitcher
<b>Ukulele</b>	Paul Booker (temp)
<b>Book Group 1</b>	Sue Taylor
<b>Book Group 2</b>	Di Young
<b>Book Group 3</b>	Sheila Findlay
<b>Book Group 4</b>	Dee Clarke
<b>Book Group 5</b>	Sue English
<b>Play Reading</b>	Philippa Davies
<b>Poetry Reading</b>	Jill Cooney
<b>Writing for Pleasure</b>	Carolyn Newbert

<b>French Conversation 1</b>	Janet Franklin
<b>French Conversation 2</b>	Susan Renn
<b>Latin for Pleasure</b>	Roger Morgan
<b>Spanish Improvers</b>	Val Mowlam
<b>Science</b>	Anna Harvey
<b>Seminar</b>	Gloria Hamilton-Peach
<b>Current Affairs 1</b>	Trudy Davies
<b>Current Affairs 2</b>	Val Mowlam
<b>Genealogy 1</b>	Linda Matthews
<b>Genealogy 2</b>	Mary Cozens
<b>History 1</b>	Ted Nelson
<b>History 2</b>	Patricia Shields
<b>History 3</b>	Colin Clarke
<b>History 4</b>	Jenny Potter
<b>History 5</b>	Ray Verrall
<b>Writing Life History</b>	Margaret Pritchard
<b>iPad Users 1</b>	Sheila Findlay
<b>iPad Users 2</b>	tba
<b>Mac Users</b>	Ann Truesdale

<b>Cards Bridge</b>	Sheila Findlay
<b>Cards Canasta</b>	Hilly Bailey
<b>Cards Cribbage</b>	Joyce Kent
<b>Cards Euchre</b>	Hilly Bailey
<b>Scrabble 1</b>	Sarah Masters
<b>Scrabble 2</b>	Vee Hadley
<b>Badminton</b>	Hilly Bailey
<b>Pétanque</b>	Loren Butt
<b>Birdwatching 1</b>	Rosemary Garner
<b>Birdwatching 2</b>	Pam Johnstone
<b>Shorter Walking</b>	Paul Booker
<b>Rambling</b>	Phil Richardson
<b>Moderate Walk 1</b>	Julia West
<b>Moderate Walk 2</b>	Julia West
<b>Longer Walking</b>	Julia West
<b>Garden Visits</b>	Dinah Perkins & Hilary Taylor
<b>Lunch Club</b>	Rosemary & Tony Hines
<b>Sunday Lunch Club</b>	Ken Gough



## INTEREST GROUPS ROUND-UP



### >From Linda Matthews - Genealogy 1:

Mental Health Benefits of Family History Research

During lockdown an absorbing hobby, and I hope all the members agree with me, became more than that. By researching back several generations and discovering extended family it provides a sense of belonging to a wider group and often the opportunity to make connections with people all over the world. Sharing a common interest through a group and being able to connect, even remotely has been helpful both with research but also being able to share a few moments with someone other than your bubble. We continue our contact by email, testing ourselves with new research avenues monthly.

### From Loren Butt - Petanque:

Outdoor sports are now back! Petanque is one of them. Join in with the Petanque Wallingford club players at The Sports Park on a Tuesday morning and learn how to play! Please contact Yvonne Griffiths to join.

### From Helen Fitcher - Singing for Fun:

Starting again in the autumn.

### >From Malcolm Brooks - Photography:

The next subject is Architecture and we are going to show only photos we've taken in the preceding month now that we can wander further afield. Anyone is welcome to join us. (Use website Contact form if you require the password to join our Zoom session)

### >From Carole Johnson - Antiques:

A few 'antiquers' managed the Anagrams Quiz for the April e-mail meeting, and I may have to devise another couple more quizzes before we are able to meet again as a group, face to face. I'm hoping this will be in July or August, but obviously it will all depend on the Coronavirus situation at the time.

### From Angie Thorington - Art/Painting & Craft:

Looking forward to seeing you sometime in 2021.

### From Carolyn Newbert - Writing for Pleasure:

Continue sharing our work & keeping in touch by email.

### >From Philippa Davies - Playreading:

Meeting in May to read 'Arcadia' by Tom Stoppard.

### From Jill Cooney - Poetry:

continues to meet each week on Zoom.

### From Val Mowlam - Spanish:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

### >From Janet Franklin - French 1:

French conversation 1 still zooming and Jill will invite us for our May session. We'd like to wish all members "Joyeux premier mai"



### >From Sue Taylor - Book 1:

In April we read "The Hunting Party" by Lucy Foley. If you like whodunnits about a reunion of old university friends, set in the wilds of Scotland over Hogmanay, then you might enjoy this easy read. Our book choice for May is "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See.

### From Diana Young - Book 2:

still meeting via Zoom.

### From Dee Clarke - Book 4:

For May our choice is "The Stranger Diaries" by Elly Griffiths.

### >From Sue English - Book 5:

Book Group 5 enjoyed meeting up for real sitting in the April sunshine and enjoying tea and cake! We hope to repeat this next month on May 27 when we will discuss our two books for this month: *Three Hours* by Rosamund Lupton and *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens.

### From Patricia Shields - History 2:

Our History Group is thriving on Zoom.

### >From Jennifer Potter - History 4:

April's meeting was cancelled due to the relaxation of lockdown on that day so on 10th May we will talk about 'The Place of our Birth / A Place We Have Lived or Know Well'.

### >From Ray Verrall - History 5:

Our next meeting will be on Friday, 28th May, subject to be confirmed.

### From Trudy Davies - Current Affairs 1:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

### From Val Mowlam - Current Affairs 2:

Meeting monthly via ZoomPro.

### >From Ken Gough - Sunday Lunch Club:

Planning to start again on the 13th. June, venue to be agreed early May, Covid permitting.

### From Rosemary Garner - Birdwatching 1:

Birdwatching 1 are very much looking forward to restarting on 1st July with a visit to College Lakes near Tring if we are allowed to do so.

### >From Pam Johnstone - Birdwatching 2:

Birdwatching 2 are hoping to meet (all being well) on Thursday, 20th May for the first time, since whenever, at Cholsey Meadows.

### From Joyce Kent - Cribbage:

Now meeting & playing Cribbage every week via Zoom.

### >From Paul Booker - Shorter Walking:

to all Short Walkers....not, of course, in stature but distance traveled. Our first short walk will be on Monday 7th June. Perhaps one we've done before in Henley but more details nearer the time. Should be a grand reunion!

### >From Phil Richardson - Rambling:

The rambling group met for the first time this year on 15 April and will now continue on the third Thursday each month until .....

### From Julia West - Moderate & Longer Walking:

The Moderate and Longer walking groups restarted in April. Moderate 2 starts in May.





# WALLINGFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM VOTE

By Wendy Tobitt who is also a member of the Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.  
Here she offers clarity on an important event in May.

The Referendum Vote on the Wallingford Neighbourhood Plan is on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May. It's run by South Oxfordshire District Council and will take place alongside the local elections.

The voting card will ask this question:



Do you want South Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Wallingford to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

The Neighbourhood Plan has evolved from five years of work by local residents including hundreds of comments given in consultations.

It sets out a positive vision for the town's future, and balances the legal requirements to support sustainable growth with the need to promote and celebrate the unique character of Wallingford.

It has been developed by people contributing their time, knowledge and expertise out of a love of Wallingford and a determination to see the town prosper for the benefit of future generations.

The Plan's policies will guide development, and improve the quality of life for everyone now and in the future.

Wallingford Town Councillors will use it to help them discuss and make comments on planning proposals. The District Council will assess planning applications against the Neighbourhood Plan policies when they make decisions.

Wallingford is blessed with a vibrant community spirit which takes pride in using its many assets, physical and cultural, to create a strong sense of place.

Preserving and enhancing those assets, whilst adapting to the growth in and around Wallingford, so that residents and visitors can continue to enjoy the very things that create and sustain this community-led way of life, is integral to the Neighbourhood Plan.



When it's adopted, the Plan will let the Town Council keep 25% of the Community Infrastructure Levy payments made by developers to fund local infrastructure. At present they can claim only 15%.

Planning permissions have already been granted for 555 homes at Highcroft off the bypass, and a site at Winterbrook for 502 homes. The Neighbourhood Plan confirms that position and allocates the site at Winterbrook. No more large-scale housing sites are proposed.

## Vote **YES**

- to support our vibrant town centre and businesses
- give greater protection for the town's historic assets
- create and protect a network of linked green spaces
- access additional money for local infrastructure
- ensure future large-scale development only on sites with existing planning permission, infill on brownfield sites may be permitted.



Community groups such as the Friends of Wallingford and Cholsey Green Spaces, can use the Neighbourhood Plan to encourage the Town Council and SODC to make our town a greener, safer place for wildlife and for people to enjoy being outdoors.



Read the Neighbourhood Plan and a short Summary of the Policies at [www.southoxon.gov.uk/wallingford-np](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/wallingford-np)

Vote **YES** in the Referendum on **6<sup>th</sup> May** to ensure the Neighbourhood Plan is adopted by South Oxfordshire District Council.

# MUSICAL NOTES

*Under Appreciated Composers/Performers*

By Mike Sedman, Classical Music Appreciation 1 group

## IL DILETTANTE VENETO

### TOMASO ALBINONI

1671 - 1751

A dilettante is someone who cultivates an interest in and has a love for the arts without real commitment or even much knowledge.

Albinoni gave this description of himself although he was a trained singer and an expert violinist.



He was famous during his lifetime for composing 55 operas as well as numerous other works. He was the first musician to use the oboe as a solo instrument in concertos and he helped establish the fast - slow - fast movements of the baroque era. He was born into a family which made it's fortune from the manufacture of playing cards – a very popular pastime amongst Venetian men!

He is known more than anything else for the composition of one very popular work which I am sure we all know well. That is his Adagio for Organ and Strings or simply put "Albinoni's Adagio" which often features as one of Classic FM's top twenty.

The story goes that an Italian musicologist and critic Remo Giazotto was writing a biography of Albinoni when he was presented with a scrap of paper which had been discovered in the ruins of the state library in Dresden after the allied bombing raids in 1945.

Unfortunately many of his opera scores were destroyed at the same time.

This scrap of paper contained a few bass lines of an adagio which Giazotto developed and orchestrated into the work we now know and love.

Albinoni was fortunate in that he was free to compose prolifically without having to worry about employment by the church or aristocracy and so we are the beneficiaries of his great contribution to Baroque music.

A really great dilettante but also much more!!



Suggested listening: "[Concerto for two oboes in G major](#)"

Any Albinoni oboe concerto

[Adagio for Organ and Strings](#)



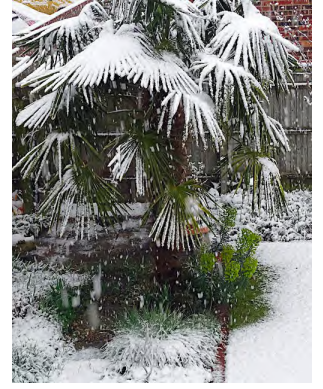
# MARK ROBINSON OUT & ABOUT LAST MONTH



April Snow



April Robin



Wood Anemone



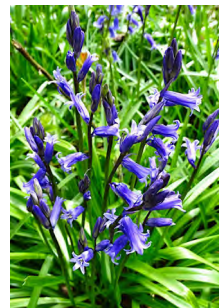
Snakeshead Fritillary  
Iffley



Giving birth



Tulip  
growing  
wild



Nuffield  
Bluebells



Aldworth Farmhouse







# SWALLOWS OR SWIFTS?



by Oxyfauna

## MODS OR ROCKERS?



Around this time of year we can expect to find two wonderful types of bird arrive. Let them introduce themselves.



I am Sid the Swift and I am a rocker. I am tough. I fly superbly fast at almost 100 miles per hour. I am brown all over. I have a forked tail and I am bigger than a swallow and I have a screaming voice so you know where I am coming from! I migrate six thousand miles to overwinter south of the Sahara and sometimes even sleep on the wing because I don't normally land for over a year! In fact the only time I spend not flying is when I settle down to breed in a nest, which I make of straw and my glutinous saliva. I like to fly around the tower of St. Mary's where my nest might just be.

I AM SID THE SWIFT, THE ROCKER AND THE HARLEY DAVIDSON OF THE AVIAN WORLD.

I AM SYLVIA THE SWALLOW AND I AM A MOD.

I too am a toughie in my own way. You see I migrate long distances. I have a forked tail with long tapered feathers, a black head and a red chin strap. My streamlined body and long wings let me manoeuvre in the air and give greater endurance and efficiency when gliding. You won't find Sid lined up on the telephone wires because he has such small feet and cannot grip. My nest is more substantial than his because I make it with mud and twigs and my mate and I come back to it year after year. I am far too sophisticated to scream but have to admit I do babble quite a bit. Sorry I can't make up my mind whether to ride on the Lambretta or the Vespa of the mod world. Perhaps it should be the Vespa, which is the Italian for wasp, so I can eat it if I feel a bit hungry!



So who is it going to be SID THE ROCKER or SYLVIA THE MOD?

WERE YOU ONE OF THEM?

ANSWERS PLEASE TO THE EDITOR. HAPPY DAYS.

Oxyfauna





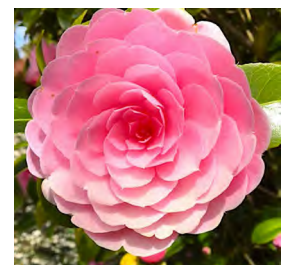
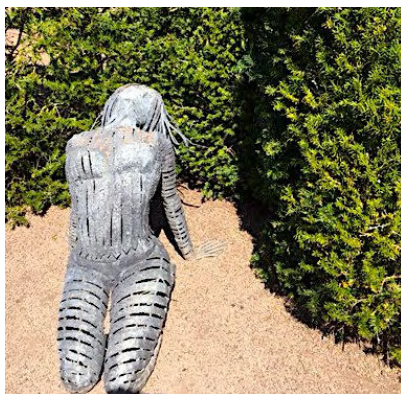
# RAY VERRALL - APRIL HOLIDAY IN LUDLOW



Scarecrows



Sculptures in Hampton Court Castle Gardens, Herefordshire.





# KEN'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Yet another treat from our Ken!



1. What did US President Franklin D Roosevelt proclaim was "a date which will live in infamy" ?
2. Slot, Cross, Phillips and Pozidriv are all types of what?
3. Which animated children's TV series featured a bowler-hatted man visit a fancy-dress shop where he is invited to try on a particular outfit?
4. What does LTN stand for in many newly designated areas around the UK?
5. Where in Europe would you find the Tokaj wine region, famous for its sweet wines?
6. The late Murray Walker, while an advertising executive, was famous for writing which slogan about Opal Fruits?
7. Although it's never been seen, what is said to make up 75% of the universe?
8. Parks and Recreation star Rashida Jones is the daughter of which musician and producer?
9. There are two landlocked countries in South America: Paraguay is one, what is the other ?
10. Which "upside-down" apple dessert takes its name from that of two sisters who served it in a hotel in France?
11. What is the meaning of the RAF motto "Per ardua ad astra"?
12. The daily TV quiz show Eggheads is leaving BBC2 and moving to which channel?
13. What short shot of espresso coffee is made with the same amount of ground coffee, but extracted with a finer grind using half as much water ?
14. What device invented by Scottish engineer James Nasmyth made a notable contribution to the Industrial Revolution?
15. What weather phenomenon common during the 1950s was known as a "London Particular"?
16. What name is given to a chicken breast stuffed with haggis?
17. Which musical is based on Gregory Maguire's 1995 novel that retold the story of the Wizard of Oz?
18. To what are police referring to when they warn about "Nottingham knockers"?
19. Which US singer and pianist, famous for hits such as "What'd I say" and "Georgia on My Mind", was known as "the genius"?
20. Following the resignation of Labour MP Mike Hill, where will a by-election be held in May?



# BOOK READING LISTS

Here are the Book Groups' Reading lists drawn together - you are all invited to peruse!  
Please do let the Editor know of your recommendations.

## Book Group 1 - Reading List 2021 :

- Jan **The Other Half of Augusta Hope** by Joanna Glen
- Feb **A Respectable Trade** by Philippa Gregory
- Mar **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri
- Apr **The Hunting Party** by Julie Foley
- May **The Island of Sea Women** by Lisa See
- Jun *Recommend-a-book session....*
- Jul **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens
- Aug **Sweet Sorrow** by David Nicholls
- Sep **The Sunrise** by Victoria Hislop
- Oct **The Mirror and the Light** by Hilary Mantel
- Nov **The Enchanted April** by Elizabeth Von Arnim

## Book Group 2:

- A Life of my Own** by Claire Tomalin
- Accidents in the Home** by Tessa Hadley
- Pompeii** by Robert Harris
- The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri
- The Dangerous Edge of Things**  
by Candida Lycett Green
- The Hidden Village** by Imogen Matthews
- The Music Shop** by Rachel Joyce
- The Prince of the West End** by Alan Isler
- The Salt Path** by Raynor Winn
- Wilding** by Isabella Tree



## Book Group 3 - Reading List 2021 :

- Feb **Three Hours** by Rosamund Lupton
- Mar **The Wake Up Call** by John Middlethwaite  
& Adrian Wooldridge
- Apr **Where The Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens
- May **A Family Affair** by Jane Stubbs
- Jun **A Spy Among Friends** by Ben Macintyre
- Jul **The Salt Path** by Raynor Winn
- Aug **The Girl with a Louding Voice** by Abi Dare
- Sep **A Single Thread** by Tracey Chevalier
- Oct **The Horseman** by Tim Pears

## Book Group 4:

- Janice Hadlow, **The Other Bennett Sister**, Pan Macmillan, 2020, (£11.04 at Book Depository)
- Peter Frankopan, **The Silk Road : A New History of the World**, Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2016
- Bernardine Evaristo, **Girl, Woman, Other**, now in paperback
- Tracy Chevalier, **A Single Thread**, The Borough Press
- Donna Leon, **Trace Elements**, in pbk from September 2020
- Marlon James, **The Book of Night Women**, One world Publications, 2014
- Madeleine Miller, **Circe**, Bloomsbury
- Elizabeth Strout, **Olive Again**, pbk in Nov.
- Salley Vickers, **Grandmothers**, Viking
- Rose Tremain short stories - **The American Lover**, Vintage
- Emily Ruskovich - **Idaho**, Vintage
- Elizabeth Macneal, **The Doll Factory**, Picador
- Linda Grant, **A Stranger City**, Virago pb in June 2020
- Nina George, **The Little Paris Bookshop**, Little, Brown
- Claire Fuller, **Our Endless Numbered Days**, Penguin
- Lindsey Davies, **2 series of Classical Roman Crime novels**.
- Simon Barnes, **On the Marsh**, Simon & Schuster Ltd
- Deirdre Madden, **Mollie Fox's Birthday**, faber & faber
- Hilary Mantel, **The Mirror & the Light**, Fourth Estate
- A book for dipping into:  
Helen Dunmore: **'Counting Backwards'**  
Poems 1975-2017

## Book Group 5 - Reading List 2021 :

- In Extremis** by Maria Colvin
- Fingers in the Sparkle Jar** by Chris Packham
- The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd
- The Tattooist of Auschwitz** by Heather Morris
- The Clockmaker's Daughter** by Kate Morton
- The Cyprus Tree** by Kamin Mohammadi
- My Name is Why** by Lemn Sissay
- How Not To Be A Boy** by Robert Webb
- The Easternmost House** by Juliet Blaxland
- The Thursday Murder Club** by Ricard Osman

### From Philip Burton:

**Centuries of Change** by Ian Mortimer  
Which century saw the most change and why it matters to us.

**The New Dark Ages** by James Bridle  
Technology and the End of the Future.





## Ken's General Knowledge QUIZ



1. 7th December 1941 (*Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour*)
2. Screw or screw drivers
3. Mr Benn
4. Low-traffic neighbourhood
5. Hungary
6. "Made to make your mouth water."
7. Dark matter
8. Quincy Jones
9. Bolivia
10. Tarte Tatin
11. Through adversity (or struggle)
12. Channel 5
13. Ristretto
14. Steam Hammer
15. Smog
16. Chicken Balmoral
17. Wicked
18. Doorstep scams involving vendors offering dusters and cleaning materials.
19. Ray Charles
20. Hartlepool





## Next Newsletter

The JUNE issue will be released on  
or soon after  
**1st June 2021**

It will be put up on our website  
[www.thamesidewallingfordu3a.org](http://www.thamesidewallingfordu3a.org)

A notification email is also sent to you.

### NO DEADLINE FOR COPY

Send it in by midnight two days before  
and it'll probably get in!

[newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org)

### Contact the Committee

via the secure Contact  
page on the website



### Phone contact for offline members

Those members without computer access  
have been given Yvonne Griffiths's phone  
number.

## COMMITTEE 2020-21

Malcolm Brooks Chairman

Ken Johnstone Deputy Chairman

Malcolm Brooks Treasurer (temp)

Paul Booker Secretary  
& Outings Co-ordinator

Yvonne Griffiths Groups Co-ordinator

Anna Gordon Membership Secretary

Jane Milne Minutes Secretary

Neil Kelly TVN Representative

Sarah Boyt Robinson Newsletter, Website  
& Communications

## u3a Thames Valley Network

THE THIRD AGE TRUST is the national representative body for U3As in the UK  
Information on its activities can be found at [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) & on **FaceBook**



### u3a Thames Valley Network

We are one of thirty-eight U3As within the Thames Valley Network.  
The TVN website is <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk>

#### VIRTUAL STUDY DAYS via Zoom:

If you are interested in any of these events go to **TVN Study Days** for full  
information & application forms.

They **have** to be **booked** & have application closing dates.

Here's the **May** Study days:

Fri 7 May	<b>The Sweetest Thing - History of Sugar</b>
Fri 14 May	<b>History of Gardening part 1</b>
Tue 18 May	<b>George Gershwin &amp; his Music</b>
Fri 21 May	<b>History of Gardening part 2</b>
Fri 28 May	<b>Quiz</b>
Fri 4 June	<b>British Prime Ministers</b>

If you would like to receive information directly from TVN with details of Study Days &  
Workshops, please email

[events\\_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk)