What a year this has been! For me, it has flown by. Almost from the word go, speakers started cancelling their visits to us and our new Speaker Secretary, Rosie Hetherington, found herself scouring the records to find substitute speakers for August, October and November. Not a very good beginning for our committee. Thanks Rosie, you did a great job.

Then the long awaited refurbishment of the Village Hall started and we found ourselves having to re-locate two of our monthly meetings to the Reading Room. The December meeting was OK as there were not that many people attending (a shame – it was a good afternoon) but the January meeting was a different story! I’m not totally sure but I think we might have gone over the legal limit as far as numbers were concerned…

But we coped - which goes to show what a smashing bunch of people you all are. Whenever I have needed help, just an extra pair of hands to get things done, I have contacted members and have received all the help I could wish for. So these “disasters” really turned out to be minor affairs after all.

Thank you.

Do remember when you apply for one of Sheila’s marvellous monthly trips that if you are a bit late applying and have to go on the waiting list, do keep that day free. It really is worthwhile as some people have to cancel – life just gets in the way! This happened just recently and Sheila was only able to fill one of the three seats available as it really was VERY short notice. But these cancellations do happen.

We only have two newsletters a year and so may I remind you that if you are anxious to find out what is happening and when, do go onto the website which you will find is regularly updated. Thanks go to Molly who continues to do this job for us although she has indicated that she would like to pass the job onto someone else – no special skills are necessary and it takes very little time to keep the site up to date.

Could you do this? Please speak either to a member of the committee or Molly herself.

Many of you now pay your annual subscriptions by Standing Order which is a great help to our Membership Secretary and our Treasurer. We always ask you if you are a tax payer and if you are willing to let us claim Gift Aid as it is a valuable source of extra income for our U3A. It is important, however, that if your circumstances change and you no longer pay tax then it is your responsibility to keep us informed as it is illegal to claim where tax is no longer paid and can cause the whole claim to be refused by the Tax Office.

July is our AGM and there are members of your committee who are considering retiring, not all necessarily this year, but definitely next year. It is always a good idea to have an understudy for some of the jobs that your committee does, so please do not be backward in coming forward to join our merry band – we do have lots of laughs at committee meetings! We have ten committee members and room for two co-opted members. Please think about standing. Application forms will be out soon.

... .../ continued on next page
For those of you who missed my announcement at the March monthly meeting, may I say how very pleased I am that Rosie has decided to accept the position of Vice Chairman for the coming year, and will take over from me as Chairman when my term of office is finished. Not that I am wishing the time away, you understand! I have surprised myself and am thoroughly enjoying what I am doing.

Alison sent me a cutting from the Spectator Magazine regarding Jeremy Paxman’s thoughts on the U3A. A snippet reads:

“…But when higher education has become more business than vocation, this unsung, unglamorous organisation seems to me to be much closer to the spirit of what learning ought to be about. For £50 a year you can attend any course you like simply because it interests you…”

I wonder if he’ll join in the fullness of time?!

Have a wonderful summer.

Best wishes,

Dorrie Oliver. Chairman

**WELFARE**

Did you get your flu jab and did you stay healthy during the last six months. I know some of you have been rather ill since our last issue of Contact and we have been thinking of you. Some of us had a virus that lasted about five or six weeks making us feel very poorly but eventually it cleared up.

I was most pleased, whilst I succumbed to it, to receive a “Get Well” card from the committee on your behalf to wish me a speedy recovery which it did. Thank you all.

Once again I have received a large pile of cards from our Crafty Ladies for me to use this year. Thank you ladies, you are stars!

Don’t forget if you hear that a member is unwell or in need of a little TLC then do please let me know.

Some of our members, because of health problems, have had to move into residential care and we would like to give them and their relatives our support during this difficult time in their lives.

Diane Carver. Welfare Officer

**Singles/Dining Group**

The Singles/Dining Group has several new members and I hope they are enjoying the venues and the company at our lunches.

We are going to the ‘Village Gate’ opposite Worlds End Garden Centre at the end of the month and this pub is always worth a visit.

At the beginning of March we tried a new venue in Tiddington, the ‘Fox and Goat’. It had a good menu and we pre-ordered our lunch so the service was quite speedy.

We went back to ‘The Swan’ in Kimble in the winter and the chicken, bacon and leek pie was as tasty as ever, and ‘The Peacock’ in Henton is always a lovely venue.

Val Welford. Group Leader

www.chinnoru3a.org.uk

The website is updated regularly and gives a full two-monthly calendar of all of the Interest Group meetings, links to other U3A websites and useful tips on a variety of subjects.

‘Contact’ is also available in colour on the website.

If you are prepared to receive ‘Contact’ by email or to view it on the website,
Poetry Group

AN INVITATION.
As illness and relocation have diminished our number of late, we would like to offer a warm welcome to any members who might like to join us.

We meet on the second Monday of the month at members’ houses, 2.30-4.30ish, including tea and biscuits.

Having previously agreed on a topic, a poet or theme, we each bring a few choices to read informally to the group. No pressure, no performance!

You are welcome to come and see if it appeals to you.

Does the following strike a chord? Written in 1957, before the electronics boom, it seems startlingly prescient.

Mavis Rimmer. Group Leader

“To Posterity” - by Louis MacNiece

When books have all seized up
like the books in graveyards,
And reading and even speaking
have been replaced
By other, less difficult, media,
we wonder if you
Will find in flowers and fruit the same
colour and taste
They hold for us, for whom they
were framed in words,
And will your grass be green,
your sky be blue

PATCHWORK FOR BEGINNERS

When you mention patchwork, most people immediately think of quilts - a somewhat daunting prospect for beginners.

At our inaugural meeting in May 2014, we looked at different styles of patchwork and the sorts of projects to which they would lend themselves on a smaller scale.

A fancy was taken to "Cathedral Window" patchwork, which is a cross between origami with material and sewing. After a brief demonstration everybody left with a list of things to bring to the next meeting.

Over the next few months the Group mastered this form of patchwork and produced items such as placemats, cushion covers and tissue box holders.

In January we welcomed three new members to the group and are now looking at traditional English patchwork which uses paper or card as inserts to form the shapes, starting with squares, and are considering how these can be used.

If you are interested in joining the group, either to take up patchwork or to share your experience please contact me.

We meet from 10.00am until 12.00noon on the last Friday of the month.

Val Pullen. Group Leader

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Trudi Campbell  Tony Lord  Theresa Perkin  Regina Wilkinson
Dee Knight  Freda Osborn  Ruth Ruddock  June Youngman-Smith
Eleanor Lord  John Perkin  Dale Webb

>To Posterity

When books have all seized up
like the books in graveyards,
And reading and even speaking
have been replaced
By other, less difficult, media,
we wonder if you
Will find in flowers and fruit the same
colour and taste
They hold for us, for whom they
were framed in words,
And will your grass be green,
your sky be blue
Our October outing was by coach to Kew Gardens - thanks to Margaret Silvey and Ann Goold for organising this. The weather was kind to us and what started as a damp drizzly day gradually improved and by the afternoon we were sitting outside the restaurant on the patio in the lovely October sunshine. At Kew there is something for everyone, the lovely flower beds, the Treetop Walkway, Michel Roux's vegetable garden, the Art Gallery and the wonderful glasshouses. It was a great day out.

In November we had our first winter indoor meeting and were treated to a presentation by Howard Drury on 'Flower Hunting in the Bernese Oberland'. The pictures and video of his travels through the lovely mountainous scenery were outstanding. They showed the beautiful flowers with both their Latin and common names and, in part, it was accompanied by a soprano singing, which was very special.

In January Jill and David Carey gave us a glimpse of their extensive worldwide travels. Jill's talk, entitled 'Clever and Curious', was about how plants have adapted to survive extremes of conditions. Starting with the cold, dry climate of Alaska with the ground-hugging plants, the seabweed in New Zealand, to the hot, dry conditions of Arizona with the huge, two hundred year old cactus and the impala lily in South Africa. In hot and humid climates thousands of diverse plants thrive, like the water-hyacinth, the flame tree and the kapok tree. Plants have also adapted to protect themselves from predators, some by growing spines or prickles to avoid being eaten. There are also parasitic plants and carnivorous plants. Finally Jill came right back home to the Chilterns with stunning pictures of the bee orchid and fly orchid. What a fascinating journey.

Paul Patton was our speaker in February, whose talk ‘Gardening on the Wild Side’ was about the garden environment and how we can make it better for all. He started at root level with basic farmyard manure and moved on to compost and composting (hot and cold!) and his wormery. Alas, no-one in the audience had a wormery and this was put forward as a good suggestion for a Christmas gift - for the man who has everything! He went on to talk about the importance of insects, bees and butterflies for pollinating plants and also to predate the greenfly and black-fly that cause so much damage. All insects and wildlife need food, water and accommodation and we can help by providing bug-houses, hedgehog boxes, birds’ nesting boxes and generally make our garden a good habitat for wildlife to thrive. If the garden does run completely wild and become overgrown, then he had the perfect solution...get a pig!

In March we welcomed Geoff Hodge, a garden writer, who gave us a lively and interesting talk about ‘Colour all year Round’. There is plenty of colour available in summer, but it is more of a problem in the other seasons of the year. Geoff warned about being a ‘Garden Sinner’, i.e. ‘Thou shalt not.....take holidays in summer!’ and ‘Thou shalt not.....have patches of brown soil on view!’ Cover these up with ground cover plants which also suppress weed growth. Controversially he also admitted to a passionate hatred of rhododendrons! He showed many pictures of colourful shrubs and long-flowering plants, herbaceous perennials, bulbs, bedding plants and colourful containers.

That was the last of our winter meetings. We now look forward to a full summer programme, starting in April with a coach trip to Savill Garden – thanks to Mary Trimmer for organising this. Another coach outing to Mottisfont, near Romsey, is planned for July, organised by Peter and Rosie Hetherington, and for the other monthly visits we have a variety of different gardens to see.

Roll on the Summer!.

Ann Hine. Joint Leader
**Computer Group**

Our attendance dropped off this last winter and this has eaten into our cash reserves. The format for our meetings is to hire a room at the Village Centre for 2 hours for a cost of £19.00. Although the talks are usually about 1 hour, the subsequent discussions make the two hour format preferable.

Consequently we will need to make a small increase in the attendance fees, currently £1.20, to cover the room hire.

It may be that the talks are inappropriate and it is true that several members have said that the topics are too advanced. We are aware of a demand for beginner’s instruction and have dedicated some meetings to “Clinics”. These are arranged in small groups so that individuals can ask for help on the use of their computer, and the more experienced members of the group can help out.

Our future programme can be seen on the Chinnor U3A website. As always we will be having meetings devoted to the usual and relevant topics of Security and MS Office. Also included are topics such as the new development of 3D printing and a member’s talk on “Air Traffic Control”. In fact we are always on the lookout for new talks and topics and anyone who can talk on a computer related topic, even if not a member of the Computing Group, is more than welcome.

If YOU are having difficulty with YOUR computer please bring it along to one of our meetings and we will try to rectify the problem. YOU DON’T HAVE TO BE A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE COMPUTER GROUP.

*Our meetings are held at 2.30 to 4.00pm on the first Friday of each month, excluding August, at The Village Centre.*

**Tip**

If you are thinking of getting a new laptop, PC or whatever, you should be aware of the new USB ‘type C’ connection. For more information simply enter “usb type C” into google and visit some of the links.

**Robin Preston-Whyte and Colin Sear**

---

**GEOLOGY GROUP**

This new group will normally meet on the fourth Monday of the month between 10:00 and 12:00 in members’ homes.

Our aim is to investigate this vast and fascinating subject from the Precambrian era (e.g. about 4.6 billion years ago) through to the formation of the local geology of the area.

We will be using World, U.K., and Oxfordshire Geological books, dvd's and maps.

**There are a few vacancies in the group,** but you will need access to the Internet and also have an e-mail address.

**John Perkin. Group Leader**

---

**Creative Writing Group**

This small group began after Christmas. Most of us had only done required writing, such as statements, reports or letters for many years but we are loving the challenge of writing just for fun and hope to find ourselves improving as we go along.

We begin from more or less the same point but it is delightful to find that we each have our own individual styles and imagination takes us in different directions. For instance, starting with “The row had gone on all night” we had essays about local riots, marital unfaithfulness, children squabbling and noisy neighbours. When we read out our writing to the group we expect feedback. However our aim is not to be critical but rather to encourage one another. Actually that has not been hard as we really appreciate the variety in the way that we think and express ourselves. We would welcome one or two more members.

*We usually meet on the second Monday morning of the month, 10.30 – 12.00, in various homes.*

**Ann Long. Group Leader**
A number of things did not go to plan for our winter programme – out of the six walks planned two of the leaders had accidents which prevented them from leading their walks and one walk had to be cancelled at the last minute due to adverse weather conditions.

The first walk, from Little Missenden in October and led by Brenda and George Wilson, did go to plan however, and we enjoyed a very interesting walk in good weather, which involved two crossings of a railway line, two crossings of the projected HS2 route and two crossings of a very busy main road! We all survived, however, and we were very pleased to welcome three new members to their first walk with the group.

November’s walk along the Aston Rowant Discovery Trail was due to be led by Alison Orr, but she had unfortunately broken her ankle very badly on a walk a few weeks before. Peter Hetherington very kindly stepped into the breach and was able to lead us on the walk that he had devised himself, (see the Oxfordshire High Sheriff’s Award article on page 16) so there was no need for a recce! I am delighted to report that Alison has now made a full recovery and we look forward to welcoming her back on a walk shortly.

The walk in December, which I led from Great Hampden, was straightforward and we visited the John Hampden Memorial, Little Hampden church and Hampden House and church before retiring to the Hampden Arms pub for lunch. As many of you know, John Hampden was a prominent local Parliamentarian in the Civil War who died of his wounds in Thame in 1643.

Rosie and Peter Hetherington’s innovative walk around Oxford in January was unfortunately hit by heavy rain at the start, but we persevered and the rain did ease later so that we were able to visit some interesting parts of Oxford that many of us had not seen before. We finished with a meal at a very welcoming hostelry in Jericho.

Heavy overnight snow forced a last minute cancellation of February’s walk as the approach roads to the start point would have been dangerous. This was a pity as it was Fliss Akehurst’s first walk leading our group. Her walk will now appear in the summer programme instead, but without the snowdrops!

Then, in March, I had to take Ros Noy’s place as walk leader as she had hurt her foot. The walk, from Christmas Common, was an excellent one through part of the Wormsley Estate in the Chilterns and past the mysterious urn in the middle of a wood. We were blessed with a lovely sunny spring morning, but I did baulk at doing the steep climb up to Ibstone and the equally steep and slippery descent.

Our summer programme promises to be very interesting with walks from Little Milton, Chinnor, Oxford, Stokenchurch and somewhere near Ewelme, as well as Rosie and Peter’s Thames Path walk from Maidenhead to Windsor and return by boat or bus. So come and join us - new members are always welcome. My grateful thanks, as always, to our intrepid leaders without whose efforts there would be no programme and no walks. We meet from 10.00am until about 1.00pm on the first Tuesday of the month.

Tony Clark. Group Leader
Another six months have flown by in a blink, leaving me wondering how time slips away without my noticing its passing.

The three groups have remained almost the same in number, apart from a couple who have moved away but were replaced from the waiting list.

As ever, trying to find ideas which provide practical/useful items which we can finish in the afternoon and at a reasonable price, always causes a bit of a problem but somehow projects come along. Wendy is a good source for card making ideas whilst Judy and Sheila have found other items to keep us busy. Enormous thanks to these ladies who rescue me “in my hour of need”, finding new ideas for the rest of us!

December saw us with all three groups at the Village Centre again with another Christmas beaded angel – a little sister for the one we made last year. Where does Judy find all these lovely beading projects?

In January, as usual, we supplied the Care Cards which are sent to those in need of a little TLC. The ladies love undertaking this project.

Since then we have made a very useful gift box containing six notelet cards – another of Wendy’s finds. Incidentally, Wendy has already “come across” and prepared our 2015 Christmas card project which we shall be working on in either October or November! Gosh!! – Christmas already?? Still – like Boy Scouts, we are going to be prepared!

In desperation we have sometimes resorted to repeating popular projects undertaken in the past.

Not ideal but these have usually been suggestions from those who have enjoyed them first time around. It is always a help to know what people have enjoyed doing. The photograph shows the decoupaged plant pot which was a repeated project for March this year.

Unusually, there was no annual outing to Farnborough this year as the dates collided with other visits being undertaken by many members of the Craft Group. The good news was that we saved some money and that gave us the opportunity to use up items which we had purchased there over the years and were rediscovered lurking, unused in the back of the craft cupboard. A blessing in disguise! Ready for next year ladies?

Janet Roebuck. Group Leader

---

**FAMILY HISTORY GROUP**

**What would you like to accomplish in 2015?**

Perhaps you might like find out a little more about your family but never seem to have the time or perhaps you just don’t know where to start? Do you feel sometimes that you need help? Well do not despair, help is right here in Chinnor at your Family History Group.

Our Programme this year will include Discussion/ Coffee Mornings, Workshops and much more, so why not come along to one of our meetings and meet up with your fellow members who may have had similar experiences. Who knows, you might be inspired to take up the quest again and someone might be able to help you over that brick wall.

*Our meetings are every first Thursday in the month at 10.30am at the Village centre.*

George Hunter. Group Leader
In October, with a watchful eye on the weather, 15 of us (led by Gill and Mick Taylor) set off for a two hour walk from the Hampden Arms in Great Hampden, across the fields past the Church of St. Mary Magdalene, to Hampden House (the impressive home of John Hampden). Then, following part of Grim’s Dyke and the Chiltern Way, we returned through Monkton Wood and back to Hampden Common – just as the rain started (weren’t we lucky!). The terrain was varied, taking us through fields, beech woods and a larch plantation in the company of squirrels, pheasants and muntjacs. A lovely walk.

Our November walk from Stonor was led by Rosie and Peter Hetherington. We walked through the park admiring the House and Chapel which have been a Roman Catholic retreat since the 12th century. The autumn colours were almost perfect, deer chased across our path and two ravens passed overhead making deep distressed calls because they were being chased by red kites. As we made our way back downhill from Turville Heath the visibility was excellent and our guide book says that you can see into five counties from one vantage point. Most of us finished the day with a splendid afternoon tea at the Quince Tree in Stonor Village which we all felt was well deserved.

Our Short Walks Group Christmas lunch at The Crown in Chinnor was very well supported (33 people). As usual, the dinner was excellent – nicely cooked, very tasty, well-presented and the service fast. It was a lovely, pleasant Christmas atmosphere and we all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

In January, Richard and Rosemary Webb organised an informative tour around Marlow led by guides from the Marlow Society. Among the interesting sites we passed were the original Royal Military College (founded in 1802 but relocated to Sandhurst in 1812) and, nearby, the house (and actual room) where Mary Shelley wrote part of her famous Frankenstein “Gothic” story (first published in 1818 when she was only about 20).

Moving to Higginson Park we saw the famous Crimean War General’s mansion (now Marlow’s Council Offices) and, on reaching the river, our guide told us about Marlow Bridge (built by William Tierney Clark between 1829 and 1832). This replaced the original wooden bridge which collapsed in 1828. Walking to St. Peter Street (once the original Marlow High Street) we saw where the wooden bridge once was. This area, although very quiet now, at the time had 4 pubs near the bridge and was regarded as a rough “no-go” part of Marlow. Altogether, this was a very interesting tour.

It’s become a tradition to have an extra very short walk in the Fingest area on Candlemas Sunday afternoon. At the invitation of Fingest Church members, we return to the church after the walk to partake of cakes and tea. It’s a lovely social occasion and is very popular among many walking groups. This year the church was packed and there was a danger of cakes running out but we still got our cake and tea (just).

On a dull but dry day in February, 25 of us (led by Tony Shortman) set off from Priest End in Thame for a walk around some of the, perhaps, slightly lesser known parts of Thame. Crossing the High Street we entered Brook Lane and went by the Roman Catholic Church into the Cuttle Brook nature reserve. Reaching the Phoenix Trail, we passed Lord Williams Upper School into Sycamore Drive and Beech Road and back to the nature reserve where we crossed the little bridge over the brook to eventually arrive at the Southern Road recreation ground. A very nice, local, little walk enjoyed by all.

Edith and Brian Butler led an informative tour around Wallingford in March. This walk had been researched by Pat and Peter Hearmon, who were unable to lead it on the day. Among many interesting facts, we learned how the river was once a wide ford, hence the name Wallingford.
PROGRAMME - June to December 2015

Monthly talks are held at 2.30pm at the Village Hall. Coffee Mornings are held at 10.30am at the Village Centre.

JUNE
12th Coffee Morning.
18th WHAT SORT OF DOCTOR? - Dr. Tony Maisey

JULY
10th Coffee Morning.
16th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Including a presentation on ‘The Aston Rowant Nature Trail’ by Peter Hetherington

AUGUST
14th Coffee Morning.
20th THE MONOPOLY BOARD - DO NOT PASS ‘GO’. - Denis Kelly
25th MID-SUMMER TEA PARTY - WITH ENTERTAINMENT by Betty Page

SEPTEMBER
11th Coffee Morning.
17th THE HISTORY OF PINEWOOD STUDIOS. - Mike Payne

OCTOBER
9th Coffee Morning.
15th THE MYSTERY OF CROP CIRCLES. - Andy Thomas

NOVEMBER
13th Coffee Morning.
19th THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SATIRE OF GILBERT & SULLIVAN. - Bernard Lockett

DECEMBER
1st CHRISTMAS LUNCH.
11th Coffee Morning.
15th CAROL CONCERT - 10.30am at St. Andrews Church.
17th CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS IN TUDOR TIMES. - Martin Sirott Smith

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
Including a presentation on ‘The Aston Rowant Nature Trail’ by Peter Hetherington.
2.30pm Thursday 16th July 2015
at the Chinnor Village Hall.
Please come along and support your U3A.
HOLIDAYS and OUTINGS

A brief reminder of the Holiday and Outings we have enjoyed so far this year -

Our Christmas Lunch. We enjoyed a wonderful time at the ‘Oxfordshire Golf Club’ near Thame.
They catered for us so well and the service was excellent and I have made a further booking for this year. The Christmas Lunch this year will be on Tuesday, 1st December.

‘The Thirty Nine Steps’ - this comedy was hilarious. So slick, so clever and so much fun!

A ‘Guided Tour of the BBC’ was a most informative and entertaining visit.

Our winter Holiday at Thoresby Hall, a Warner’s Hotel in Lincolnshire.
This year we went in February. The weather was bright and sunny but with very cold easterly winds. On the way we enjoyed a luncheon break in Market Harborough.

It was so nice to be spoiled at Thoresby Hall with cooked breakfasts, evening meals and various activities and entertainments for us to enjoy. A visit to Lincoln and the Cathedral was also included in our itinerary.

A day of Racing at Ascot – an interesting day out for both experienced and inexperienced punters.

AND NOW, FOR YOUR FUTURE ENJOYMENT……..

29th May – Oldest Working Paper Mill, followed by a visit to a Butterfly Centre.
There may still be places available on the coach.

June 22nd – Dorney Court, near Windsor. A beautiful Tudor Manor House in a rural setting near the Thames. The Kitchen Gardens and Terracotta walls are great features of this estate.

‘Laycock Village’ is famous for its picturesque streets, historic houses and is frequently used as a film location.

25th August – Midsummer Tea Party. An opportunity to enjoy a lovely tea party with friends, and some very clever and humorous monologues with a professional entertainer.
Tickets will be on sale in May.

29th October – A guided walking tour around Southwark, Southwark Cathedral and Borough Market with Sally, our popular London Guide.

17th November – The Imperial War Museum which has undergone a recent refurbishment.

1st December – Christmas Lunch at the Oxfordshire Golf Club. Make a note in your diary and start your Christmas Celebrations in good style.

HOLIDAY IN THE DORDOGNE – BY TRAIN

At the end of September a small group of us are travelling to the Dordogne by train for a week. Outings have been arranged to visit some of the attractive towns in the area. A ride in a Truffle train along the limestone cliffs will be unusual, as will a river trip in one of the old typical boats. I dare say a glass of wine from the area will be sampled. Bon Voyage!

CARERS FOR MEMBERS WITH DISABILITIES.

The Committee has been advised by the U3A Trust that any member with a disability, who may require assistance to participate in a U3A activity, MUST BRING THEIR OWN CARER WITH THEM.

The U3A Trust states: “OUR MEMBERS ARE NOT COVERED BY OUR LIABILITY INSURANCE IF THEY TRY TO HELP AND THEY MUST NOT DO SO.”

However, CARERS will be covered by our liability insurance with regard to our members and members of the public.
## INTEREST GROUPS – AT A GLANCE

*Please contact the Leader before attending a group for the first time*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Leader/s</th>
<th>Day of Month</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Times</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>Christine Barnett Rosemarie Heasman</td>
<td>3rd Friday Not December</td>
<td>Village Centre</td>
<td>10.30 – 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bridge</td>
<td>Stuart Baker Betty Yendell</td>
<td>2nd &amp; 4th Thursdays Not December</td>
<td>Village Centre</td>
<td>2.00 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computers</td>
<td>Colin Sear Robin Preston-Whyte</td>
<td>1st Friday Not August</td>
<td>Village Centre</td>
<td>2.30 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative Writing</td>
<td>Ann Long</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>10.30-12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Digital Photography</td>
<td>Richard Carver</td>
<td>4th Tuesday Not Sept &amp; Dec</td>
<td>Village Centre</td>
<td>2.00 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History</td>
<td>George Hunter</td>
<td>1st Thursday</td>
<td>Village Centre</td>
<td>10.30 - 11.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Games</td>
<td>Kay Hazelewood</td>
<td>4th Wednesday Not July &amp; Aug</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.00 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gardening A &amp; B</td>
<td>Ann Hine</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>10.30 - 12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A (pm) &amp; B (am)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geology</td>
<td>John Perkin</td>
<td>4th Monday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>10.00-12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Handicrafts</td>
<td>Janet Roebuck</td>
<td>1st, 2nd &amp; 3rd Wednesdays</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.00 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groups 1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History/Archaeology</td>
<td>Molly Milner George Hunter</td>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>Reading Room</td>
<td>2.30 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holidays &amp; Outings</td>
<td>Sheila Tunstall</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>Various</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Literary Appreciation</td>
<td>Clive Bray</td>
<td>4th Friday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>10.00-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Group 1</td>
<td>Bill Parkinson</td>
<td>3rd Friday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.00 – 4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ “ 3</td>
<td>Jim Trimmer</td>
<td>Last Friday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.30 – 4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ “ 5</td>
<td>Janet Williams</td>
<td>2nd Thursday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.00 – 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>“ “ 6</td>
<td>Pam Buckingham</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.30 – 4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patchwork for Beginners</td>
<td>Val Pullen</td>
<td>Last Friday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>10.00-12.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poetry</td>
<td>Mavis Rimmer</td>
<td>2nd Monday</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>2.00 – 4.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Play Reading</td>
<td>Pam Clark</td>
<td>2nd Friday</td>
<td>Reading Room</td>
<td>2.00 - 4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Ann Goold</td>
<td>4th Thursday Not December</td>
<td>’Phone</td>
<td>10.30 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singles/Dining</td>
<td>Valerie Welford</td>
<td>Fortnightly</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>Anne Marie Lord</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Risborough Pool</td>
<td>2.00-3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Friday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>Anne Gordon</td>
<td>1st Thursday Not August</td>
<td>Reading Room</td>
<td>2.30 -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Walks</td>
<td>Tony Clark Peter Hetherington Graham Stone</td>
<td>1st Tuesday Not December</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td>10.00–1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mixed Walks</td>
<td></td>
<td>3rd Tuesday</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short Walks</td>
<td></td>
<td>2nd Wednesday</td>
<td>Various</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amendments since the last issue of this list are shown shaded.
**INTEREST GROUP NEWS**

‘Patchwork for Beginners’ and ‘Creative Writing’ are now well established (see reports on pages 5 and 13 of ‘Contact’) and from what I hear everyone is enjoying the challenge. Wouldn’t life be dull if we didn’t face challenges from time to time!

The new ‘Geology Group’ is also now active - see ‘Contact’ page 5. If you interested in geology and would like to know more - then get in touch with John Perkin.

**John would welcome more members.**

It must be mentioned that John is a very new member of our U3A, having only joined us last October - maybe some other ‘newer’ members could follow his lead and start another group!

I have a few ideas for new Groups in the near future so watch out for information at Coffee Mornings and Monthly Meetings in the coming months.

However, you have to play your part and volunteer wherever you can. It is a proven fact that volunteers live longer so what is stopping you? You will never have to think again “What can I do today, or this week?”

Please also volunteer in your Groups - don’t leave everything to the Group Leader. They need a break from time to time and having someone on hand to help out can be particularly helpful.

If you have an idea for a new Group please do have a word with me and we will work together to set things in motion.

**Diane Carver.** Interest Group Secretary

---

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED**

for the Monthly Meetings in the Village Hall

**********************

If you are prepared to welcome and sign-in members as they arrive at the start of the meeting, please contact -

**Pam Buckingham**

**********************

If you are prepared to serve tea and coffee when the speaker has finished the talk, please contact -

**Dorrie Oliver**

**********************

If you are prepared to help to put out the chairs and put them away again, please contact -

**Peter Brook**

---

**U3A Diaries for 2016**

Order your U3A 2016 Diaries now from

**Doreen Ewens**

They will be available from July, price £2.00

*to be paid to Doreen when you order your diary.*

---

**Your Membership is due for renewal from 1st June 2015.**

If you have not completed a Direct Debit mandate please complete the renewal form which you will find in the envelope enclosed with this issue of Contact.

Send your subscriptions to **Rosemary Webb**, our Membership Secretary.

**If you have not renewed your membership by 31st July it will lapse automatically.**
We saw locations used in the Midsomer Murders programmes in the Market Square. Walking along the Reading Road and passing the Milliners with many posh hats, we were told the history of the Almshouses (strangely called a “hospital” on the plaque) which housed 6 poor inhabitants of the town. We then walked on top of the hilly ridge which was the town wall (to defend against Vikings) and returned to the town centre where we partook of tea and cakes in a rather nicely decorated café to round off a splendid afternoon.

Our summer programme of walks includes a guided tour around a farm, a walk on the Ashridge Estate, one starting from King Zog’s manor and other short walks – and you can guarantee they will be very enjoyable. We sometimes try to include a visit to a café or pub (if convenient). So do join us – our group is very popular and the walking is good exercise with pleasant company.

We meet from 2.00pm until about 4.00pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

Graham Stone. Group Leader

---

**Play Reading Group**

We are still enjoying our monthly exploration of plays in The Reading Room on the second Friday of the month at 2.00pm.

Everyone gets a chance to read whilst others follow.

There is no preparation required as we share out the parts and read the play while sitting.

Since my last report we have read five plays of varying content. In order to help you to decide if you would like to join us, I’ll list them to give you a flavour:-

- *The End of the Affair* by Graham Greene,
- *The Queen must Die* by David Farr,
- *Woman in Mind* by Alan Ayckbourn,
- *Alphabetical Order* by Michael Frane and

The latter told the story of C.S.Lewis’s relationship with the American poet Joy Gresham, and was particularly well received by the group.

We have room for more members - and would particularly welcome some men!

Pam Clark. Group Leader

---

**Under new management**

**CHINNOR U3A - ANNUAL CAROL CONCERT**

**Tuesday 15th December 2015**

The above is a date for your diaries; enter it now!

Yes, with apologies that it is so early but plans have to be set in store now to ensure that everything falls into place at the right time.

The reason for the early warning is because we are looking for *singers, sketch-finders or writers, actors and performers* who will be happy to assist with the content for our programme.

So if you know of a suitable reading – serious or humorous – please let us know, or if you would be happy to sing in a group for a couple of carols we would also love to hear from you.

If you are able to help with any of the above, please contact Bryan or Janet Roebuck.

Thank you
Members of the History Group are becoming more involved with “group participation”. We have a jolly quiz at our December meeting where the members form teams and have their memories tested with historical questions. This is all quite light-hearted and no-one is worried about getting a low score (there always seem to be plenty of prizes awarded).

The “History within our Home” meetings are immensely popular. Members are asked to bring along something that they own, a piece of family history, a purchased object or something that has been found, and then to talk about it for 10 to 15 minutes. This idea has really taken off and quite frequently we have to add an additional meeting as there is often insufficient time for everyone to have their say.

This year George has introduced another idea for group participation. In December all of our names were put into a hat and six were drawn out. Then subjects with a topic of “Heroes & Heroines” were put into the hat, drawn out and allocated to the individual names. Our May 2015 meeting has been reserved for this subject so the members will have had five months to do a bit of research and give us short presentations. We hope this type of meeting will give members a gentle introduction to the art of standing up and speaking to an audience and increase their confidence. The internet makes research fairly easy these days and it is always easier to speak to an audience of friends than a big room full of strangers.

We meet from 2.30 until 4.00 at the Reading Room on the third Friday of each month.

We finish our meetings with tea and biscuits which gives our members a chance to chat and to make new friends. If you would like to join us we will be very pleased to see you.

Molly Milner & George Hunter. Joint Leaders

Digital Photography Group

Whether you have just acquired your first digital camera or you have been using one for a long time you are welcome to join us.

This is a self-help group of mixed abilities and we meet at The Village Centre at 2.00pm on the fourth Tuesday each month, except September and December.

The programme for this year will be in a new format and will involve visiting different locations of interest near Chinnor for two or three consecutive months (car share), to take photographs. The pictures will be collated before being presented to the Group for our members to critique on those months when we meet at the Village Centre.

If you would like to join the group please contact me.

Richard Carver. Group Leader

HEARING LOOP and PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM.

The Chinnor Village Hall Committee wish to thank the Chinnor & District U3A, and particularly Bryan Roebuck, for obtaining the grants which enabled this system to be installed in the Village Hall.
We have met three times since my last report. Our first read was ‘A Passage to India’ by E M Forster published in 1924. The novel is set against the backdrop of the British Raj in India and the independence movement in the 1920s. A young British schoolmistress, Adela Quested, and her elderly friend, Mrs Moore, visit the fictional city of Chandrapore. The reason for the visit is to decide if Adela wants to marry Mrs Moore’s son Ronny Haslof. He is the city magistrate.

The plot revolves around Dr. Aziz, his British friend Cyril Fielding, and Adela during a visit to the Marabar caves. Fielding misses the train, Mrs Moore is overcome by the heat and the echo in the caves. Adela finds herself lost, alone, dazed and confused. Dr. Aziz innocently tries to comfort her and she panics, running down hill tripping and stumbling. Her injuries are more mental than physical. Dr. Aziz is brought to trial for sexual assault.

The attitudes and assumptions leading up to the dramatic court room drama, and Dr. Aziz’s acquittal following Adela Quested’s tearful admission that he did not assault her in any way, reveal the tensions between the Indians and their British oppressors. Officials are torn by a conflict of interest. They are obliged to do their duty, but they are exposed to the excruciating clubbish snobbery of their British compatriots. Prejudice blinds justice.

The aftermath is revealing. Both sides close ranks. Fielding is forced to leave India. Adela returns to England without Mrs Moore who died on board ship. Revelation of her death the Monarchy should be restored.

The final book of this session was ‘Books Burn Badly’ by Manuel Rivas published in 2006. Rivas is a young writer born in 1957. He is considered a revolutionary contemporary Galician writer, winner of many awards including one from the Belgium section of Amnesty International.

“Books Burn Badly” traces the fate of young friends throughout and after the Spanish civil war. It was another difficult book to study. The chapters appeared at first to stand alone. The mood rose and fell like the waves of the ocean which seems to represent freedom. Optimism, despair and back to optimism. To understand the book one must know the background to the great conflict that tore Spain apart throughout the 1930s.

In 1931 the Monarchy collapsed. Spain became a republic. The country had been moving towards a liberal revolution for the better part of a century. It was a story of decadence and humiliation. The Catholic Church supported a mainly ignorant and uneducated state. Spain had lost its vast empire in the Americas as the colonies gained independence. General Rivero ruled as a military dictator. He was enlightened and invested in public works. Sadly the great depression hit Spain hard. The situation created an opportunity for General Franco, the youngest General in Europe, to “rescue” the country in the name of religion. He invaded with a band of Moorish troops. Military and political progress was slow until the fascist powers in Germany and Italy threw their support behind Franco. The neo-liberal powers of Europe and the USA stood by while Spain became the testing ground for the horrors of modern warfare. Franco was established as absolute dictator in Madrid in 1938. Paradoxically he decreed that on his death the Monarchy should be restored.

We are now reading French Nobel Laureate Patrick Modiano’s ‘Missing Person’ to be followed by ‘A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian’ by Marina Lewyka: the critics found it hilarious.

Clive Bray. Group Leader
Since the last time of writing we have visited France, Myanama (Burma), Germany and Ethiopia.

Len Davidson (Thame U3A) travelled across France by Eurostar and TGV (High Speed Train), local train and cog railway to Chamonix; he then took the cable car, enjoying dramatic, magnificent, mountain views towards Mont Blanc with high levels of snow and glaciers. After that thrill it was time to take a more sedate pace, exploring the historic town of Annecy, full of narrow streets and alleyways. Finally, before leaving, he took a trip on the beautiful Lake Annecy. Then it was time to catch the train journey back to arrive safely at Haddenham and Thame Parkway.

John & Anne Gordon had their first extensive trip to South East Asia, exploring Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore & Burma (Myanama) over a six week period. There were a few titters from the audience when shown a photograph of them (it took place in 1981). At that time there were very few tourists and they were given a very warm welcome by the desperately poor but delightful Burmese. A couple of examples, one man earned his living by repairing ex-WWII torches and another had a dilapidated Jeep which he used as a taxi. Rangoon showed its colonial past, Pagan had 100’s of Buddhist temples, most of which were derelict. Perhaps the highlight was the very shallow Inle Lake with its unique method of rowing a boat - ‘Foot rowing’ on Inle Lake.

‘Foot rowing’ on Inle Lake.

standing on one leg!

‘Members Afternoon’ is always an interesting mixture of experiences from the members. Jill and David Carey set up a guessing game with baubles they had collected on their travels. Members had to match the country with the individual baubles.

Pat Durrant told everyone about a holiday with the U3A to St. Agnes in Cornwall. To break up the long journey on the first day they visited Tyntesfield, a National Trust property in Somerset, but had an unexpected delay when they met a dust cart on a narrow road. After much reversing the coach and dust cart eventually passed each other and the U3A holiday makers were able to continue the journey to their hotel, which was superb. The rest of the week was fine and sunny. Visits were made to St. Ives, Fowey, St. Mawes, Trelissick Gardens and Burnham on Sea.

Ellen Stott spent a Christmas in Switzerland, staying in a hotel where Conan Doyle wrote some of his stories. A Christmas and New Year custom was to walk round the Village ringing hand bells - all night! No sleep for Ellen!

Pam Buckingham gave an account of her trip to Israel. They stayed at a kibbutz on Christmas Eve and planned to go to Bethlehem but the roads were closed so they had to be content watching the services on TV.

Colin Sear presented the U3A holiday to Berlin in May last year. On arrival at Berlin airport the group was greeted by Marian Purdy’s brother, Colin, who lives in Berlin and had helped Sheila with planning the itinerary for the holiday. This included visits to the Berlin Wall, Watchtower and Check Point Charlie. Plus a visit to the Reichstag taking in the view of the dome designed by Norman Foster, then on to Brandenburg Gate. Every day was very busy with much to visit, including the Holocaust Memorial. The last visit was to Charlottenburg, a Cold War nuclear shelter. Finally there was a trip on the River Spree.

We welcomed a new speaker in March. Anne Fisher came to present her travels in Ethiopia. The first thing we learned was that Ethiopia operated on a 13 month calendar.

continued on next page / ........
Ethiopia is Christian with many monasteries from which women were banned, but they had interesting, brightly painted murals. The people were friendly and helpful, despite appalling poverty. There was a low crime rate so visitors felt safe, although sometimes they were followed by locals who wanted to practice their English. Anne and Peter went on to visit the Rift Valley, Addis Ababa and Lake Tana, where reed boats are used. They also visited the Simeon Mountains, the Blue Nile Falls and many other fascinating places - too many to mention, - maybe the subject of another talk?

---

Games Group

The Games Group meets at the Village Centre in the Chiltern Room at 2.00pm on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

We usually spend time puzzling over a quiz and playing a game or two - or more! ‘Chase the Ace’, ‘English Quest', ‘Scrabble’ - you name it and we are willing to have a go.

Bring your own board game, card game, quiz or whatever takes your fancy and join in our fun.

This is a social afternoon with plenty of laughter and refreshments, too.

To find out more please contact -

Kay Hazlewood.  Group Leader

---

ART HISTORY GROUP

Last October Rosemarie Heasman gave a very interesting and informative talk on the Norwegian artist Eduard Munch who is famous for his painting entitled "The Scream".

At our November meeting Kay Hazlewood gave us a talk entitled "The Meaning of Art", during which she explained how she became interested in tapestry and her involvement with the Amersham Guild when she lived in Beaconsfield. She brought along several examples of tapestries including some which she had done following holidays in Austria and explained the technique used.

December saw us enjoy a Christmas meal at the Village Centre which we all thought excellent. To tax those present a little I had devised a short quiz matching artists to dates. The winner was Judy Marr.

In January I gave a presentation on the artist Toulouse Lautrec (1864 - 1901) who, after leaving Cormons studio in 1885 painted over 700 oils and produced in excess of 350 prints/posters. He died at his mother’s chateau at Malrome in 1901 following a paralytic stroke.

Our February meeting was led by Ann Layton who set us a challenge by asking us to "Identify the Artist" - at which none of us excelled! However we enjoyed the session which involved us all and resulted in a lot of discussion and laughter.

Rosemarie gave a very interesting talk in March on Posters used during the second world war. It included examples from many countries including USA, Germany, France, Norway, Belgium, Italy, Japan and the U.K. and covered topics from propaganda e.g. "Dig for Victory" (UK), "One nation, One leader" (Germany) and the USA referring to the Japanese as "vermin".

By the time you read this Ray will have given us a presentation entitled "Illustrators from my childhood".

There are currently 16 of us in the Group which meets on the 3rd Friday of the month at 10.30 in the Chiltern Room, The Village Centre.

We are always happy to welcome new members. You do not need to be an expert but just be interested in art and its history.

Christine Barnett - Joint leader

---

Anne Gordon. Group Leader
THE READING GROUP

Framley Parsonage – Anthony Trollop.
Back in 2005 Anthony Trollope's “The Warden” appeared on our programme. We loved it, and the Barchester Chronicles became a firm favourite. Last year the fourth in the series was nominated, and we returned to the Barsetshire community and caught up with characters portrayed so skilfully and with such humour under the watchful eye of the narrator.

The Winthrop Woman – Anya Seton.
First published in 1958 and set in the early 17th century the novel tells a true story of a most remarkable woman. Elizabeth Winthrop was one of a Suffolk family who fled from religious persecution in the time of King Charles I to join the pioneer colonists in America. The Group enjoyed this read. Anya Seton has portrayed Elizabeth as courageous and headstrong, challenging the bigoted and theocratic government.

The Christmas Mystery – Jostein Gaarder.
This is definitely a book to be read just before Christmas! Using the device of a “story within a story” Jostein Gaarder takes us on a journey through time and history, using a very special Advent Calendar. As Christmas draws nearer and each window is opened we cross Europe whilst also travelling backwards in time, towards Bethlehem. Jostein Gaarder cleverly links a present day mystery with the characters hidden behind each window and showers us with very thought provoking clues, the answers to which hang tantalisingly to our own interpretation.

The book had a mixed reception, the general criticism being that it was repetitive. We all agreed that the plot and format were extremely ingenious.

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
2015 began as usual with a Classic. This slim volume held dialogue as sharp as glass and was enjoyed by all.

The Dean's Watch – Elizabeth Goudge.
Horology – the study and measurement of time! The book was written in 1960 and set in the year 1870. The location: the stark beauty of the fens of Cambridgeshire in the heart of a cathedral city. The city plays a large part in the story but equally too, the personalities who inhabit it.

Adam Ayscough is a man of God with a deep love of his fellow man. His appointment as Dean of the ancient cathedral makes him feel personally responsible for the souls around him.

Isaac Peabody, an atheist, a clock maker and repairer, whose love of his craft and his enthusiasm for the skills of ancient craftsmen radiates throughout the book. Isaac regularly repairs the Dean's watch, a duty which brings immeasurable pleasure but a vexation of the owner, who obviously has little appreciation of the treasure he has in his possession. When they finally meet, both men find they have much to teach each other.

In her title, is Elizabeth Goudge referring to the Dean's watch being repaired by Isaac, or the time Adam spends as Dean at the Cathedral?

The Group loved this book. Would it break the spell to read something else written by E.G. and find it less fulfilling?

Vera Brittain, Ben Macintyre, Nevil Shute and Rohinton Mistry are among the authors in our programme this year. In April we follow a different format “Member’s Choice” gives everyone a chance to bring along and share with the Group, poems, articles, books or any snippet that has alerted their imagination.

Ann Goold. Group Leader

BRIDGE GROUP

A recent spurt in new membership is helping to keep the group on a sound footing. This, plus the continuing support of our core of regular attendees, means that we shall probably, once again, continue to run throughout the summer months.

However, we are always keen to recruit new members at all levels of capability and will assist and support them as much as possible. To this end Betty Yendell is prepared to provide initial tuition to anybody wishing to make a start in Bridge.

We meet from 2.00pm until 4.00pm on the second Thursday of each month at the Village Centre.

Betty Yendell and Stuart Baker. Joint Leaders
**Music Group 1**

Where is the strangest place you have heard a concert of classical music?

Very recently I was on a cruise which took me up the Amazon in Brazil. The river winds its way through jungle passing just 3 towns or cities on the journey to Manaus, which is 400 miles, yes! 400 miles, from the ocean. Here the river is still 6 miles wide and just deep enough for the small cruise ship I was on to negotiate.

This city of Manaus is enclosed by jungle and the only way to access it is either by one of the many ferries which ply this river, or by one of the small aircraft which are able to use the runway. This area was established as a rubber growing industry in the 1800’s and as it developed new buildings of Portuguese, German and British architecture were constructed, including an Opera House.

This building is an amazing place to visit. The floors are of teak and ebony timber, the ceilings and walls are covered in gorgeous paintings and plaster work. This decor is carried through to the ‘reception room’ which is about 20 feet wide and 40 feet long.

Having been shown around the building, which took about an hour and a half, we found out that there would be a concert that evening. The concert was music by Beethoven and Haydn and played by the 22 strong String section of the Opera House orchestra. What a wonderful experience it was.

Perhaps the Music Groups in the Chinnor U3A would like to make a quick visit there for one of their productions? Could be expensive getting there but relatively cheap to get a seat. Perhaps Motts don’t have trips to that part of the world so we will have to think it out again?

Music Group 1 members are sorry to lose Gladys. After a fall she was taken to be looked after by her daughter who lives in Bournemouth and so, unfortunately, will not be joining us again but we wish her well and trust she will be improving daily.

We have lots of room for new members, so if you are interested in joining Music Group 1 please contact either me (Bill) or Tony Francis.

We meet from 2.30 until 4.30pm on the third Friday of the month.

Bill Parkinson. Group Leader

---

**Swimming Group**

Swimming “link-up” group - a leisure and social activity with the aim of improving/maintaining physical fitness.

An informal “link-up” group meeting on a “come when you can” basis, members who want to car share or do not want to go alone can “link-up” with others in the group.

Come along and meet in the pool at Princes Risborough Springs Swim and Fitness Centre:

- **Monday** 50+ Swim session 2pm – 3pm, if this is not convenient there are other sessions on:
- **Thursday** 50+ Swim session 10am-11.15am and 10am – 12pm
- **Friday** 50+ Swim session 10am- 11am

These are all public sessions and concessions apply.

(During school holidays check times, as there may be changes).

This is not a teaching group and members are responsible for arranging their own payments to swim at the pool, and for their own personal safety.

Due to family commitments I am not always able to swim but please contact me if you are interested……………….

Anne Marie Lord.
Chinnor and District U3A are extremely proud to report the following achievement of one of our members, Peter Hetherington, who is a Walks Leader and a very active and supportive member of our U3A.

**OXFORDSHIRE’S HIGH SHERIFF’S AWARD**

The High Sheriff of Oxfordshire, Tony Stratton, presented this Award to Peter Hetherington at a special Ceremony, followed by a reception in the Deanery at Christchurch. The Award is given in recognition of Peter’s work in devising the Aston Rowant Discovery Trail.

Peter had worked tirelessly to obtain sponsorship and grants for information boards and trail improvements, leading a project team that researched the history, flora and fauna, and produced digital mapping and walking information. Thames Valley Network and two of our U3A members, Tony Clark and Jan Gooders, a local historian, helped as did many other local experts. The National Trust and Natural England and several Sponsors played their part, and also the Historic Pathways Group of the Thames Valley Partnership.

The whole project was supported by Aston Rowant Parish Council who nominated Peter Hetherington for the Award, not only for the Discovery Trail but also in recognition of his community work over the past 35 years. An outstanding achievement!

The Aston Rowant Discovery Trail was officially opened in July 2014 by Chris French, a U3A Historic Pathways Group member, who had written the promotional leaflet and the walking instructions on several web sites.

The ARDT leaflet is proving to be very popular with walkers exploring the Trail. Peter was delighted to recognise many members from various U3As who attended and gave their support on the opening day.

CONGRATULATIONS FROM ALL OF US, PETER

**MIXED WALKS GROUP**

During Autumn and Winter we have walked in Burnham Beeches, the grounds of Blenheim Palace, West Wycombe, Tetsworth and in the BBOWT Warburg Nature Reserve. A big thank you to all our leaders who were Richard Allan, Fliss Akehurst, Tony Clark, Richard Webb and Rosie Hetherington.

We have a similar exciting programme from Bledlow Ridge, Great Kimble, Loosley Hill, Tring, Marlow and Haddenham.

We are so lucky to live in an area where there is such a large variety of good quality walking on our doorstep.

Our walks take place on the 3rd Tuesday of the month, and vary in length from 4.5 to 6.5 miles. Usually about 12 people come. If you'd like to join us, then please give me a ring and I'll explain more.

Peter Hetherington. Group Leader