

CHESS VALLEY



Registered Charity No. 1126990

NEWSLETTER

September - November 2020

website: www.cvu3a.uk



Members of the Photography Group are venturing out on their own in their search for subjects. David Hurd came across this stunning field of sunflowers at Old Hanging Wood, Chenies.

Keeping calm and carrying on: Chess Valley U3A Groups soldier on through COVID-19
Short quiz to exercise the grey matter



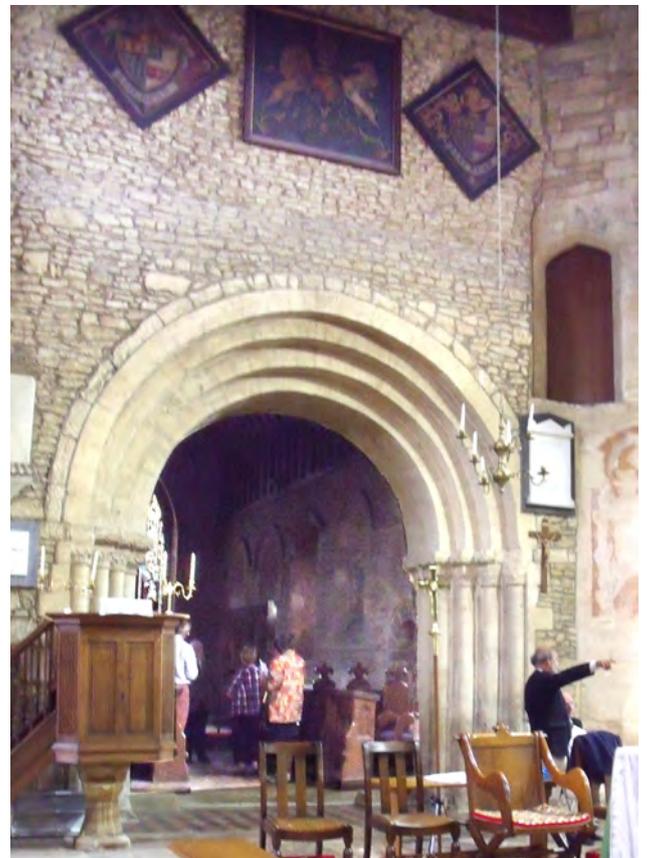
Jennifer Moss's presentation to the History Group featured many notable churches in Buckinghamshire. Anti-clockwise (from the top)

The airy interior of All Saints, Hillesden, dating from 15th Century and restored in the 19th by George Gilbert Scott.

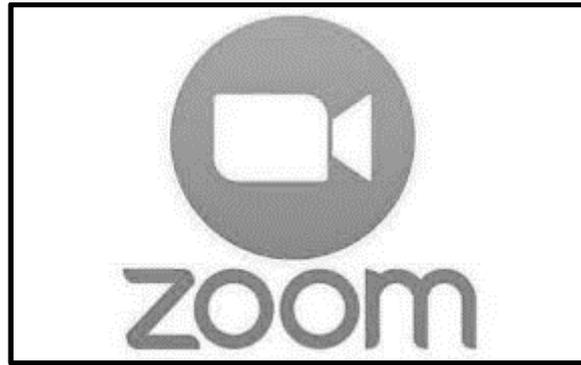
St Mary Magdalene, Willen, dates from 1680 and is in the Italian style.

An archetypal Aylesbury Font with characteristic fluting on the bowl.

The Chancel Arch of St James The Great, Hanslope.



Speakers for General Meetings



Mark Smith

**NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA
ZOOM**

Thursday 10th September

For Valour: The Story of the Victoria Cross

Mark Smith is a military museum creator, a specialist in military medals and a regular expert on *The Antiques Roadshow*. In his talk, he traces the history of Britain's highest award for gallantry in the face of the enemy and also presents some of the myths and exploits of those who have won the medal.

Dr Bill Block

**NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA
ZOOM**

Thursday 8th October

Operation Tabarin: Antarctic Secrets from World War 2

Bill is part of the British Antarctic Survey, based at Cambridge University. His talk is about a secret military expedition in WW2 to prevent German use of the Antarctic Peninsula, and to re-assert sovereignty over the British Antarctic Territory.

Annamaria Dall'Anese

**NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA
ZOOM**

Thursday 12th November

Jewels of London's Art Galleries and Museums

Annamaria is a London Blue Badge Guide and in normal times this tour is conducted on foot. It explores a small part of the vast wealth in London's best-known institutions, from the comfort of your home!

Anthony Poulson-Smith

**NOTE: VIRTUAL MEETING VIA
ZOOM**

Thursday 10th December

Christmas Unwrapped

Anthony is a freelance journalist and author, with 77 books published, as well as crosswords, quizzes, and puzzles. This talk features a rather different look at Yuletide, with an emphasis on words, so-called traditions and an examination of the 12 days of Christmas.

Notes from the Chair

Well, here we are, nearly six months into the COVID-19 pandemic. Restrictions have been eased somewhat but the circumstances also change with bewildering rapidity, which makes it difficult to make long-term plans. The generally nice weather has made the situation a bit more bearable and it will be interesting to see how things appear as we head into the winter months.

Membership update

It's gratifying to report that, at the time of writing, 630 members have renewed their subscriptions for 2020 and they will be entitled to attend and vote at our virtual AGM on 10th September (see below). This is, I have to admit, a big drop from our total of 740 members last year but not entirely surprising given the curtailment of so many of our activities. I have mentioned before, but it's worth repeating, that we plan to make a major discount off the membership cost in 2021 for people who continued in membership this year, to compensate for the lack of many activities. People joining, or re-joining, next year, will pay the full subscription.

Keeping going

18 of our Groups have kept going using our two Zoom accounts and others have kept in touch using email and social media such as Facebook and WhatsApp. The nice weather has also meant that some smaller Groups have been able to meet in members' gardens, whilst observing the social distancing protocols.

Sharing the load

A number of our Convenors have been running their Groups for a long time and are wanting to back away and take things a bit easier, which is very understandable. The difficulty is always the same that nobody steps forward to replace them and we have lost a number of Groups because of the lack of a Convenor.

In the Railways Group, we have adopted a slightly different model which might hold the key to this problem. Graham Yellowley is the main, and I am the back-up, Convenor, but we have a small steering group of members who meet to plan the year's programme and then share out the work of recruiting speakers, organising outings and so forth. This lightens the load on the Convenor/s and also provides more resilience if they are away for any reason. Can I commend this approach to other Groups, to avoid them just disappearing when their Convenors have finally had enough?

U3A Day

The Third Age Trust has – realistically – given up on trying to stage this in 2020 and are now aiming for Wednesday 2nd June 2021. This gives us more time to think about what we should do to raise the profile of the U3A movement and, you never know, attract more members. All ideas will be gratefully received.

U3A quiz evening 2020

With regret, the Committee has decided to cancel the quiz evening planned for 7th November. The factors that influenced our decision are: uncertainty about what government rules will be in place by then, the reduced capacity of any available venues and, probably, the reluctance of members to attend such an event. We did consider trying a virtual quiz, or a part-live, part-virtual one but there are technical difficulties with both and, anyway, this quiz is as much a social event with friends as a test of brainpower. Caroline and Anthony Jenks will continue to beaver away on their questions though, and we hope we can stage the event some time in 2021 – not necessarily in November.

(continues overleaf)

Thank you John

At our AGM in September, John Anderson is standing down as our Treasurer and – subject to members' approval – handing over the cheque-book to Geoff Naylor.

John became Treasurer soon after the formation of our U3A in 2008, which means he has been in the role for nearly 12 years, which is a pretty good innings. He's been a very steady influence on our Committee and has made sure we always understand the financial implications of our decisions. I have also personally enjoyed very much working with John and I will miss his presence at our deliberations. I wish him all the very best in his 'retirement'.

AGM and General Meeting, Thursday 10th September

As mentioned in recent communications, we shall hold our delayed 2020 AGM on Thursday 10th September at 2pm, immediately before our monthly General Meeting. The documents were distributed to members, either by email or post, at the end of July.

We do need at least 60 paid-up members to attend to achieve a quorum but I am confident that we will achieve that because we have an interesting speaker to follow. Mark Smith will be well known to fans of the *Antiques Roadshow* TV programme, where he is an expert on military medals. He will call on his expertise in his talk entitled *For Valour: The Story of the Victoria Cross*.

I shall send out the Zoom link a few days before the meeting.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting.

With best wishes – and stay safe



James Cadle
chair@cvu3a.uk

From the Groups Coordinators

The next Convenors' meeting will be on Zoom on 27th October 2020 at 2.00pm. The Zoom session will open for login from 1.45pm and details to be sent out nearer the date.

Please remember to contact us if any changes are made to the Group Convenors.

We wish to thank those Convenors who have organised Zoom sessions for their members and those that are having small meetings in back gardens. It is lovely to hear that several Groups are keeping in touch in these unusual times.

Best wishes and keep well.

Sue Broad and Helen Barnard
Groups Coordinators
groups@cvu3a.uk

Copy date for the next newsletter is 22nd November 2020

Chess Valley U3A Committee

| | | | |
|--|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Chair | James Cadle | chairman@cvu3a.uk | 01494 716215 |
| Vice-Chair | Helen Barnard | vicechair@cvu3a.uk | 01494 715588 |
| Treasurer | Geoff Naylor | treasurer@cvu3a.uk | 01494 434918 |
| Business Secretary | Chris Kinsley | secretary@cvu3a.uk | 01442 863028 |
| Membership Secretary | Jim Wilkie | membership@cvu3a.uk | 01494 782081 |
| Groups Coordinators | Sue Broad | groups@cvu3a.uk | 01494 718128 |
| | Helen Barnard | | 01494 715588 |
| Webmaster | Valerie Garrod | webmaster@cvu3a.uk | 01494 433585 |
| Newsletter Editors | John Bunyan | newsletter@cvu3a.uk | 01494 778858 |
| | James Cadle | | 01494 716992 |
| Speaker Organiser | Michael Cohn* | speakers@cvu3a.uk | 01494 763542 |
| Events Coordinator | Jackie Cobb | eventscoord@cvu3a.uk | 01494 773718 |
| <i>* indicates a non-voting member</i> | | | |

Study on everyday memory in the general population

We have been contacted by Brigita Brazauskiene who is a PhD student at the University of Hertfordshire. She is currently running an online survey about everyday memory errors across the life-span of healthy adults and wonders if our members would be interested in taking part. She has already collaborated with some U3As in Hertfordshire but, obviously, the broader the base of such research, the more value it has.

Brigita wants to address three main topics:

- Do you know how good your memory is in everyday life?
- Can you tell her how often you forget to do things (for example, make a phone call) or cannot recall facts and episodes from your past?
- Do you know how good at these tasks are people in age groups other than yours?

The study can be completed from a laptop, tablet or mobile phone and takes about 30-40 minutes to complete. Very importantly, no information identifying participants is collected.

This study has received ethical approval from the UH Ethics Committee: Protocol Number LMS/PGT/UH//04180.

The study can be found here: https://herts.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eZn0v07Oxlj2fP.

If you have any questions regarding this study, please contact Brigita by email at b.brazauskiene@herts.ac.uk.

Do we have your up-to-date contact details?

If you have moved, changed your phone number or have a new email address, please make sure you update your information via the Chess Valley U3A website (www.cvu3a.uk). Click on 'Membership Login' on the homepage and then use your ID which is your membership number (from your membership card) prefixed by the first two letters of your first name (for example 'Jo9999'). If you don't have internet access, please let the Membership Secretary know (contact details above). We'd hate for you not to be kept up-to-date with the happenings in your U3A or miss out on events and visits.

Chess Valley U3A Convenors

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

| Group | Convenor/s | U3A e-mail |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|
| Art | Vacancy | art@cvu3a.uk |
| Art Discussion 1 | Angela Bishop | artdiscuss@cvu3a.uk |
| Art Discussion 2 | Caroline Jenks | artdiscuss2@cvu3a.uk |
| Art Discussion 3 | Helen Barnard | artdiscuss3@cvu3a.uk |
| Book Group 1 | Gillian Eastmond | bookgroup1@cvu3a.uk |
| | Mavis Earnshaw | |
| Book Group 2 | Liz Howlett | bookgroup2@cvu3a.uk |
| | Christine Ross | |
| Book Group 3 | Eileen Overton | bookgroup3@cvu3a.uk |
| Book Group 4 | Jackie Cobb | bookgroup4@cvu3a.uk |
| Bowls (Short Mat) | Margaret Stickland | bowls@cvu3a.uk |
| Bridge | John Curtis | bridge@cvu3a.uk |
| | Patrick Clarke | |
| Bus Pass Adventures | Anne Muir | buspass@cvu3a.uk |
| Canasta | Julie Wolstenholme | mahjong@cvu3a.uk |
| Chess | Peter Schweiger | chess@cvu3a.uk |
| City of London Churches | Jackie Cobb | londonchurches@cvu3a.uk |
| Current Affairs | Eileen Overton | currentaffs@cvu3a.uk |
| Digital Imaging | Liz Stoelker | digimaging@cvu3a.uk |
| Dinghy Sailing | Wendy Barnes | sailing@cvu3a.uk |
| | Judith Young | |
| Eclectic Music | Juliet Crussell | music@cvu3a.uk |
| | Ron Hartwell | |
| Family History | Marian Bangs | familyhist@cvu3a.uk |
| | Sue Broad | |
| French Conversation | Morag Robertson | frenchcons@cvu3a.uk |
| French Intermediate | Hilary Alleston | french@cvu3a.uk |
| Gardening | Janice Cross | garden@cvu3a.uk |
| German | Jenny Lee | german@cvu3a.uk |
| History | Claire Paterson | history@cvu3a.uk |
| | Ian Hutt | |
| Italian | Joanna Hughes | newitalian@cvu3a.uk |
| Jazz Appreciation | Danny Robins | jazzmusic@cvu3a.uk |
| Keep Fit for 60+ | Chris Orme | keepfit60@cvu3a.uk |
| | Diane Bovingdon | |
| Line Dancing | Lynne Benes | u3alinedance@chiltern-u3a.org.uk |
| | Linda English | |
| | Elaine Knowles | |
| Mah Jong | Julie Wolstenholme | mahjong@cvu3a.uk |

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Chess Valley U3A Convenors (continued)

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

| Group | Convenor/s | U3A e-mail |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| MOTO | Mo Barnes | moto@cvu3a.uk |
| MOTO 2 | Stephanie Macnair | moto2@cvu3a.uk |
| | Peter Page | |
| Opera and Dance | (South Bucks U3A) | agopera@sbu3a.org.uk |
| Patchwork & Quilting | Mary Thompson | patchquilt@cvu3a.uk |
| | Angela Bratton | |
| Photography | Keith Hoffmeister | photography@cvu3a.uk |
| Pilates (1, 2 and 3) | Christine Ross | pilates@cvu3a.uk |
| | Liz Howlett | |
| Play Reading | Claire Paterson | playread@cvu3a.uk |
| | Linda Hepworth | |
| Poetry | Christine Ogborne | poetry@cvu3a.uk |
| Railways | Graham Yellowley | railways@cvu3a.uk |
| | James Cadle | |
| Scrabble for Fun | Tony Muir | groups@cvu3a.uk |
| Science & Technology | Mike Christianson | sciencetech@cvu3a.uk |
| | Allan Saunders | |
| | Peter Twist | |
| Singing for Pleasure | Angela Bratton | singing@cvu3a.uk |
| | Stephanie Rothwell | |
| Spanish Conv (Inter) | Hilary Alleston | spanishconv@cvu3a.uk |
| Stamps | Brian Feakes | stamps@cvu3a.uk |
| Tai Chi | Marian Bangs | taichi@cvu3a.uk |
| | Sue Broad | |
| Theatre | Chris Aylott | theatre@cvu3a.uk |
| | Diana Aylott | |
| Ukulele | Alan Bridges | ukulele@cvu3a.uk |
| Amblers | Susan Osborne | amblers@cvu3a.uk |
| Walkers 1 | Wendy Nimmo | walkers1@cvu3a.uk |
| Walkers 2 | Sue Rawbone | walkers2@cvu3a.uk |
| Walkers 3 | Mick Rothwell | walkers3@cvu3a.uk |
| Striders 1 | Andrew Brown | striders@cvu3a.uk |
| Striders 2 | Ian Lee | striders21@cvu3a.uk |
| Walks into History: Country | Tony Biddle | walkshist@cvu3a.uk |
| | Peter Schweiger | |
| Walks into History: London | Angela Shipley | walkslondon@cvu3a.uk |
| Wildlife | Harry Howlett | wildlife@cvu3a.uk |
| | Keith Sonley | |

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Chess Valley U3A Convenors (continued)

(All phone numbers are prefixed by 01494 unless otherwise indicated)

| Group | Convenor/s | U3A e-mail |
|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| Wine Appreciation 1 | Pauline & Tom Hohenberg | wine@cvu3a.uk |
| Wine Appreciation 2 | Graham Hitchener | wine2@cvu3a.uk |
| Writers | John & Helene Bunyan | writers@cvu3a.uk |

Reflections on time

The Greeks had a word for it, well two actually; Chronos for time as measurement and Kairos for time as a significant, 'carpe diem', moment in time. I think there is perhaps a third element to time that relates to its 'telescopicity'. I was first alerted to this aspect of time when in a sixties radio programme, someone spoke of knowing a soldier who fought at Waterloo. This sounded impossible until I did the maths and yes of course, it was perfectly plausible.

The 20th Century war years and the time between and since them continue to interest. A mere 20 years on from the close of WW1 (the one to end all of them) and we were at it again. But twenty years on from the close of WW2 and it was 1965 and we were on a planet that many of our parents could not begin to recognise. At the same time the great icons of WW2, including Spitfires and Vera Lynne, continue to shape our view of things in the 21st century and perhaps overly encourage us to look backward rather than forward.

Nowadays the most frequent and common form of time telescoping is when one recalls events that happened, say two years ago only to be corrected with the fact that it was at least six or seven years since. We all do that, but perhaps more interesting is that Harry S Truman's parents were fervent slave-owning Confederates. So much so that the President's mother refused to sleep in the Abraham Lincoln room when staying at the White House. It is difficult to make a connection or time line between the US Civil War and the US President who ordered the dropping of the Atomic bomb, but there you are.

A lot of music from the 1960s and 70s is now pretty well timeless, with our generation's children adding it to their own playlists. But roll back 60 years from 1970 and we are at the music hall. And songs by Vesta Tilly or Hetty King (who I once saw live) were regarded as quaint social history and never in the back catalogue of cool 1970s yooof.

Talking of our children; now that they are middle aged, we more easily remember ourselves in that very recent past. So, while the age gap to them is obviously the same, our current memory of it is much nearer. Our children also challenge our own perceptions. My son seems to think that the 1960s were not as liberal as they are claimed to have been. I naturally bridled at this but while twirling my wax moustaches probably agree that while more liberal than previous years, the decade that saw two Kennedys and Martin Luther King shot, and actually listened to what Mary Whitehouse said, might not be viewed as liberal today. And today also has ample room for improvement as recent events have quite literally, demonstrated."

'Timewaster'

News from the Groups

GROUP MEETINGS

Due to the pandemic, groups are currently adhering to government guidelines on social distancing and many are carrying on their activities using video conferencing, web resources and social media. All groups that have vacancies, whether active or dormant, are open to enquiries from new members.

LISTINGS OF GROUPS IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Groups that are currently dormant do not have an entry in 'News From The Groups', but readers are reminded that they have not closed and will resume normal activities when it becomes possible.

Art Discussion 1

Angela Bishop



We continue to enjoy the arts programmes on the TV in the safety of our homes. One member has opened her garden for a self distanced lunch this month, so that we can meet socially. We will watch with interest as the art galleries open their doors and perhaps have an autumn outing.

Art Discussion 2

Caroline Jenks



As a Group, we continued to meet virtually via email, and enjoyed discussing two 19th century English paintings by Sir Edwin Landseer, one depicting war and the other peace, which elicited rather negative comments. We then held a rather more lively discussion on a painting by the Belgian Surrealist artist René Magritte, entitled *The Empire of Light II*; a strange night/day conundrum of a picture. The TV and Internet have been a huge source of interest and entertainment for us. Recommended by our members, we have watched programmes on artists as different as Rembrandt and Warhol, galleries in lockdown and Monet's garden... but really what we would all prefer is an interesting monthly discussion with our artistic friends and afterwards a lovely slice of cake and a cup of tea: Bliss!

We almost achieved this in August with two socially distanced meetings. It was a great pleasure to meet friends again after such a long absence, however we had to split into two groups of six in order to follow the new rules. We met on two separate afternoons in Caroline's garden and had tea, but only brought wrapped cakes: Not quite up to our normal culinary standards! We discussed a variety of artworks, focusing most on the new Ai Weiwei installation; *History of Bombs*, at the Imperial War Museum, and the new Trafalgar Square Fourth Plinth sculpture; *The End*, by Heather Phillipson. Though neither piece was particularly liked by our group, they both inspired discussion about their meanings and how effectively they conveyed ideas. Both also led us to consider what constitutes art and the role of public art.

As lockdown is clearly continuing into the foreseeable future, we have finally decided to move over to Zoom meetings in the autumn.

The gallery owner tells the artist he's got good news and bad news. "The good news is that a man came in and asked whether your paintings would appreciate in value if you were dead. When I said yes, he bought 15 of them." "That's great," the artist replied. "What's the bad news?" "He was your doctor," the gallery owner replies.

Pablo Picasso surprises a burglar at his chateau, who escapes. He tells the police he can produce a drawing of the man. Police subsequently arrest a Mother Superior, the Minister of Finance, a guitar and a bull.

Q: What do you call a painting by a cat? A: A paw-trait.

(Workjoke)

Book 1**Mary Saywood**

This smaller friendly group normally meets about every six weeks on a Friday morning at members' homes. We report on one or two books, fiction or non-fiction, that we have been reading. Often other people have also read them, but in any case the choices stimulate discussion. If it is possible, the owner of the book lends it to those of the group who, having heard about it, want to read it. This means no one has to read a book they really do not like but they can be introduced to all types of new books. Since the previous Convenor has just moved to a different district, there are now two new joint Convenors. Obviously a face-to-face meeting is the best but, as that is not possible at the moment, we hope to soon have digital meetings instead. If you want to try this different type of book group, please contact a Convenor. You will find us a group who welcome new members.

Book 2**Liz Howlett & Christine Ross**

Chesham Library has been in touch to say they hope to soon be able to initiate the supply of book sets to reading groups. This is a start, but the quandary for Book Group Two is that our Wednesday monthly meetings are held in a room within the library. Even if we could socially distance it would be less than ideal for our 10 members to sit with masks on to discuss a book! So the Convenors will be in touch with the group to agree the best way forward.

Book 3**Eileen Overton**

In normal times, meetings are held in members' homes at 2pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Availability is governed by the ten books we get each month from Chesham library; we have our full quota of members at the moment but please contact the Convenor in case a vacancy occurs. Great news: We are due to recommence our books, from Chesham library, in September. For August we toyed with six of us meeting up in a garden but the weather looks too unreliable. We will use Zoom again where we can discuss books we have been reading in the past month.

Book 4**Jackie Cobb**

We have had several Zoom meetings and also one meeting in a member's large garden where we were able to socially distance. The books we have read have been very different, which have made for a good discussion each month. The next books we intend to read are *Tidelands* by Philipa Gregory, *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen, *The Enchanted April* by Elizabeth von Arnim and *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. That will keep us reading up to the end of November and should give us plenty to discuss.

Canasta**Julie Wolstenholme**

Members of the Canasta Group are managing to keep their spirits up by staying in touch via WhatsApp with messages and jokes.

Current Affairs**Eileen Overton**

Meetings are normally held in members' homes at 2pm on the first Thursday of each month. We give our opinions on how to sort out the world's problems in a spirit of mutual respect and friendship. We have our options open for our meeting in September, either in a garden or via a Zoom session, which has been booked. We are now able to discuss a full range of topics making for a very interesting meeting. If you would like to join us please contact the convenor for the next meeting details.

Digital Imaging

Liz Stoelker



We have continued with our Zoom meetings and members appreciate the chance to catch up with one another. We have discussed the 2020 Challenge and Neil has set the September meeting as the deadline for submitting our masterpieces. He will review the images and show us the results in the October meeting.

At the July meeting, two members provided answers to questions posed in June and gave us the low-down on 'Focus Stacking' and 'Clipping Masks'. In August we had quite a lot of discussion on HS2 and Keith Hoffmeister encouraged us to visit the Chiltern Society web site to see the latest pictures of the work going on. We agreed to set a programme for future meetings, so I am asking for volunteers and suggestions for topics. As a start, in September Alex is going to talk about 'Conversion to Black and White'.

Family History

Sue Broad & Marian Bangs



Unfortunately we have been unable to have any face-to-face meetings since lockdown. However, the Society of Genealogists (SOG) and The National Archives (TNA) have been making online presentations available and they both have a list of subjects that can be booked with a live link up to the speaker with the opportunity to submit a question after the talk, for a live reply.

Our booking at the Town Hall is still in the diary for the First of September, when we hope to invite a small number of our members along to decide how we should plan for the future.

French Conversation

Morag Robertson



We have continued to meet using Zoom and are hopeful of meeting in an outside environment soon!

New members who are interested in conversing in French are welcome to join us.

French Intermediate

Hilary Alleston

The French Group met in the convenor's home at the end of July and were very pleased to see one another after all the Zoom meetings. We didn't get round to speaking enough French however, so we are all preparing some autobiographical pieces to get us going next time. We hope to meet here again this month, weather permitting, and indoors after that if we are allowed.

Gardening

Janice Cross



The Gardening Group has not been meeting, but we continue to keep in touch via Simple Membership, sharing photos and gardening information. With the reopening of the National Garden Scheme at the end of June, some members have been visiting local gardens that open for the scheme. The proceeds from such garden openings go to the many nursing and caring charities that the NGS supports, such as Macmillan, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, and Carers Trust. Locally, Winchmore Hill Gardens, unable to open for real for local charity

Rennie Grove Hospice, set up an online virtual tour of some of the beautiful gardens in the village, including that belonging to gardening group member Stephanie Rothwell, and raised over £3000. You can take the virtual tour, and see Stephanie's garden by going to the Rennie Grove website at renniegrove.org.

My gardener talked to me about edible herbs I can grow. It was sage advice.

Did you hear about the gardener who went crazy? He was hearing voices in his shed.

I stood in my garden early yesterday morning wondering where the sun had gone. Then it dawned on me.

I used to make loads of money clearing leaves from gardens. I was raking it in.

(sungardening)



During the lockdown the German Conversation Group has continued to meet successfully via Zoom. Here are a few Deutsche Motivationsprüche; ie Motivational Sayings:

‘Es wird nicht leichter. Du wirst stärker’: It doesn't get easier. You get stronger

‘Mann muss an sich selbst glauben. Das ist das Geheimnis’: You need to believe in yourself. That's the secret

‘Leben heißt nicht zu warten, bis der Sturm vorbeizieht, sondern lernen, im regen zu tanzen’: Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass, but about learning to dance in the rain.

‘Du schaffst das’: You can do it.



We were very pleased and grateful that Julian Hunt, at short notice, agreed to give a talk to us via Zoom, for our June meeting. His presentation *Metroland* gave 40 plus members a trip down memory lane with some great shots of steam locomotives and stations along the Metropolitan Line. Such an interesting story of the world's first underground railway commonly called *The Met*, it opened in 1863 as a passenger and goods service with gas-lit wooden carriages hauled by steam locomotives. Originally running between Paddington and Farringdon, and eventually running north into the Middlesex countryside, where it stimulated the development of new suburbs: Metroland.

Our talk in July by Stephen Barker, Heritage Adviser on Military History, had a rather unusual title: *Hardit Singh - The Flying Sikh*. Stephen enlightened us on the life of Hardit Singh Malik, from leaving his home in Rawalpindi, India, to his chosen new life in England; a journey, which at the age of only 14, he organised himself and undertook alone. This single fact marked him out as having potential. He achieved an education at Balliol College, Oxford and entered the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, where he flew many missions, eventually being shot down and injured. As a Sikh, he wore a turban instead of a helmet, though he eventually had a specially designed helmet to fit over his turban. He played first-class cricket between 1914 and 1930 including County Championship matches for Sussex. He joined the Indian Civil Service in 1922 where he had a distinguished career serving in many areas. He was the first Indian High Commissioner to Canada and later served as Indian Ambassador to France. He had a truly amazing and full life, overcoming prejudices with his charm and good humour.

Unable to have our usual summer visit, our member, Jennifer Moss, stepped into the breach with a truly beautifully presented talk on Buckinghamshire's Favourite Churches. There are between three and four hundred churches in Buckinghamshire and Jennifer showed us some of the best and most interesting in design both internally and externally, with maps so we could visualise exactly where they were.

For our September meeting, Peter Healy will be telling us about John Dalton; the cleverest scientist we've probably never heard of. In October, Helen Barnard, our Vice Chairman, will give us an insight into *Gladstone and Family*. November and December programme plans are yet to be confirmed with the speakers.

We had hoped to return to our usual meeting venue at Chesham Town Hall by September. Although they are open for hirers, the restrictions, of course, are many and we would only be able to admit 20 members to meetings. We felt this was too restrictive and actually our Group were better served by continuing to Zoom. We do hope it won't be too long before we can all meet again face-to-face.



Meetings at Amersham Free Church, where the Jazz Group meet, have been suspended until further notice. In the meantime we will continue to issue YouTube clips and any other interesting jazz related items that come our way. These will be issued on the dates that we would normally have got together. Contributions from members are very welcome.

(cont.)

Our schedule for September and October 2020:

September 29: YouTube clips

October 27: YouTube clips

Keep Fit for 60+

Chris Orme & Diane Bovington



When The White Hill Centre closed, Trisha Baptist (our teacher) suggested that we could join up with her other class and do Keep Fit on her tennis court (weather permitting). I put this to the group and a couple of us have been regulars on a pay as you go basis. When things return to some sense of normality, I will contact the group to see how they feel about continuing as a U3A class.

Patchwork & Quilting

Mary Thompson & Angela Bratton



We have all been patiently sewing at home, waiting for the go ahead to meet again at Hyde Heath Hall, to which we are all looking forward. The very hot weather, although welcome, has slowed down productivity somewhat.

We are happy to welcome new members. Please email or telephone one of us for further information. Experience of sewing, but not necessarily patchwork, is an advantage, as is the possession of and familiarity with a sewing machine.

Please view the Patchwork and Quilting picture feature on our colour pages (ed.)

Photography

Keith Hoffmeister



Because of the current restrictions, unfortunately our meetings are cancelled until further notice.

We normally meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.00 in Little Chalfont Village Hall. We occasionally have an outside speaker during the winter months. From April to October we have a monthly field trip and look at the results at the following meeting. We also intend to cover a range of topics of interest to members who contribute £1 towards the cost of refreshments and speakers. New members are always welcome regardless of experience and ability.

Pilates (Groups 1,2 & 3)

Liz Howlett & Christine Ross



For those who are happy to Zoom into our teacher Sue's *In My Kitchen Pilates Class*, we are now into our fourth block of six week Monday morning sessions, which take us to the beginning of September. We will be guided by her (and by U3A advice) as to when 'Pilates for Real' can start once more. Currently it would not be feasible for us to hire a hall, suitably sanitise it, socially distance and bring along our own kit, as we will no longer be able to share Sue's collection of props. Those are the negatives: The positive is that with Zoom, at least we have no car parking problems!

Play Reading

Claire Paterson & Linda Hepworth



We have held two meetings via Zoom in May and June. As we have been unable to order plays through the library we chose a television play to watch and discuss in May. *Don't Take my Baby* on BBC 3 was a BAFTA award-winning factual drama telling the story of a young disabled couple facing the terrifying prospect of losing custody of their newborn daughter. Heart wrenching, we all felt, with superb acting depicting the anguish of the couple, their desperate attempts to prove they were capable of caring for their baby, the anger and frustrations that they experienced with each other. Such a relief when they were given custody. We all found it thought provoking, something many of us had not had to think about before. Some of us felt that it was a brave decision to have a child in the first place and I think we would all have liked a follow-up to see how things were working out; but a bit too much of an intrusion perhaps.

(cont.)

In June we watched the 2020 film version of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* on BBC2, as part of their BBC History series. It had a stellar cast of Judi Dench, Reese Witherspoon, Rupert Everett, Colin Firth et al. It is a complete farce, where two Victorian gentlemen adopt a double identity under the name of Ernest to pursue marriage partners. I think we rather felt it was all too stupid but it was Oscar Wilde showing, through satire, humour and clever dialogue, the triviality with which Victorian London treated institutions as serious as marriage.

Before our July Meeting, which took place outdoors in a member's garden (very pleasant and much preferable to zooming), we watched the reprise of Alan Bennett's *Talking Heads*. We individually chose the ones we wanted to watch, there being 12 altogether. The general feeling was that they were mostly well-acted though very depressing. In some instances it was hard to forget the original actor, particularly in *Lady of Letters* which was performed originally by Patricia Routledge, but this time, by Imelda Staunton. Particularly liked was Harriet Walter in *Soldiering On* and Martin Freeman in *A Chip in the Sugar*, originally played by Bennett himself. Jodie Comer was not so good in *Her Big Chance* and the new play *An Ordinary Woman* with Sarah Lancashire, who everyone likes, had a pretty awful subject and was really rather strange.

Strange too that plays with such depressing themes should be chosen by the BBC at a time when so many people were going through very difficult and in some cases very lonely times. Did we really need to be reminded? It's very odd planning.

We have actually managed to order a playset from the Library for our August meeting and will be reading a comedy thriller, *The Haunted Bookshop* by Lynn Brittney. This will again be in a member's garden, weather permitting.

Poetry

Christine Ogborne

Our poetry meetings continue despite the current situation, and we manage this by email, along with follow-up discussions. It seems to be working quite well, but we look forward to meeting up again soon! In June we looked at Scottish poets and among familiar names such as Carol Ann Duffy and Kathleen Jamie, some less well-known poets emerged. We even had the lyrics from a CD by Bob Dylan! July saw us looking up at the sun, moon and stars and some beautiful poetry including *The Sun Has Long Been Set* by Wordsworth, *Sunlight* by Seamus Heaney and *LXIX* by Bliss Carman; a North American poet. In August we exchanged poetry by Wordsworth, to read and enjoy.

Railways

Graham Yellowley & James Cadle



Our Railways Group members have given fantastic support both in terms of embracing and attending our Zoom meetings as well as donating £5 per person to cover the Railway Groups speaker costs for 2020. Their response has been excellent and much appreciated. Our recent talks were:

May 15th: Francis Gomme – *The Heyday of Steam*. Our first Railways Group Zoom meeting and 24 attendees, which was superb. This was Francis' third talk to the group. This great presentation looked at Steam Trains at their peak. Francis interwove excellent commentary with some great pictures, a number of which were of the London to Buckinghamshire area, which brought happy memories to a lot of the group. We are looking to invite Francis to present Part Four in 2021.

June 19th: Peter Oakden: *Sir Nigel Gresley's A4 Pacifics*. Our trip to Pendon Museum was cancelled due to Coronavirus so Peter stepped into the breach and gave a wonderful presentation on Sir Nigel Gresley and his A4 Pacific Class engines. There were some wonderful images of streamlined engines across the world and an A4 Pacific engine with and without its streamlining. A famous A4 Pacific was 'Mallard' which holds the world speed record for a steam engine. It is quoted at a record of 126 miles per hour but actually reached 125.88 miles per hour, Peter advising that there is still on-going debate as to whether Mallard reached 125 or 126 miles per hour!

July 17th: We were all set for Jeff Rozelaar to present *Homeward Bound*, which discusses architecture and anecdotes about UK Railway stations. However Jeff had to reschedule to attend a funeral. We have now scheduled this for September 11th.

(cont.)

The Programme for the rest of 2021 now looks like this:

September 11th Jeff Rozelaar: *Homeward Bound* (Zoom)
October 16th Nigel Lowey: *St Pancras Station* (Zoom)
November 20th To be advised
December 11th or 18th James Cadle: *Piccadilly Line* (probably Zoom)

In the last Newsletter I asked: Can you name two London Underground stations that use all five vowels? The answers are Mansion House and South Ealing.

Please contact the Convenors if you wish to join the Group, you will be very welcome.

Science & Technology

Mike Christianson, Allan Saunders & Peter Twist



Our talks will be via Zoom Meetings until further notice. The link for the meetings will be sent to members close to the proposed date.

21st September: Paul Le Blond: either *The Science of Transport* or *The Environmental effects of Aviation*.

19th October: Gillian Eastmond: *Factfulness*

16th November: Ian Hutt: *Extremeophiles*

Spanish Conversation (Intermediate)

Hilary Alleston



The Spanish Group has now met in the Convenor's garden; such a pleasure after months of Zoom, and we spent a couple of hours catching up on all the little things that had been left aside. We were pleased to find that our Spanish hasn't suffered unduly and we shall continue to meet in person for as long as possible, hoping that we can meet indoors before too long.

Tai Chi

Sue Broad & Marian Bangs



Since our last actual class was cancelled, 15 of us have been meeting up on Zoom weekly with our instructor, for a shortened session of warm up exercises and practicing the movements we have learned in class.

There is a possibility that we can return to the White Hill Centre in September, but it will be with a much smaller class and will also depend on the latest lockdown procedures, which seem to be changing daily/weekly.

Theatre



Since our last theatre trip to see a wonderful performance of *Singin in the Rain* at The Mill at Sonning, with a meal before the show, there has been nothing at all to report from the Theatre Group. Planned visits to see the musical *Come From Away* and Tom Stoppard's latest play *Leopoldstadt* were cancelled: Those of us who had paid for tickets were fortunate to receive a full refund.

Covid-19 has had such a devastating effect on the theatre world and no-one has any idea when it will be safe to travel in coaches and visit theatres in London and elsewhere, so the Chess Valley U3A Theatre Group members will just have to wait patiently until such time as the pandemic is well and truly over and it is deemed safe to mix freely again.

We would like to hear from anyone who is interested in taking over the running of the Theatre Group when this time comes. Three people have volunteered to run it as part of a team, but we would welcome a few more, especially those who would like to choose which shows to see.

We miss all the people we have met over the past years as Convenors, and look forward very much to meeting up again when it is safe to do so.



Unfortunately the Ukulele Group are still not able to meet physically at the moment due to the continuing problems with Covid-19 and social distancing regulations, so we will continue having our 'virtual' meetings on Zoom.

We were hoping we could have an open-air practice at the beginning of August, but it was at the time when infection numbers started to rise so, to be on the safe side, we abandoned that idea. We're hoping that as things continue to relax, we'll be able to meet up soon. After all, we can all go to the pub with friends, so why not meet up for a Ukulele sing song!

Walking Groups

Because of current restrictions, none of the walking groups are gathering for their activities. Many individuals from the groups are out walking on their own however, and researching new routes for future walks.

Amblers (3 - 4 miles)

Sue Osborne

In July, a select band returned to ambling as a group (limited to six), starting from the common at Hyde Heath and omitting our usual lunch at a pub or cafe.

Numbers are down at present owing to health problems and understandable fears relating to Coronavirus. However, a walk is planned from Ashridge in August and we hope to continue with a programme in the months to come, following government guidelines.

Walkers (5 - 7 miles)

Walkers 1

Wendy Nimmo

It seems a little crazy that we can only meet outside in groups of up to six, when the pubs are open with much larger groups, but there you go! So we are walking in groups of six or sometimes 12 split into two groups walking in opposite directions. Since we have been so lucky with the weather, we have been enjoying our socially distanced picnics at the end of the walk. No doubt when the weather is no longer suitable for picnics, some of us may repair to the pub.

Walkers 2

Sue Rawbone

Back at the beginning of July we started small group walks which have proved successful for a number of our members, especially those who live on their own. We have, so far, run six walks in July with a further five in August and hopefully will continue in the following months until we are able to walk in larger groups.

Pre Covid-19 restrictions, Walkers 2 & 3 collected £1 from each of the walkers at the end of the walks and this money has now been put to good use: £250 to the Thames Valley Air Ambulance Trust and £250 to the Chiltern Society to pay for a gate to replace a stile in memory of Mike Blanchard, who passed away earlier this year. We have now been told that this gate is due to be installed towards the end of Pednor Bottom where the path from Chartridge crosses the road towards Little Pednor Farm. We look forward to making use of this gate on one of our many walks in the future.

We hope that you are all keeping well and please join our walks when you feel the time is right, as it would be lovely to meet up again.

Striders 1 & 2 (7 - 15 miles)

Andrew Brown & Ian Lee



'Tempus mutatur' or, as Bob Dylan put it over 50 years ago, 'the times they are a-changing'! Normally at this time of year we would be telling all and sundry that we have enjoyed a wonderful summer of walks of various lengths (in the sun?), the highlight of which would have been the annual long summer walk along the Seven Sisters path from Seaford to Eastbourne. Sadly, none of that has proved possible this year: Striders have not walked officially for six months and there is no immediate prospect of any change given

that nearly all of us are in the vulnerable category, on age grounds. But we have not been entirely idle: Whilst the Convenors have been watching and carefully observing government guidance on group walking, we have also encouraged members to continue walking, either individually or in small groups of up to six people, with appropriate social distancing. Feedback we have received has shown that many Striders have remained active in that respect, and indeed proactive in inviting other Striders to join small unofficial walking groups. We are very grateful to those who have led these walking groups, as I am to Andrew for arranging enjoyable fortnightly Zoom sessions for any Striders wishing to take part.

I should also express the gratitude of both Convenors to the Committee of the CVU3A for confirming that our interpretation of government guidance on the resumption of walking groups is correct. It is, however, difficult to predict what the next few months will hold in store for us. We must just hope that normal service is resumed as soon as possible and that, although the annual Christmas walk and lunch in its usual form is most unlikely to take place, we hope to be able to hold some form of Christmas event instead.

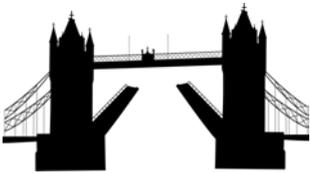
Meanwhile, if any readers are interested in joining one or other of the Striders Groups, please contact either Andrew Brown (Striders 1) or Ian Lee (Striders 2). In normal circumstances Striders 1 walks on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month and Striders 2 on the first and third Tuesdays.

Walks in London

Angela Shipley

Treasurer: Mick Rothwell

Zoom London Walk: Musical Covent Garden: June 10th



The day dawned dull and threatened rain, but none of us were the least bit worried as we settled into our armchairs for either a 9.30 or 11am tour of Covent Garden in the capable hands of Adam Scott, one of our familiar London Walks guides. With real live walks off the agenda, London Walks have come up with an

impressive list of virtual walks put together by the guides to both keep us entertained and them in work, until we can resume travelling to London.

Over an hour, Adam exposed us to Rock, Opera, Classical, Reggae, Jazz, Musicals and Theatre music; something surely for everybody.

We started in Maiden Lane, the first recording studio in Europe in 1898, where we viewed a pianist precariously perched on a stool balanced on a table playing a piano on stilts to stop vibrations from the floor from detracting from a rendition of *Coming through the Rye*. The quality was pretty dire and a few vibrations could not have done much more harm but here was born the EMI Recording Label.

Next, to the Savoy Hotel built 1889 and where you can sleep for one night in a room with no view, for £523. It was frequented by Gilbert and Sullivan, their operettas being performed in the nearby Savoy Theatre. Later in 1965, Bob Dylan invented pop video backings on the Savoy steps, filming the track of the film *Don't Look Back*. The Doyle Carte Company, Marianne Faithfull and the Beatles all added their names as patrons.

On to the Lyceum Theatre where live music was enjoyed post World War II. It is the long time home of *The Lion King* and before that, Bob Marley and the Wailers recorded here in the 1970s, performing Calypso, Scar and Reggae. The original building dating from 1834 was employed as a dance hall, but in 1996 Andrew Lloyd Webber paid for a complete refurbishment.

There has been a theatre on the site of the Royal Opera House since 1660, closed by Oliver Cromwell and later rebuilt on the say-so of Charles II using the original Floral Hall, flower and vegetable market which now brings income from its bars and cafes. It is also home to the Royal Ballet. Pavarotti became a star within its walls and George Frederick Handel attempted to bring Italian Opera to the masses, but the populace did not like the foreign language and rejected it until John Rich opened with *The Beggars Opera* in English in the 18th Century. This was more to their liking.

Two more destinations: Firstly the Music Hall with its 19th Century façade in the 1860s banned women on their own, lest they were 'looking for business'. Later, Marie Lloyd performed her many acts of double entendre here. Finally we moved to the Actor's Church of St Pauls where Eliza Doolittle sold her wares under the portico. Noel Coward is commemorated for composing *London Pride*, mimicking the tune of the German National Anthem. There is a blue plaque to Thomas Arne, who in the 1770s composed *Rule Britannia*.

Angela Shipley



The Wildlife Group has continued to operate over the last three months thanks to the support of many of its members. Yes, we have had some fun viewing wildlife videos and running competitions based on quizzes and photographic captions. Sadly, field visits and physical meetings have not taken place and our programme of events remains on hold rather than cancelled. As we live in uncertain times, we will be taking a rain-check in early September on how to move forward into the last quarter of 2020. Until then, members are encouraged to share information on all matters relating to wildlife and the environment – currently butterflies and moths are the flavour of the month, but soon it will be berries and fungi. The membership remains open to newcomers. If you would like to join the group please email the Convenors on wildlife@cvu3a.uk

Wine Appreciation 1

Pauline & Tom Hohenberg



WAG1 has continued with virtual meetings using the excellent CVU3A Zoom account. In May the Connors chose two wines from Tesco that everyone managed to buy and imbibe at the same time: A Picpoul de Pinet and a Dark Horse Cabernet Sauvignon were enjoyed by most of us.

In June, the Broombys chose two wines from Waitrose: La Piuma Orvieto and a Finca Flichman Reserva Malbec. Again they were well received.

In July, we tried something different with each couple recommending something different. This produced three whites, a rose and two reds; surprisingly, five from France and one from Spain. We had a white Côtes de Gascogne from Tesco, a Chablis from Laithwaites, a Sauvignon Blanc from Waitrose, a Côtes de Provence Rose from Waitrose, a Lagunilla Rioja Reserva from Majestic and a Côtes de Bourg from Avery's. All were enthusiastically received.

Writers

Helene & John Bunyan



We are very sad to report the death in July of Annie Channing Williams, a founder member of our Writers Group. As a costume designer and the wife of a well-known film producer she had led an interesting life, and her contributions to our meetings were always very personal. We especially enjoyed her monologues by the family dog, Moxie, whose escapades entertained us many times. We will miss her, and send our heartfelt sympathy to her family.

We have continued to meet successfully via Zoom. Recent meeting topics consisted of Trees In Our Lives, Bastille Day (our meeting fell on July 14th) and Birthdays. Our September meeting is being brought forward a week to avoid holiday commitments. We are hoping for this one, to meet in a member's garden with social distancing, if the weather permits.

We welcome new members

Some Definitions:

Adult: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

Committee: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

Raisin: A grape with sunburn

Wrinkles: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

Inflation: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

Secret: Something you tell one person at a time.

Tomorrow: One of the greatest labour saving devices of today. (c/o Ian Hutt)

Quiz

Because we've had to cancel our annual quiz this year, and having a couple of pages spare, here is a short quiz to help you get over your withdrawal symptoms. There is no prize – just a rosy glow of self-satisfaction.

We'll publish the results in the September e-bulletin and the next newsletter.

Round A: History (World War Two)

- 1 In which country did the two Battles of El Alamein take place?
- 2 What was the nickname of the British 7th Armoured Division, acquired during the campaign in north Africa?
- 3 Which country (then a British colony) was awarded the George Cross in 1942?
- 4 What was the first commodity to be rationed in Britain during the war?
- 5 Lord Haw Haw was the name the British gave to a traitor who made German propaganda broadcasts to Britain and was executed for treason after the war. What was his real name?
- 6 What was Britain's main fighter aeroplane, in terms of the numbers deployed, during the Battle of Britain?
- 7 The brunt of the Battle of Britain air defence was born by No 11 Group RAF, responsible for London and the South East. Where was their Operational HQ (nearest town)?
- 8 In 1940, what operational name did Hitler give to the planned invasion of Britain?
- 9 In the battle for which Russian city was the entire German 6th Army eventually captured by the Soviets?
- 10 In 1944, Germany deployed the world's first ever cruise missile aimed at London. What was its British nickname? (There are two possible answers). For a bonus point, what did the Germans call it (again, two possible answers)?

Round B: Geography

- 1 What is the capital city of Afghanistan?
- 2 Which is closer to the Australian mainland – New Zealand or Indonesia?
- 3 What is the capital of the US state of Texas?
- 4 After which British monarch was the island of South Georgia named?
- 5 Which lies further north, Glasgow or Moscow?
- 6 What is the principal export of Jamaica?
- 7 Which is the largest US state by area?
- 8 Which is the southernmost of the German Länder (states)?
- 9 To which country does Prince Edward Island belong?
- 10 What is the present-day name of the former British colony of Northern Rhodesia?

Round C: Music

- 1 Several composers left unfinished symphonies at their deaths but whose is generally known as the Unfinished Symphony?
- 2 Which rock band wrote and performed 'Whole Lotta Love'?
- 3 Who composed the song 'White Christmas'?
- 4 Whose poem was set to music in the final movement of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony?
- 5 Who formed and led the pub rock band Kilburn and the High Roads in 1970?
- 6 What piece of music is played on the arrival of the President of the United States?
- 7 Who composed 'Rule Britannia' as part of his masque about Alfred the Great, and premiered in 1740?
- 8 Who wrote and first performed 'Sweet Little Sixteen'?
- 9 What nationality was the composer Anton Bruckner?
- 10 What was the title of Coldplay's first album, published in 2000?

Round D: Science and Technology

- 1 Which planet in the Solar System is the fifth from the Sun?
- 2 Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin but what did Sir John Ambrose Fleming (no relation) invent?
- 3 What acid has the chemical formula $\text{HCl}_{(\text{aq})}$?
- 4 What bird has the Latin name *Pica pica*?
- 5 The term 'bit' is used in computing as the smallest unit of measurement for computer data. What is 'bit' short for?
- 6 Which scientist, discovered the role that oxygen plays in combustion but was charged with tax fraud and selling adulterated tobacco during the French revolution, and guillotined?
- 7 In what year was the last flight in the US Apollo space programme?
- 8 Whose Law states that 'The absolute pressure exerted by a given mass of an ideal gas is inversely proportional to the volume it occupies if the temperature and amount of gas remain unchanged within a closed system'?
- 9 To what biological class does the crocodile belong?
- 10 What is the abbreviation for the European Centre for Nuclear Research?

Round E: General knowledge

- 1 Which officer is responsible for controlling access to and maintaining order within the House of Lords?
- 2 Which football team started as the Thames Ironworks FC?
- 3 What is the official residence of the French Prime Minister?
- 4 What is the Royal Navy equivalent of the Army rank of Field Marshal?
- 5 Which head of state has been protected since 1506 by the Swiss Guard?

End

Chess Valley U3A Groups Schedule

| FIRST in month | | | | |
|--|---------------------|-----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Art Discussion 2 (pm) | Walkers 1 | Walkers 3 | Wildlife | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Pilates Classes 1,2 and 3 (am/pm) | Striders 2 | Patchwork and Quilting (am) | Current Affairs (pm) | |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve) | Tai Chi (am) | Spanish Conversation (am) | Italian (pm) | |
| <i>Monday groups sometimes have their schedules interrupted by public holidays; contact the Convenors for more information</i> | Family History (pm) | German (am) | Keep Fit (pm) | |
| | Ukulele (pm) | Book 2 (am) | <i>Book 1 meets at irregular intervals throughout the year</i> <i>Jazz Appreciation meets on the last Tuesday of each month (pm)</i> <i>Tai Chi meets in school term-times only</i> | |
| | | Bridge (pm) | | |
| | | Wine 2 (eve) (pm) | | |

| SECOND in month | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| History (pm) | Amblers | Walks into History OR Walks into London (alternate months) | Art Discussion 1 (am) | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Mah Jong (pm) | Striders 1 | | Keep Fit (pm) | <i>The Chess Valley U3A Committee meets on the first or second Tuesday of each month, two days before the General Meeting</i> |
| Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm) | Art (am) | Line Dancing (am) | General Meeting (pm) | |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve) | Tai Chi (am) | French Conversation (am) | | |
| | Dinghy Sailing (pm) | Bridge (pm) | | |
| | Writers (pm) | | | |

| THIRD in month | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--|-----------------------|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Science and Technology (pm) | Walkers 1 | Patchwork and Quilting (all day) | Book 4 (am) | Railways (am) |
| Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm) | Striders 2 | German (am) | Art Discussion 3 (pm)# | Bows (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Canasta (pm) | Tai Chi (am) | Spanish Conversation (Intermediate) (am) | Italian (pm) | |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve) | Book 3 (pm) | Photography (pm) | Keep Fit (pm) | |
| | Ukulele (pm) | Play Reading (pm) | #Art Discussion 3 is temporarily suspended | |
| | Scrabble for Fun (pm) | Bridge (pm) | <i>MOTO (Members On Their Own) have an 'anchor meeting' on the first Saturday morning of each month</i> | |

| FOURTH in month | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---|
| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
| Digital Imaging (am) | Striders 1 | French Conversation (am) | Bus Pass Adventures | Chess (pm) |
| Mah Jong (pm) | Art (am) | French Intermediate (am) | Walkers 2 | Opera and Dance# (pm) |
| Pilates Classes 1, 2 and 3 (pm) | Tai Chi (am) | Line Dancing (am) | Eclectic Music (pm) | Bowls (Short Mat) (pm) |
| Singing for Pleasure (eve) | Jazz Appreciation (pm) | Dinghy Sailing (pm) | Poetry (pm) | <i># Opera and Dance is run by South Bucks U3A and Chess Valley members are welcome to attend</i> |
| Stamps (odd months only) | | Gardening (pm) | Keep Fit (pm) | |
| | | Bridge (pm) | Wine 1 (eve) | |

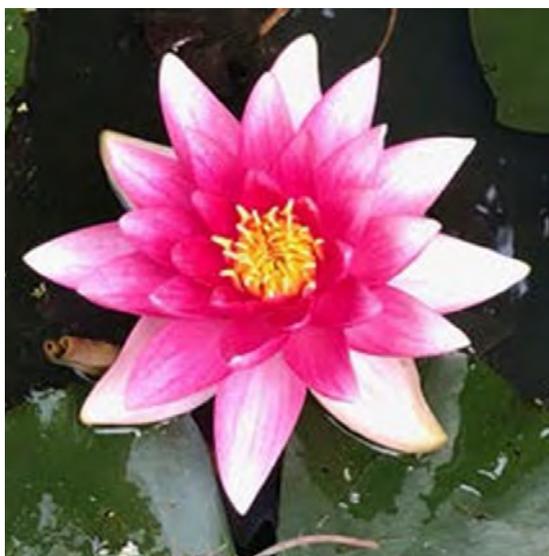
Clockwise (from right)

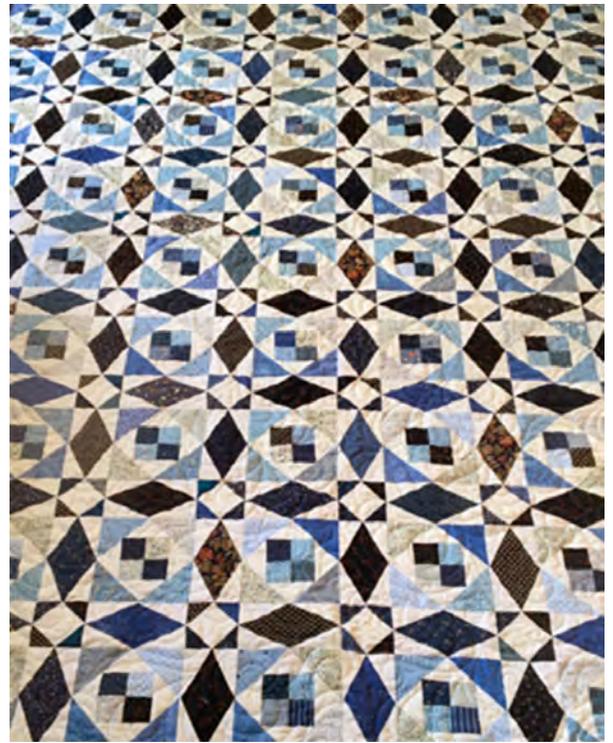
Walkers One split into two groups of six going in opposite directions on their Grimsdyke walk, meeting half-way for a photo.

Photography Group member David Hurd found this field of poppies at Pednor Bottom.

Not so much a 'lockdown' but more of a 'lock-up'. Strider Liam Dineen, in this case, finds himself behind bars.

Gardener Janice Cross snapped this beautiful water lily in her pond.





Unable to meet in person at the moment, Patchwork and Quilting Group members are producing some stunning work in their own homes.

