

Spring Newsletter
2026



u3a

High Wycombe
& District

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MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

Like most modern day traditions, May Day derives from pagan festivities, in this instance to welcome the return of longer, warmer days. It's a celebration of survival too, an acknowledgement that the potentially fatal winter days have passed. Now is the time to focus on the fecund and anticipate the bounteous days ahead.

Lesser known are the origins of the May Day date. 'Floralia' and, later, 'Maiouma' were Roman festivals held as early as 241 BC and typified by, at times, debauched celebrations and sacrifices to worship the gods. However, these were held at the end of April and lasted into the early part of May, rather than being confined specifically to the first day of May.

In areas of Europe, this date was better known as one of the Celtic cross-quarter days, a midway point between the appropriate solstice/equinox. The Gaelic May Day was called 'Beltane', which means "*the fires of Bel*", referring to the Celtic sun god, Belenus.

This festival of fire and feasts was traditionally celebrated in parts of Ireland and Scotland and is enjoying somewhat of a revival in the UK in recent years, though one hopes the sacrificial lamb aspect remains with our forebearers.

Arguably pre-dating all of the above was 'Protomagia', the flower-orientated May Day festival of ancient Greece. This, in turn, may have derived from the even more ancient 'Anthesteria', held in honour of Dionysius, the Greek god of heavy drinking.

The word 'May' comes from the Greek goddess of fertility, Maia. 'Protomagia' is dedicated to her, Demeter - the goddess of agriculture - and Demeter's daughter, Persephone. The Greeks still celebrate 'Protomagia' on May Day with decorative wreaths of flowers and family picnics in the countryside. However, in more recent years May Day has also come to mean less about galivanting through flora and fauna and more about sticking it to the boss.

Outside of Europe, May Day has more associations with 'International Workers Day' than it does fire and wildflowers. This is not the case in Hawaii, where May Day is called 'Lei Day', which was conceived in 1929 to celebrate Hawaiian culture.

'International Workers Day' sprang up from the 'Haymarket Affair', an incident that began on 1st May 1886 when a group of striking workers and their supporters, inspired by Australian stonemasons downing tools in protest of their eight-hour week in 1856, clashed with the authorities in Chicago. The resulting deaths and numerous injuries that occurred four days later when the police attempted to quell the frustrations of protests, not to mention the controversial execution of some labourers involved, sent shockwaves over the world. The American Government still refuses to acknowledge May Day as a day about Workers Rights, and in 1955 President Eisenhower tried to establish it as 'Loyalty Day' – making it a day of patriotism rather than about the rights of workers (their 'Labor Day' is in September.)

Three years later, the 'Second International' was established in Paris to encourage global May Day protests for workers' rights. The movement gained significant momentum, and firmly established 1st May as a day of protest for the rights of workers all over the world.

But as we all know May Day isn't just a global affair when it comes to the rights of workers, it's an established part of our annual calendar and celebrated in numerous ways globally. In France, for example, May Day is known as 'La Fête du Muguet' (Lilly of the Valley Day) after King Charles IX of France, who was gifted a lily on 1st May 1561.

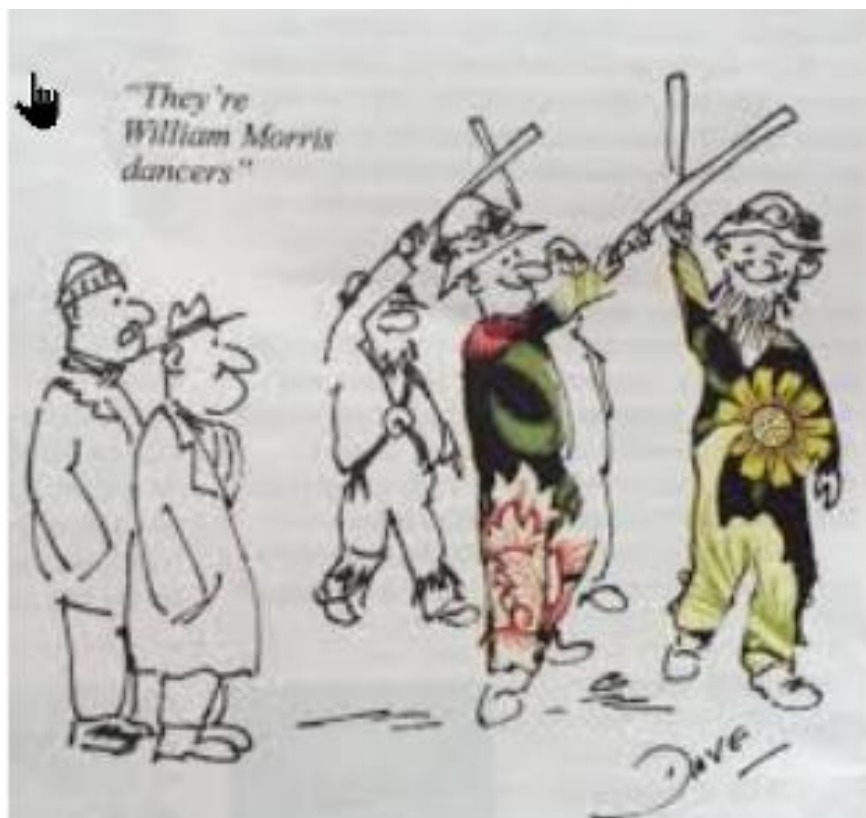
And speaking of France, the word 'Mayday', when applied as an international distress code (made official in 1948), was the idea of Frederick Mockford, a radio officer at London's obsolete Croydon Airport. This was because of the similarity to the French word "*m'aider*", meaning "*help me*". Though who he was trying to impress is anyone's guess.

In the UK, May Day and fertility are largely celebrated with a simple village fete, a Maypole, and middle-aged men dancing with bells and hankies, but other countries prefer huge parades and processions. For example, May Day is as important as Christmas or New Year's Eve in Finland, and in Germany, we see the origins of the Maypole - unashamedly and intentionally phallic - traditionally presented by young men to young women as a sign of affection. Women, on the other hand, send gifts of roses or rice in the shape of a heart in return. However, during leap years the roles are reversed.

Decorated wood or trees feature in Spanish May Day celebrations, and in parts of Italy, they celebrate 'Calendimaggio' (the Day of May) with romantic songs and the exchange of symbolic gifts such as eggs or wine. The Romanians have taken their love of wine to the next stage with 'Ziua Pelinului' (Mugwort Day) to ensure their fermented tippie doesn't spoil before it's enjoyed in Autumn. Lastly, the Portuguese bedeck their homes with yellow flowers on the last day of April to prevent the evil winter spirit from lingering and spoiling their crops.

As for the UK, the traditional Maypole dance wasn't really a thing until it was revived by Victorian heavyweight, John Ruskin, who essentially borrowed the niceties of 'Beltane' and added a few more ribbons. He invented the whole crowning of the 'May Queen' schtick while he was at it as well.

Unfortunately, this renewed interest in May Day also piqued the interests of the previously-alluded-to Morris Dancers who, up until this point in time, had been confined to 'Whitsun' and later 'Boxing Day'. So, if you see a troupe of awkward looking men hanging about with sticks/hankies/bells/beards, you're legitimately permitted to invite them to leave, thank you.



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



It is lovely to see that our General Meetings are well attended. If you haven't been along to one do give it a try. We aim to have good quality Speakers, and it is a chance to mingle with other members at the refreshments time.

In recent months I have enjoyed talks at the Local History group and visited the Wood-Carvers when a professional photographer came to get evidence for an article in u3a Communities. If you are in the Eden Centre, you may see our Secretary, Judith, (sporting a blue u3a cap) on one of the Faces of Eden exhibition.

Since the last Newsletter our membership has climbed back to over 300 and several of our newer members took advantage of the meeting to meet the Committee and Convenors and find groups that they may like to join.

As some of you may be aware the Committee uses a Beacon database system to hold your details and send emails to groups. Sanitised past copies of the Electronic Newsletter (minus any personal information) and details of events can be found on our website: highwycombe.u3asite.uk

If circumstances change for you - moving house, changing phone number for example, please let the Membership secretary know (hwu3amemsec@gmail.com) so you can be contacted.

The Committee are always pleased to hear new ideas that would benefit High Wycombe u3a members and the proposed new structure gives an opportunity for many to join a Team including Careers development for local schools, publicity, outings etc.

You might have an idea for a different group which would interest others: Bee keeping, Board games or perhaps Film appreciation.

Keep promoting the u3a to friends and neighbours and we will continue to grow. Only £32 a year and you could be somewhere local nearly every morning and afternoon of the week - provided you don't have dental appointment!!!

SECRETARY

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It has been a busy few months with the well-attended annual meeting for Group Convenors in February and the New Members get together in March. The improved formats were very successful with thanks to Paul and Jenny for their excellent organization.

The second national **u3a Festival** will be held 1 - 3 July 2026, again in York. The u3a South East Forum (Regional) annual **Summer School** at the University of Chichester 7 - 10 September offers 13 courses from *AI* to *Yoga* with residential arrangements on campus. Full details are on the u3a national website (u3a.org.uk).

A reminder that you can enjoy interesting free talks on Zoom from the Third Age Trust. The May programme includes: *Spruce Goose* (from the popular Flight Inspiration Aviation Group) on 5 May; *Exploring the Public Archive of Welsh History* on 28 May; *Drones* on 29 May. Find details on the national u3a website.

Likewise, our **Thames Valley Network** of u3as (u3atvnetwork.org.uk) also offers informative talks. The next talk on 5 May (Zoom, book on-line nominal £2 per device by May 2) will be the author Dr Helen Fry, who has given us talks previously, on *Women in Intelligence*.

Planned for later are: *Air Raids of WW1* in June; *China* in October.

A reminder that our important **Annual General Meeting** will be on May 27 at 2 pm, prior to our monthly General Meeting at Lacey Green Village Hall. We need to see as many members as possible to ensure we have a quorum, so please come along if you are able.

PUBLICITY TEAM



We enjoyed the festive Christmas Tree Festival at High Wycombe All Saints Church in December where our tree was among many with a wide range of decoration styles.

We intend to be there in 2026 and update our hand-made decorations with novel designs. As always with thanks to Penny and Barbara for their decorative expertise and skill in enlisting Phil to help with cartoon technology.

This year we set up our information stand at Lacey Green Memorial Hall on Palm Sunday afternoon in support of the village Easter Trail event. It was fun for local families, but the weather was disappointing. Fortunately, we were inside where we advertised alongside other groups which use the hall.

It is good to know that the Eden Centre is continuing the Silver Series of free monthly events for retired residents of Wycombe and the surrounding area. These will be on the second Monday of each month at 11am. The first coffee social was in April with another in May and a Cinema showing in June. To book a

place contact hello@atomicbee.co.uk and more details are on our website.

We will be supporting the Naphill village fete (Napfest) this year on 13th June. Our information stall will be alongside a game (Wine or Whine) which is a wine lottery. Prizes will be wine, beer, soft drinks, or you may not win anything. If you would like to donate a prize for this, please bring it to the General Meeting in April or May, or contact us for collection. All contributions will be appreciated. We could also use help on the day - so let us know nearer the time if you are available.

On July 15th we will be holding our annual Picnic in the grounds of the Wycombe Museum in Priory Avenue. Do join us for a pleasant social afternoon with the added bonus of the giant gazebo in case of inclement weather, and the small café for ice cream, snacks and drinks. The museum itself is worth a visit at any time.

The Publicity Team is grateful for your support. We are always open to suggestions for events and would welcome new members with fresh ideas. If you are keen to get involved, do not hesitate to let us know.

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ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES

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We have been pleased to welcome 3 new members to our group, taking our total membership to 39. We meet in Hughenden Valley Village Hall, 2.00pm, on the 4th Tuesday in the month, If you are interested please contact Juliet, details above.



Quite a few of you know Christmas was a disaster for me!, when I had a nasty fall, from which I am still recovering, hence not much to tell you. Our Meetings have gone ahead and I have been very grateful for the kindness and support of our members. We have heard talks about "Before the Zip" and a quiz on "What is it?"



Our March outing to an Antiques venue was to Wallingford Antiques Arcade this year, a real warren of rooms and corridors, but to top it all a lovely tea room with white tablecloths where we met

for coffee and later for lunch.

We have an Antiques Dealer and Auctioneer at our April meeting, our very good friend Paul Gilliam giving us a talk about Whitefriars Glass in May, before our June outing to NT Chartwell, which is now fully booked.

In July, our last meeting before our summer break, we will all be taking along one of our own antiques or vintage items, to fit one of three categories.

I wish you all a good summer.

ART GROUP

The past three months have seen the group tackling the following subjects: *Something Old; A Windy Day; Beginning.*



How these themes were interpreted was a personal choice and interesting artwork resulted. I encourage the group to suggest ideas and what media they use is up to them unless I specify a particular one.

I hope to have artwork examples for the next newsletter.

BIRD WATCHING



Our meetings, held on the second Monday of the month and starting at 10am, usually last about 2 hours and are followed by an optional pub lunch. We are always very keen to welcome new members to our group and would stress that no prior expertise is required. We are always happy to share our knowledge and to help novices to get the best out of joining.

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We have around eight regular birdwatching sites which are within 45 minutes' drive of High Wycombe and occasionally make longer trips that are further afield.

Some highlights since the last newsletter:



We have had some very enjoyable visits so far this year. In February we had an excellent turnout for our outing to Jubilee River, and somewhat unbelievably, we had NO RAIN! It was very interesting to see the area in the winter as this is usually a summer trip, and although the river was high and had burst its banks in places, the paths were good and not too muddy! It proved much easier in winter to spot the birds hiding in

the trees! Highlights included a kingfisher, a green woodpecker and a flock of siskin feeding in the alder.



In March we enjoyed two outings: our walk around the lakes and along the river at Dinton Pastures Country Park (a site which our



group hasn't visited for quite a few years), where the mist gradually cleared so we could ID the birds more easily! It was lovely to hear many different birds singing and calling, particularly a song thrush, a green woodpecker and a nuthatch, as well as the more common tits, robin and wren. We also had a lovely dawn chorus walk around Marlow in March. We were blessed with good weather and it was wonderful to hear the (very) early birds singing so beautifully.



We were also rewarded for our efforts by a hearty Weatherspoons breakfast after the walk!

Our upcoming programme is as follows:

April 27th - whole day extra trip - Walthamstow Wetlands, London

May 11th - RSPB Otmoor, Oxfordshire

June 8th - Lodge Hill, nr Bledlow

June 24th - College Lake (please note, this is an extra Wednesday visit as College Lake is closed on Mondays)

July 13th - Little Marlow gravel pits

August 10th - Jubilee River (Dorney Wetlands)

September 14th - Stocker's Lake, Rickmansworth

For more information and updates check out our group page on the HWu3a website at:

<https://highwycombe.u3asite.uk/>

CHESS

The Chess Group is quite a small group, but that's ok because it only takes two to play a game of chess. Many of the group used to play chess when they were at school, and enjoyed playing then but have not had much of a chance to play since. We play for fun, not for trophies, and also spend some time looking at interesting positions to help us improve our game.

We meet at my house on the third Tuesday of the month. We have one member of the group who cannot manage Tuesdays, so we will generally have a second informal meeting at his house each month for those who want an extra game. So, if you are interested but the timing is wrong, please let me know and we'll try to fit you in.



COMPUTER GROUP

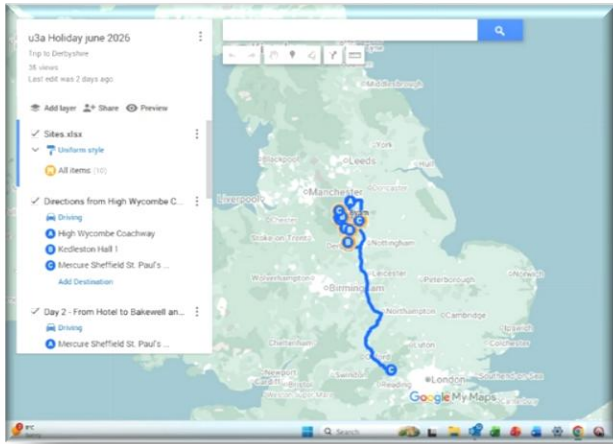


The Computer Group continues to offer a lively and engaging programme, with something to interest everyone.

Recent sessions have explored topics ranging from artificial intelligence—how it learns, predicts, and shapes the world around us—to space technology, including NASA's Artemis II mission and the Orion spacecraft.

We also enjoyed a fascinating guest talk on 1980s computing, based on his work in seismic surveying.





More recently, members were introduced to Google My Maps, discovering how simple tools like layers can be used to plan trips and organise everyday information.



New members are always very welcome. Our meetings are friendly and informal, with plenty of discussion, tea, and biscuits—and you don't need to be an expert to join us. So, pop along to the Naphill village hall. Any member of the High Wycombe and District u3a is welcome to attend.

Please note a change of timings for our May & June meetings

- The May meeting will be held on Wednesday May 13th at the usual time of 10am
- The June meeting will be held on Wednesday June 10th at the usual time of 10am

CROQUET



The croquet group meets weekly, Wednesday mornings, 10.30 to 12.30. April to October.

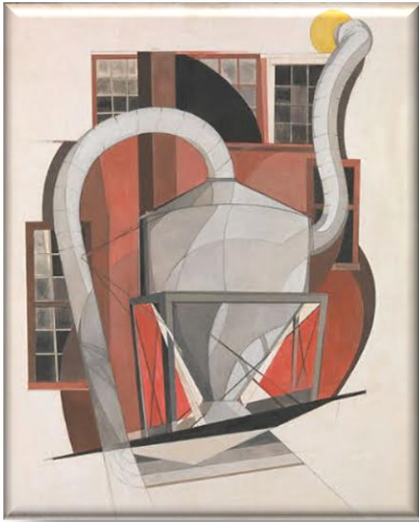
Places are limited and the group is currently at its maximum, but if you are interested in joining the group, please contact me for details, as opportunities to play can arise from time to time.

DISCOVERING ART

In December we had a really enjoyable visit to Birmingham Gallery where we were dropped just outside. This venue was a beautiful one and houses the finest collection of Pre Raphaelite paintings in the country, and it was a treat to see these. It features over 60 works, including paintings and stained glass by Rossetti, Millais, and Burne-Jones.

We were blessed with fine weather so that we could visit the nearby and architecturally very striking library, opened in 2013 by none other than the Nobel Prize winning Malala. The Christmas Market was only a very short distance away. Big thanks go to Jan Spaul who organised this trip.





Charles Demuth - Machinery

For our January meeting we had what has become a popular session, our annual quiz. and one set by our quizmaster, David Brown. The rounds included Portraits, the Tate Galleries and a Miscellaneous one. It was greatly enjoyed by all who were present.

February featured a fascinating and informative presentation by Eric Harris on The Precisionists, an American modern art movement which flourished in the 1920s and 1930s, and was characterised by sharp lines, smooth surfaces, and geometric abstraction. Eric has a real enthusiasm for bridges and factories, not necessarily an obvious choice for aesthetic appeal, but we

were won over by the images that he shared with us and some of which you can see here



Charles Demuth - I saw the Figure 5 in Gold

. It was a wonderfully colourful subject with plenty of striking works including the iconic No 5 by Charles Demeuth based on the poem of the same name by William Carlos Williams.

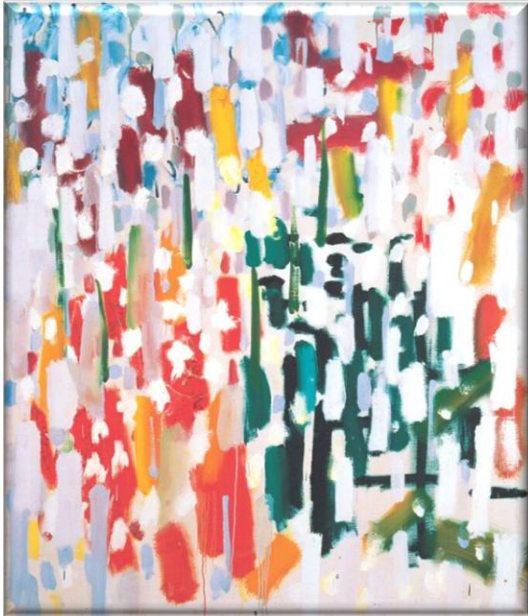
April brought us a presentation given by Jen Hunt on Gardens in Art; this spanned ancient Egypt to the



Hieronymus Bosch - The Garden of Earthly Delights

modern day. It proved to be a great tonic, after the many grey winter days, to the extraordinary range of colour and beauty.

Among the artists featured were Breughel, Turner, Bosch (Garden of Earthly Delights), Klimt, Monet and an abstract from Patrick Heron, An Azalea Garden. The range of colours and styles was much appreciated by us all.



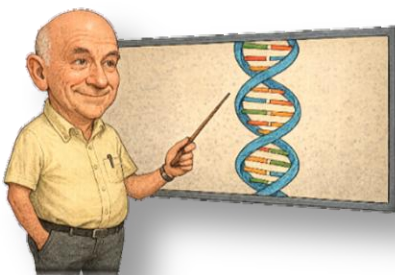
Patrick Heron - An Azalea Garden

Our meetings include illustrated presentations, often by group members, covering all aspects of art, some visiting speakers and videos. We have a trip to an arts-related venue in June, and sometimes a second visit; we have a break in the month of August.

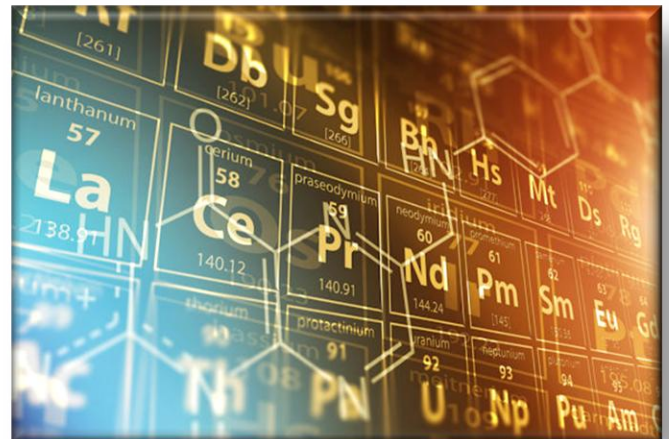
As the name of our group implies, the emphasis is on discovering and exploring a very wide range of art. Enjoyment and furthering our knowledge and appreciation of this area, along with the social aspect is what we are about. For those who have not been to one of our meetings before, you do not need to have any previous knowledge of art and you can be assured of a warm welcome should you like to come along.

What do you call an artist in a Ford Transit?
Van Gogh

DISCOVERING SCIENCE



The science group is for all those that are curious about science and how it affects our lives. We meet on the first Friday in the month at Hazlemere Memorial Hall (in Hazlemere Recreation Ground). The group is interested in all aspects of science and technology, including the people and the issues affecting them. We try to show that science is fun as well as being relevant to our daily lives.



Our recent talks have heard about satellites, their orbits and future developments with very small satellites. An interesting session led by Simon told us about the Periodic Table and how it is structured. First by identifying patterns long before the elements were ever seen.

Our programme (which is subject to change) over the coming months is currently:

May	Sound
June	Exoplanets
July	Isotopes

Every member of our u3a is welcome to attend. If you think this wide ranging light touch look at science is for you please contact us through the website or via hwu3ascience@gmail.com.



ENJOYING SHAKESPEARE



We finished off the Shakespeare year by laughing out loud at a couple of episodes of *Upstart Crow*, written by Ben Elton and starring David Mitchell as Shakespeare at our Christmas Buffet. We then moved from the ridiculous to the sublime in January when some of us were able to watch the wonderful *Hamnet* at the cinema including the Oscar winning performance of Jessie Buckley as “Agnes” (better known to us as Anne Hathaway).

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In February we all enjoyed “Mr Burton” telling the story of Richard Burton’s youth and eventual career as a Shakespearean actor among other things. A superb performance by Toby Jones as the teacher who started his acting career by forcing him to learn the prologue to *Henry V*.

We also enjoyed watching an excellent National Theatre Production of *Othello* at Cineworld – a real treat.



We decided to return to one of Shakespeare’s History plays as we watched a classic video of *Henry IV Part 1* in March, having prepared by listening to a BBC *In Our Time* programme about the play which helped our understanding.

So on into the summer as we watch Helen Mirren as Prospera in *The Tempest* in May, visit Hall Barn for the Chiltern Shakespeare production of *As You Like it* in June, and plan our regular summer buffet when we will watch the film *Anonymous* which deals with the claims (false I am sure) that Shakespeare didn’t write his plays at all.

Our membership is just slightly bigger than can fit in my living room to watch a play, but please let me know if you would like to join, as we are rarely all able to come on any particular month, and there is no limit on how many of us can go to the cinema or live theatre.

FRENCH CONVERSATION



The French group meets every 3rd Monday of the month and is very popular. It is open to anyone who can speak French and who wants to improve by listening and participating with others. So far this year we have been discussing *Les Jeux Olympiques*, Brigitte Bardot, et Epstein et ses relations avec Jack Lang et Fabrice Aidan en France etc...

Please feel free to join us if you want to have a go!
Contact Elizabeth as above

A FRENCH LESSON

A French teacher was explaining to her college class that in French, unlike English, nouns are either masculine or feminine. House is feminine ('la maison') and pencil is masculine ('le crayon').

A student asked 'What gender is ' a computer'?'

Instead of giving the answer, the teacher split the class into two groups - male and female and asked them to decide for themselves whether 'computer' should be a masculine or a feminine noun. Each group was asked to give four reasons for their recommendation.

The debate was heated and long within the groups, but eventually they came to their conclusions and they made the following deductions:

The men's group decided that 'computer' should definitely be of the feminine gender ('la computer') because:

1. no one but their creator understands their internal logic

2. the native language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else
3. even the smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for possible review
4. as soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your salary on accessories for it.

The women's group concluded that 'computer' should be masculine ('le computer') because:

1. in order to do anything with them, you have in turn them on
2. they have a lot of data but still can't think for themselves
3. they are supposed to solve problems, but mostly they ARE the problem
4. as soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you had waited a little longer, you could have got a better model.

The women won.

GENEALOGY

STEVE PICKERSGILL

01494562621

stevepick001@gmail.com

The group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month, between 2.00 pm and 4.00 pm, at Hazlemere Library, 312 Amersham Road, Hazlemere HP15 7PY where we use the library's free edition of Ancestry, and other genealogical websites, to research family history.



We have access to three of the library computers but it is better if you can bring a laptop. New members are always welcome.

Only a genealogist views a step backwards as progress!

Anon.

GEOLOGY

Geology started late this year – the period between Christmas and our scheduled January meeting was too short for us to have prepared anything so we took a break, and our first meeting of 2026 was in February.



Here Martin gave us a talk on Orogenesis



(otherwise known as mountain building) in which he described the various types of mountains and the processes involved in their formation, which included some stunning photos of the Alps and the Himalayas. Martin was a natural for presenting the subject of mountains as he's half Swiss and has been up quite a few!

In March we were privileged to have a Guest Speaker online. Dr Duncan Murdock, who is the Earth Collections Manager at the Oxford Natural History Museum and was one of the project leaders involved in unearthing the Dinosaur Trackways recently discovered in Oxfordshire. Comprising 5 tracks of up to 220 metres and over 200 footprints, this site is potentially one of the largest set of tracks in the world. Duncan gave us a fascinating talk about the environment in which the footprints were formed and preserved, and an insight into the creatures that walked what was then a sea shore, 166 million years ago.



A Cetiosaurus (left) and a Megalosaurus (right): the dinosaurs which probably created the footprints



Megalosaurus footprint

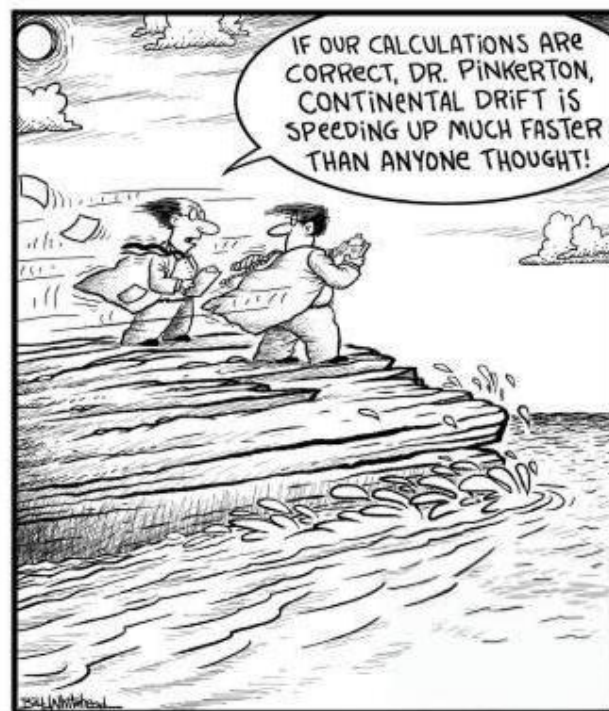
There was no meeting in April, being Easter Monday, but we will be having one on May Bank Holiday (May 4th) in which Phil will be talking about the origin of Tectonic Plates together with the formation and mineral composition of Basalt and Granite. We'll be bringing along some samples as well as the Polarising Microscope, so there will be some practical work too.

Later in the year, possibly in June, we're planning a visit to the Oxford Natural History Museum to take a look at the new exhibitions they've been setting up over the last six months.



Two of the trackways crossing each other

We still have room for new members: if you want to come along, contact Phil or Martin as above.



GERMAN CONVERSATION

We are a small, friendly group which meets on the second Tuesday afternoon of each month (except for December) in the home of one of the members. We each prepare a short piece in German on a topic of our own choosing which we then read out to the group, thereby giving everyone the opportunity to contribute.



In this way we can share our thoughts and observations on the topic. We are not a teaching group but assistance is available if required! Providing you have a reasonable grasp of German, you should be able to fit in.

We currently have vacancies for new members. If you're interested in joining us please contact me directly or via the U3A website.
Bis dahin, tschuss!

GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

With all the changes and turmoil going on in the World around us, it is reassuring to know that your u3a is going from strength to strength. Our Groups offer members a chance to develop friendships as well as learning something new about their favourite subjects.

As you read the individual Group entries in this Newsletter, I hope you would agree that the diversity of topics covered in monthly General Meetings and individual groups is quite extraordinary. The Sugar Trains of Taiwan comes to mind!



One associates Spring with 'new beginnings and new challenges' and in late April members and Convenors will have met to discuss and engage in a brainstorming session to help plan out our future strategy. This meeting takes place before our AGM in May when you will officially meet our new Chairman and Vice Chair. If you missed the planning meeting or AGM but have ideas for your Committee to consider, whether it is for new Groups or ways we can promote ourselves, our Publicity Team would welcome your input. By the way they have been doing sterling work for us but all too many people (non-members) are still unaware of the u3a and their contribution to local communities in issues such as combatting loneliness or simply meeting friends at monthly meetings.

I am sure there are members who could share more of their work, personal or family experiences within their Groups -or more widely within our society- even start a new Group. As many of you know several of us have access to a wide range of contacts who could help. As your Groups' Coordinator I remain convinced and feel guilty, that I could or should be offering more support to our Convenors. I am a Convenor of two groups myself and grateful to members who offer to take some sessions for me, covering holidays for example. Please do make contact if I can help in any way. Helping existing Convenors with programmes is especially welcome.

Many of our members have been tuning in to the various online services offered by or linked to the u3a itself. These include u3a Communities, Online Subject Groups as well as talks from our Thames Valley Network. As an example, a small group of us met to listen and watch (via u3a Communities) a talk on Jimi Hendrix, whilst other colleagues watched a presentation aimed at members with an interest in geology. This is just a snapshot of what is on offer and many talks can be watched free of charge or at a modest cost.

As many of you know I am always on the look out to start new Groups, but timetabling new groups can be difficult as we do not want to dilute attendance at existing groups as we plan to enhance the experience of all our members.

it is worth remembering that Marks and Spencer, for example, would testify that all organisations must continue to develop and change to keep pace with the ever-changing world we live in. I know your thoughts will be most welcome.

Please bring forward any issues or queries about your Group initially to your Convenor. They will raise issues with the Committee, if necessary, to see how any issues can be resolved.

HANDBELL GROUP



The Group has improved and every time we meet, and we have been proud to ring for the High Wycombe and District U3A at their Christmas gathering, and Summer picnic.



On December 18th the Group joined with the H/W Brass Band at the Lady de Spencer Arms carol charity night.

In the year ahead we will be back to a wider range of music and medleys and perhaps expanding our change ringing expertise with more complicated methods to amaze you all.

HISTORY



Our small friendly group meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in private houses. We cover a vast range of topics from ancient to modern history, examples, Clothing during Charles II reign to the Rwanda Genocide.

Our ongoing programme suffers in May with over half the group away for one reason or another but we shall be getting back to full swing again in June when we continue the RAF story given by Phil. Our topics and presentations are chosen by group members throughout the year so we get as wide a selection of history as possible.



ITALIAN CONVERSATION

ELAINE BIRD

elaine.bird@outlook.com

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Our little group meet every third Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. The aim of our group is to maintain/improve our fluency in speaking Italian in a relaxed atmosphere sharing stories about Italy during our times there whether on holiday or living there. We also chat informally about a wide range of subjects and help each other with forgotten vocabulary. We have listened to short news items or stories from RAI Uno which can be challenging at times owing to the speed with which they speak and sometimes their regional accents!

We have been to Norden Farm to watch an Italian film and intend to go again when one is available. If you would like to join us please contact Elaine Bird – we welcome all newcomers..

LOCAL HISTORY

Local History meets in Hazlemere Memorial Hall 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10am.

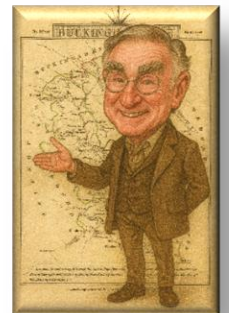
We continue to focus on stories and places around High Wycombe and the Thames Valley,



of Sir George Gilbert Scott (1811- 1878)

who in addition to designing building including the Midland Grand Hotel (St Pancras Station) and the Albert Memorial, also designed many of our local buildings including Amersham Workhouse (now hospital) and the remodelling of St Francis Church, Terriers.

In February, our Convenor discussed the first stage of his doctorate research which focused on Family Firms in High Wycombe's furniture industry. Early results which recognising the unique contribution families such as the Ercolanis, Parkers and Gommès had made to the industry, forecast the overall decline of the industry. Conglomerates such as DFS and IKEA responded to the anticipated changes by introducing innovative



The 2025 Winter Newsletter introduced the talk for our January 2026 programme. The talk focused on the work



marketing methods using national advertising, aggressive price promotions and new methods of financing purchases.

But we were also reminded of the originators of some of our most famous chair designs including, Edwin Skull's Patent Plectaneum Chair and role steam ending of timber had played in the development of chairs such as The Windsor Chair.

March



By contrast, in March one of our members gave our Group a talk of the history of High Wycombe's hospitals from the early Leper, Plague and Pest hospitals to the present day, with The Shrubbery bringing back many memories to members.



The remains of the 12th Century Hospital of St. John the Baptist, High Wycombe

In April one of our leading local historians will be giving his talk on ""The Bisham Abbey story from the Civil War to the Olympics". There will also be an introduction to the Vicar of Radnage and his contribution to World War One. Plus, a few 'unexpected' stories such as the Lord of the Manor of Marlow who deserted during the English Civil War.

May sees the return of Willie Reid, famous in the area for his 'walks.'

Whilst we have organised walks with Wille over the years, this year he will be introducing us to his latest talk on "Romans, Riots and Rebels." We are promised some interesting insider news on the first English King to 'tweet and hear the local stories around the best-preserved mill on the River Wye. Whilst you may be familiar with the story of riots in the 1830's by rural workers in the south and east of England rising, the 1830 Machine Breakers Riots may come as a surprise.



MUSIC

We meet in the home of a member on the 4th Thursday in the month from 2pm.



Our objective is to widen our members' experience and enjoyment of all musical genres. The Group focuses on a wide range variety of musical categories, including classical, opera, jazz, film, folk, rock, pop and many others.

We welcome contributions from members and use any appropriate audiovisual presentation materials to enhance our enjoyment. You are encouraged to bring your own music choices for others to hear and perhaps appreciate for the first time. Submissions can be on compact disc, usb memory stick, links to YouTube or Spotify. Even 78's and cassettes if you bring your own player! We also welcome members playing their own instruments.

Presentations lead to group discussion and often recommendations for future meetings. Recent meetings have included the influence of Turkish music on Mozart and Dave Brubeck and why Bach wrote the Brandenburg concertos.

[Click to Listen to Dave Brubeck's Blue Rondo a la Turk](#)

Our Group meets in a private home where we can play, listen and discuss music in comfort, disturbed only by the sound of our members enjoying 'almost legendary' cakes and refreshments!

If you want to join us, please contact: peterJ42@gmail.com



PHOTOGRAPHY



This group known to its members as the 'PhotoGroup' is thriving and there is plenty of room for more members.

Check out the Photography page of the u3a Website

[\(https://highwycombe.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/photography/\)](https://highwycombe.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/photography/)

to see some of our images. Critiquing images we will be referring to some of the many basic photo editing techniques available with modern software.

The agenda for each month is set by the members, and every effort is made to provide meaningful meetings which, in the coming months, will include – 'History of Photography', 'Photographing Reflective objects', 'Sorting your images' and others yet to be decided by members . We will also be looking at members' photographs 'Predominant Colour', 'Minimalist', 'Oil on water,' and others yet to be advised.

Why not come along and find out what we are all about. Learn not just how to take a picture but how to 'make' a photograph. We meet at Hazlemere Memorial Hall, 10am, second Friday of each month.



SPRING 2026 PHOTOGROUP GALLERY



Morning Sun & Mist



Lamppost (Torquay)



Canyon Watchtower



Ghost Tree



Pancake Stacks



Anacamptis Papilionacea



The Romans were 'ere!

Harmonica Intermezzo - Time for a Tin Sandwich



A Bridge over the River

3Ps (PLAYS POETRY & PROSE)

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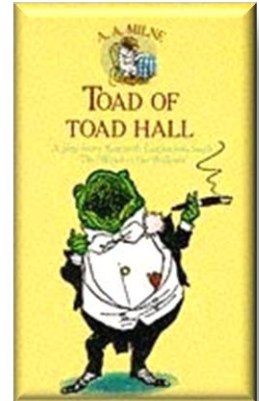
3Ps is fun, stimulating and enriching. A group of like-minded people all interested in language and literature, meet once a month with a focus on poetry, prose or plays, (there are your 3Ps!)

We take it in turns to choose a theme and provide refreshments. In May we will be bringing excerpts of prose on the subject of 'water: 'the 'water' of course may be troubled and someone may want to pour oil on it. It is amazing what different directions can be chosen and the session is always full of great variety.

In a way there are 3 parts to this group. The first is the research and the 'homework.' What shall I take to read out? The second is the actual meeting with coffee, cake and plenty of chat in the middle. Cake is important. The third is following up on new pieces you have been introduced to - you might find a new novelist or a poem you grow to love.

Last month we did a play reading of A.A Milne's Toad of Toad Hall. A riverside tale for children or political satire?

Our group is full but there could always be a second 3Ps group.



PSYCHOLOGY

April 10th: Relationships.

May 8th: Self achievement, speaker Jon Rollet.

June 10th: Positive thinking. Some art work

PUB LUNCHEES

Our Lunch group, which usually meets in a pub, but occasionally elsewhere, gets together on the 4th Friday of each month. We are a very friendly group with a diverse range of appetites and tastes, which is reflected in the venues we visit.

Currently, the list of members stands at 28 and such a large group means that a few of our smaller pubs can no longer accommodate us.

If you would like to try us out in the future, please do contact me so that we can discuss the possibility of you joining a 'Wait List' (as in flight bookings with BA etc)

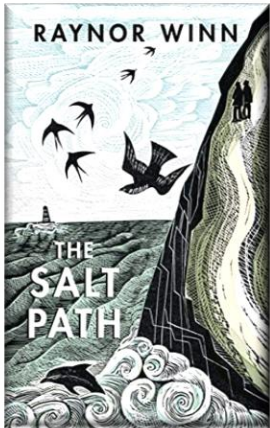
QUIZ GROUP

The Quiz group continue to meet on the first Thursday of each month at Naphill Village Hall starting at 2.00

We are a friendly group of around twenty people of varying skill levels who are formed into teams of four randomly to try to ensure all the best players do not get into the same team. It is a fun afternoon and usually you can expect to learn something. If you think you would like to join us contact us or just turn up on the first Thursday of the month and we will be pleased to see you.

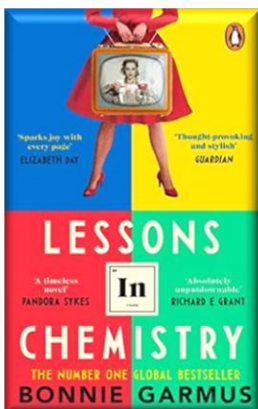
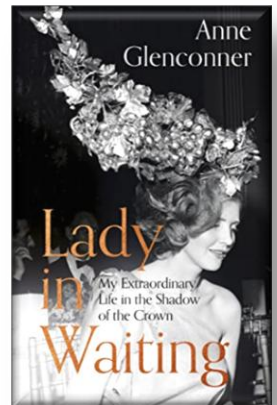


READING FOR PLEASURE



Some of us wished we had read *The Salt Path* before the integrity of its author, Raynor Winn was publicly called into question. The book is the ostensibly true story of how she and her husband, Moth, rendered suddenly homeless and facing Moth’s devastating diagnosis of a terminal degenerative disease set off to walk and camp their way round the South West Coast Path. The walk is as far as they can see into their future, it gives them a purpose each day, it forces them to live in the moment, facing discomfort and hardship, and it gradually has a regenerative effect on Moth’s health and strength. It is an inspiring and engagingly written story. We do understand about poetic licence and the tendency of us all to reform and embellish our truth; we know that people are imperfect and that doctors can be wrong. However, we found that it made a difference to us as readers if we thought we were being wilfully deceived. We may never know.

In October, we read “*Lady in Waiting*” by Anne Glenconner and it soon became clear to us that when a British aristocrat complains of being short of money, it may not necessarily prevent her from buying an elephant. We realised that we were reading about another world – and some of us became irritated by the excess, indulgence and extravagant behaviour that seemed the norm in this life of privilege. However, we also learned that all lives are touched by emotional difficulty, illness, personal tragedy and challenging relationships - and that strength of character is not confined to any particular class. We did not envy Lady Glenconner and we did not much admire her writing style but we did accord her some respect and sympathy.



We all loved “*Lessons in Chemistry*” by Bonnie Garmus which is, in brief, the story of a gifted female scientist in the 1950s and her struggle to be taken seriously. This is a funny, fantastical, good-hearted and inspiring book about very serious issues. We loved all the characters (particularly the dog, Six Thirty, his growing vocabulary and his astute understanding of humans), the story and numerous sub-stories, and the tone in which it was written. One of us, who is not easily pleased and does not praise lightly, gave it ten out of ten.

RUMMIKUB

Rummikub is a very good game that helps to get the grey matter working: it really does help to bring people together. The Group began in late 2023 and was well received when approximately 12 people came along. We all have a great time meeting new acquaintances with lots of laughter and this has ensured that the group has continued with good attendances.

You do not need to know how to play and the group welcomes all on the first Monday of the month at 2.00 pm in the back of the Bon Ami coffee shop behind Naphill village hall where there is good parking. Come along and enjoy a fun afternoon.

SIMPLE HANDICRAFTS

There are usually about six or seven of us who gather on 4th Tuesday to complete a simple craft. In January we tackled Iris folding cards and February saw us making string pictures. Paint was involved in March as we made a fantasy bird collages.



At the April meeting we will be recalling French Knitting.



SINGING FOR FUN

Our singing group is growing really well; in fact it's almost double but room for more. We sing anything and everything as long as we can find a karaoke backing track.

Requests from group always welcome.

Come and join us at **Lane End Village Hall on the fourth Monday of the month from 10 to 11:50 am.**

It's a great way to start the week. Everyone leaves with a smile
Contact Sylvia or Rosemary for more details.



TEN-PIN BOWLING

The Group is flourishing with around 20 members, of whom around 10-16 regularly attend our bowling sessions. It's a lot of fun and no-one worries too much about the scores!

And you have the benefit of getting some gentle exercise at the same time!

You don't need to be an expert or even to have played before, everybody is welcome. It's as much a social as a sporting occasion - at least that's what I tell myself when the ball doesn't go where I intended it to!

We meet at 1315 for a 1330 start on the first and third Tuesdays of each month - but not during school holidays. The venue is the Hollywood Bowl upstairs in the Cineworld complex opposite M&S in the Eden Shopping Centre. The current cost is £7.20 per person for 2 games or £3.60 for one game, which includes the use of a house ball and bowling shoes, although most of us wear our own flat shoes.

Our sessions normally last about 1.5 to 2 hours.

There is no restriction on the number of bowlers at our sessions so why not join us - "the more the merrier". Just let me know if you would like to give it a go. You can get in touch with me either directly or via the u3a website if you would like more information. I hope to see you there.



UKULELE

The U3A ukulele group have hit the heights! On March 25th our group were asked for a return visit to the Downley Heights Care Home to entertain at their monthly chatty cafe.

We performed two sets of songs about 25 minutes with a welcome coffee break between sets. The residents and friends joined in with songs they knew.

At the end of the session we were thanked by the care home manager and asked to return soon. However the greatest compliment to us was from



one of the residents who said, "Thank you for making it a lovely afternoon".

Playing a gig helps the group too, as it sharpens the skills and brings the players standard up. I was very proud of them. Thank you strummers

Q. What's dangerous. lives in the sea and plays the ukulele?

A. Jaws Formby.



WALKING

Here's a review of recent rambles!

Feb Short Walk - Maidensgrove to Pishill



Feb Long Walk - Great Missenden to Little Hampden



March Short Walk - Tring Park



March Long Walk - Rotherfield Greys



PLANNED WALKS MAY – AUGUST 2026

SHORTER WALKS - 2nd Monday. Meet at 9:45am for 10:00am start.

11th May - Virginia Water,

A leisurely circular walk through the beautiful Valley Gardens & around Virginia Water Lake. We should see the Rhododendrons & Azaleas at their best, as well as majestic trees & lots of birds. It's about 1 hour's drive (22 miles) from Wycombe, so we suggest sharing cars & the parking fee (£12.60 for 4 hrs). Meet at Virginia Water South car park. Bring sandwiches for a picnic or grab lunch in the café.

Distance: 5 mls, Post code: SL5 7SB, Grid ref: SU 961 687, w3w: ///sends.much.chemistry

8th June – A re-visit to Penn)

A gentle 4.25 mile walk starting and ending at Widmer Pond near Tyler's Green & Penn. The route is fairly level along paths & tracks with a few gates & stiles. Refreshments (if open) available at the Red Lion & the Crown, both in Penn. There is limited street parking on School Rd and Elm Rd.

Distance: 4.2 mls Post code: HP10 8NE, Grid ref: SU 907 937, w3w: ///banter.derailed.energy

13th July - Hampden Monument walk

(Another revisit!) Passing Hampden House and Church and into Pepperboxes wood - 2 ascents, one long and gradual. The Hampden Arms will let you park in their car park only if you are eating/drinking there afterwards - otherwise park carefully on Great Hampden road, around the corner by the village hall.

Distance: 5.2 mls, Post code: HP16 9RQ, Grid ref: SP 845 015, w3w: ///vertical.origin.hiring

10th August - Tring Reservoir

A flat walk around the reservoir and the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal. Hopefully, lots of birdlife to see. Meet at the Startops End pay and display car park in Marsworth, near Tring. There is a Café at the end of the walk.

Distance: 3.5 mls, Post code: HP23 4LJ, Grid ref: SP 919 141 , w3w: ///occur.cult.gentleman

LONGER WALKS - 4th Monday. Meet at 9:45am for 10:00am start.

25th May – Chipperfield Circle

This walk will lead us through fields and woods surrounding this lovely Hertfordshire village. It is just under 6 miles long, mostly level and has 4 stiles. Meet at the free car park on the Common in Chipperfield (see details below). There is a Cafe called "Blackwells" and a Pub called "The Two Brewers" near the car park for those that wish to be refreshed.

Distance: 6 miles Post code: WD4 9BL Grid ref: TL 045 015 w3w: ///stages.common.stages

22nd June – Chess Valley Walk

Meet and park at the free West wood Park car park in Little Chalfont. From here it's a 5 min walk to Chalfont station. We will then take the train to Chesham, then walk through Lowndes Park & Meades Water Gardens. From here we will walk along the beautiful Chess Valley, stopping for a drink at Latimer House, before continuing past Chenies Manor, across the fields back to our starting point.

Distance: 7.2 mls, Post code: HP6 6PW, Grid ref: SU 997 981 w3w: ///stocks.agent.cover

27th July – Spade Oak along the Thames

Walk from the Spade Oak in Bourne End via Winter Hill to Marlow and back to Spade Oak. There's one longish but not overly steep climb and a similar descent back to the river. Some quiet service roads involved but most of the route is on footpaths. Meet at the free carpark in Coldmoorholme Lane, Bourne End, near the Spade Oak pub, which hopefully will be open by the time we finish.

Distance: 6.5mls Post code: SL8 5PS, Grid ref: SU 884 878 , w3w: ///dimes.protected.enable

24th August - Naphill to Speen and back)

A hilly 5.5 mile walk from Naphill to Speen and back, but with some super views over the valley. Initially descending to North Dean and back up via Piggots Hill to Speen, then back up near the Horses Home of

Rest fields. Meet at Naphill Village Hall and stopping there afterwards at the Bon Ami café. Please park right around the back of the village hall towards the Scout Hut.

Distance: 5.5 mls, Post code: HP14 4SX, Grid ref: SU 847 969, w3w: ///heat.pools.scare

Full details of our planned walks and any late changes can be found on our U3A website at https://highwycombe.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/walking/

All walks start at 10am, unless told otherwise. In case of bad weather and possible cancellation, please contact the specified walk leader by 8:30am on the day. We aim to send out an email reminder a few days before each walk.

Please let us know whether or not you will be joining us (this helps if walks are changed or cancelled at the last minute).

If you are joining us on a walk for the first time, then please contact Eleanor or the walk's leader to let us know you are coming - in case some details or information have been changed since originally planned!

Equipment - Over the winter months the walks may be wet & muddy in places, so please wear good walking shoes & waterproof jackets, walking poles may also help. Sometimes sun hats useful too! PLEASE let the leader know of any health issues and bring any medication that you think YOU might need.

WHIST

Our numbers have continued to grow steadily during this term which we are delighted about. Naturally we are making every effort to ensure they stay with us and it would be wonderful if we could attract even more members! We meet once a month on a Thursday afternoon. You do not need to have played before as our regular members are only too happy to show you.

At our meeting on 18th December 2025 Lyn G. won the lady's prize, Robert R for the men and Geoff P. won the booby prize.



At our meeting on 15th January 2026 which was again covered by Judith E. and Joy S. The lady's prize was won by Judith K, Joy S. for the men and Pat S the booby prizes. I would like to offer my grateful thanks once again to Judith and Joy for their continued support in my absence.

At our meeting on 19th February 2026, Heather A. won the lady's prize, Linda A. the men's and Lyn G. the booby prize.

At our meeting on 19th March 2026, Heather A. won for the ladies, Robert R. the men's and Brenda P.. the booby prizes.

We continue to be a friendly, welcoming group and would love to meet anyone who is keen to play the game of whist. As mentioned above we meet on the third Thursday of every month at 2 o'clock in Naphill Village Hall and if you are interested or wish to discuss the game of whist, I would welcome a call.



WOODCARVING



Our March meeting brought about something completely different from our normal monthly sessions by way of a photoshoot, which was gratefully supported by a visit from our chairman

Not something we would even perceive to be involved with; however, everybody was keen and excited about taking part. We set up a 'Show & Tell' table where each member

brought along some of their complete carvings, giving the photographer an additional subject to capture.

This came about when Nelly Mair, one of the Communications Officers at the u3a office, believed photographing woodcarvers at work during one of our normal meetings would make a fantastic subject for photography.



The main purpose was to create suitable photographs to be used to promote the u3a movement and to include some of the photos in their annual report, publicity materials, social media as well as in their image library for use by all the u3a's.

The professional photographer, Megan Taylor, spent the whole of our 3-hour session integrating with us, helping her to understand the practicalities of our members working on and shaping their carvings. This contributed further to her understanding more of the complexities of carving, enabling her to maximize the effectiveness of the photos she was taking.



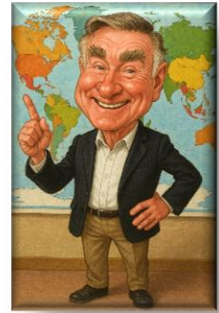
The whole session resulted in a busy and fun exercise which turned out to be less daunting and obtrusive than was previously thought.

(Photo credits: Megan Taylor)



THE WORLD WE LIVE IN

Meets in Hazlemere Memorial Hall on the 3rd Friday of the month at 2pm. The programme of talks around the theme of “the impact of...” on the World We Live In, introduced in 2025, continues in the spring and summer of 2026.



The talk on China and Taiwan given by a Professor from SOAS (London University) was enthusiastically received leading to a request for second talk from this speaker. This will take place in May.

In February, our programme on ‘fresh water’ started with the earliest account of a war for water from the Sumerian poem ‘Gilgamesh and Aga’ from the ‘Epic of Gilgamesh.’ The poem illustrated how important access to freshwater has been since early civilisations. Set in the Fertile Crescent of [ancient Mesopotamia](#), Gilgamesh features a strong ruler who abuses his power over an early city but is tempered by a ‘wildman’ created to be his equal. Whilst we all knew we need fresh water to survive; it came as a surprise to hear that less than 1% of that water is available for our use—the rest is in the ocean or frozen. Globally, more than two billion people do not have access to safe, readily available drinking water and due to pollution or populations using more water than their water sources can naturally replenish, damaging freshwater supplies. Worryingly, we learnt that 21 of the Earth’s 37 largest aquifers, areas where water collects underground, are shrinking.

March

This factual series always has its amusing interludes and The impact of wind in March was no exception. We investigated ancient myths and beliefs before a scientific look into the causes of wind and ways in which wind has driven, for example, exploration and the development of empires. Of course, we were introduced to wind power driving not only our ships -there are now proposals to install sails of C21st container ships- but also the all too familiar wind turbines. Concerns that the science in these talks might be ‘beyond them’ are quickly overcome by the ways in which our speakers explain any technologies. We have had no complaints!



April

The polluting effects of fast and ultra-fast fashion came as a surprise. The opening slide shown below graphically introduced the subject and the work of our guest professor whose research into how we might tackle the problem was a subject few of us had

considered in any depth.



WRITING FOR PLEASURE



The writing for pleasure group continues to thrive, now supported by an influx of relatively new members that have contributed some fresh and interesting ideas.

Our meetings currently tightly occupy the space in a modest private home and thus limit our numbers but the prospect of summer meetings in a garden or orchard might then provide room for just a few more would be writers.

Amongst some rich and varied contributions, a recent 'prompt' of circumstance arising from an unexpected strange voice in a telephone message mostly avoided the prospect of a scam but still uncovered a wide range of fascinating responses. These ranged from bad news from a hospital to a claim for paternity from a long-forgotten relationship - courtesy of modern DNA testing!

We all continue to derive much pleasure from our writing.

Your Local U3A

**If you're looking for a hobby
Or some jolly company,
And you've reached that certain time in life
When sometimes time is free,
Then how about exploring
Your local U3A?**

**There's lots it has to offer
And not too much to pay!
Do you like geology?
Or looking at fine art?
Or maybe ringing handbells
Is where you'd like to start?**

**How about photography
Or walking out together,
Sometimes in the sunshine
Or in inclement weather?
Perhaps you'd like a game of chess
Or rummikub or whist,**

**Croquet, ten pin bowling,
Or take part in a quiz?
Italian conversation,
Or singing just for fun,
Your local U3A has lovely groups
For everyone!**



SPEAKERS' CORNER

JANUARY Jon Mason: 'Little Orchard: Creating a Wildlife Garden'

We were delighted to welcome back geographer and wildlife enthusiast Jon who lives at Skittle Green. He gave us some stark figures about the decline of hedgehogs; 80% fewer than in the 70s. Insect decline has meant that we have fewer wild birds. We were encouraged to use natural fertiliser and leave part of our gardens to develop naturally.

He illustrated his talk with stunning photographs of his garden

FEBRUARY Dr Steve Coles: Nutribabble: an overview of the information and misinformation regarding nutritional advice.

Steve spent much of his working life in the Pharmaceutical industry and stressed that, while medical products are rigorously tested, nutritional ones are less well-regulated. Amazingly \$6 billion is spent every year on Collagen supplements! We need a balanced diet and water to keep our guts healthy while highly processed foods contain a lot of glucose which leave us wanting more. Watch out because one tube of Pringles is 1000 Calories!

MARCH Clare Waters: The Origins of the National Garden Scheme

Clare came to us at short notice because scheduled speakers were unable to come. She has completed an MA in Horticulture and Garden Design and became interested in the NGS which celebrates its centenary next year. She explained that Queen Alexandra recognised the need for trained nurses and a Memorial fund was set up in her honour.

A wealthy philanthropist, Elsie Wagg, wrote to the chairman of the Memorial fund in 1926 proposing that owners of private gardens should open their gardens to the public for 1 shilling. The proposal was accepted and the King agreed to open Sandringham.

Within seven months hundreds of gardens opened, in spite of the poor weather of 1927, and the fund for District Nurses was established.

2026 SPEAKER SCHEDULE

22 nd April	WPC Yvonne Fletcher. The Search for Justice	Jon Mason
27 th May	Life and Times of a Film Extra	Steve Coles
24 th June	Ruth Ellis 'The Last lady hanged	Alison Wall
22 nd July	Castles around London	Paul Barfield
26 th August	The Saxophone, My Life as an Army Musician Part 2'	John Kinory

Monthly Speakers may be subject to unavoidable change







SPRING QUIZ

1. When is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere in 2026?
2. What is the April birthstone?
3. In which country do cherry blossom trees signify the beginning of spring?
4. What are the spring Zodiac signs?
5. Who is the Greek goddess of Spring and nature?
6. What is the main spring allergy trigger?
7. Why is the 4th May called "Star Wars Day"?
8. Which major Jewish holiday occurs during Spring?
9. What are the 40 days and nights before Easter known as in Christianity?
10. Which Hindu holiday, known as the 'festival of colours', happens in Spring?



DINGBATS

<p>STRAW STRAW STRAW STRAW</p> 	<p>YOURS</p> 	<p>1. SIGHT  2. SIGHT 3. SIGHT 4. SIGHT 5. SIGHT</p>	<p>Palm Sunday Chelsea Patella</p>	 Chemistry
<p>SALISIGHTBURY</p>	<p>SLAPPLESANDPEARSANG</p>	<p>SM  KE</p>	<p>17:00 </p>	<p>O₂ MONK</p>







SPRING QUIZ ANSWERS

1. When is the first day of spring in the Northern Hemisphere in 2026? – *20th March*
2. What is the April birthstone? - *Diamond*
3. in which country do cherry blossom trees signify the beginning of spring? - *Japan*
4. What are the spring Zodiac signs? – *Aries, Taurus, Gemini*
5. Who is the Greek goddess of Spring and nature? - *Persephone*
6. What is the main spring allergy trigger? - *Pollen*
7. Why is the 4th May called “Star Wars Day”? *“May the Force (Fourth) Be With You”*
8. Which major Jewish holiday occurs during Spring? – *Passover or Pesach*
9. What are the 40 days and nights before Easter known as in Christianity? - *Lent*
10. Which Hindu holiday, known as the ‘festival of colours, happens in Spring? - *Holi*



DINGBATS SOLUTIONS

<p>STRAW STRAW STRAW STRAW ←</p>	<p>YOURS </p>	<p>1. SIGHT ❤️ 2. SIGHT 3. SIGHT 4. SIGHT 5. SIGHT</p>	<p>Palm Sunday Chelsea Patella</p>	<p> Chemistry</p>
<p>The Last Straw</p>	<p>Not my cup of tea</p>	<p>Love at first sight</p>	<p>Easter Bunny</p>	<p>Not rocket science</p>
<p>SALISIGHTBURY</p>	<p>SLAPPLESANDPEARSANG</p>	<p></p>	<p></p>	<p>O₂ MONK</p>
<p>In plain sight</p>	<p>Rhyming Slang</p>	<p>Gone up in smoke</p>	<p>5 o'clock Shadow</p>	<p>Air Fryer</p>



GROUPS TIMETABLE

WEEK OF MONTH	DAY	GROUP ACTIVITY	TIME	VENUES
First	Monday	Geology Rummikub	10.00 14.00	HMH NVH (Bon Ami)
	Tuesday	Plays, Poetry and Prose Ten-pin Bowling	10.00 13.30	H(s) Eden Centre
	Wednesday	Art Reading for Pleasure Croquet (April -October)	09.30 10.15 10.30	NVH HWL HW Croquet Club Hazlemere Rec Ground
	Thursday	Computer Quiz	10.00 14.00	NVH NVH
	Friday	Discovering Science	14.00	HMH
Second	Monday	Bird Watching incl. Walks Shorter Walk Genealogy	10.00 10.00 14.00	Newsletter Normally from NVH HZN Library
	Tuesday	Local History German Conversation	10.00 14.00	HMH H
	Wednesday	Croquet (April -October) Handbell Ringing	10.30 14.00	HW Croquet Club Hazlemere Rec Ground St. James Church Hall
	Thursday	Discovering Art History	10.00 14.00	NVH H
	Friday	Photography Psychology	10.00 14.00	HMH HMH
Third	Monday	French Conversation	14.00	NDVH
	Tuesday	Chess Writing for Pleasure 10-pin Bowling Italian Conversation	14:00 10.00 13.30 14.30	H H Eden Centre H
	Wednesday	Croquet (April -October)	10.30	HW Croquet Club Hazlemere Rec Ground
	Thursday	Whist	14.00	NVH
	Friday	The World We Live In	14.00	HMH
Fourth	Monday	Longer Walk (ramble) Singing for Fun Enjoying Shakespeare	10.00 10.00 13.45	Email Convenor LEVH H
	Tuesday	Simple Handicrafts' Antiques & Collectibles	10:00 14.00	H HCC
	Wednesday	Croquet (April -October) General Meeting	10.30 14.00	HW Croquet Club Hazlemere Rec Ground LG & LR VH
	Thursday	Wood Carving Ukelele Group Discovering Music	09.45 10.00 14.00	NDVH DCC H
	Friday	Pub Lunches	12.30	Email convenor

DCC (Downley Community Centre), H (Private Homes) HMH (Hazlemere Memorial Hall), LG & LR (Lacey Green and Loosley Row VH), HWL (High Wycombe Library), HZN (Hazlemere Library), HCC (Hughenden Community Centre), LEVH (Lane End Village Hall), NVH (Naphill Village Hall), NDVH (North Dean Village Hall), St. James Church Hall, Downley

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