

CHESS VALLEY



Registered Charity No. 1126990

# NEWSLETTER

*March - May 2020*

website: [www.cvu3a.uk](http://www.cvu3a.uk)



Very little snow so far this season in the Chess Valley, but Peter Schweiger managed to find plenty of it when he went on a dog sledge ride with his grandchildren in Lapland, over Christmas.

Membership Renewals  
AGM information  
Visit to Brookwood Military Cemetery and RHS Wisley



Anti-clockwise (from above)

Stephanie and Douglas found themselves serenaded by a mystery pianist at Greys Court during MOTO 2's February visit.

Bus Pass Adventurers stayed close to home for their Christmas bash at Filo's restaurant.

Walkers 1 pause by one of the gates they have sponsored. Mince pies and mulled wine awaited them at their destination.

Andrew Baker's portrait of President Trump at January's General Meeting sparked lively debate in the Q&A session that followed.

WHO'S SHOES? Which Member sported this sartorial illuminated footwear and at what event? Check the inside pages for the answer.



# Speakers for General Meetings

All meetings start at 2pm  
Broadway Baptist Church  
76 The Broadway  
Chesham, Bucks HP5 1EG



**Paul Evans**

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March**

## ***Dunkirk: Defeat, Debacle, Decision or Defiance?***

Paul is a project historian and was the BBC's artillery expert for their roadshow commemorating the First World War. He was also the lead speaker in a recent U3A Thames Valley Network Study Day on Dunkirk. In this talk, he will look at the overall importance of Dunkirk in the conduct of WW2, the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force and how this was achieved.

**Karen Botha**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April**

## ***The Art of Wildlife Conservation***

Karen is Chief Executive of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation, now in its 35th year. The Foundation is involved in several projects, including investigation of wildlife crime, reducing tiger poaching, snow leopard conservation and much more.

**Patrick Lunt**

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

## ***My Life as a Voice Artist***

Patrick was for many years regularly heard on BBC2 reading the news, being a continuity announcer and presenting programmes. Tales from 'Auntie' will therefore be included! He then became a freelance voice-over artist, with even more extreme tales to tell.

**Adam Smith**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June**

## ***Country Houses in World War 2: Requisition and Destruction***

Adam worked as a museum curator in Lincolnshire, moved to Hertfordshire and is now a speaker on the history of English country houses and estates. In the late 1930s, the British Government realised that country houses were an important national resource with a major role to play in the forthcoming conflict.



**The Broadway Baptist Church is accessible to wheelchairs  
and is equipped with a hearing loop.**



# Notes from the Chair

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2020. It seems only yesterday that we were celebrating the new millennium and now here we are 20 years on. And hasn't the world changed so much in those years?

## Diversity in our U3A

In the last newsletter, I mentioned the need to recruit more recently-retired members to provide injections of new thinking and, hopefully, take over the burdens from older folk who have been running Chess Valley U3A since its formation.

But another thing has been exercising your Committee; the lack of ethnic diversity in our ranks. Chesham is, after all, very multi-cultural and yet our membership is relentlessly white British.

I don't know the answer to this – or even if we should be worrying about it too much – but I'd be interested to hear any views about how we could go about attracting a more diverse membership.

## Annual General Meeting 2020

This isn't quite the last newsletter before our AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> June but to give you adequate notice, the AGM documents are in the centre of this newsletter. We are, as ever, very interested in more people getting involved in the direction of our U3A and there is a form on which you can nominate someone to join our Committee.

## U3A Day, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

The Third Age Trust, our national umbrella body, has designated Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June as 'U3A Day' and they are encouraging U3As throughout the country to do something to publicise the U3A movement on that day. After briefly considering ideas such as a mass parachute jump or us all swimming the Channel, we have decided less ambitiously to take a stand in Chesham Market on the day and advertise ourselves that way. If anyone has some bright ideas about making the event more memorable, your Committee would be very pleased to hear from you.

## Date for your diary – Chess Valley U3A quiz evening, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November

I know November seems (is) a long time away, and we hopefully have a nice summer to look forward to first. However, people's diaries get filled up, so we have booked the White Hill Centre for Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> November. More details to follow in due course.

## General Meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> March

Our speaker is historian Paul Evans and his subject *Dunkirk: Defeat, Debacle, Decision or Defiance*. Paul offers a reappraisal of this defining moment in British history. Members can also pay their subscriptions and collect their membership cards at the meeting; please see the details on page 5.

*With best wishes*



**James Cadle**  
chair@cvu3a.uk

# New Members

We offer a warm welcome to our newest members:

Ian Guest	<i>Chesham</i>	Pauline Renwick	<i>Chesham</i>
Jane Rimington	<i>Ashley Green</i>	Helen Berry	<i>Amersham</i>
Malcolm Rimington	<i>Ashley Green</i>	Cathy Hunt	<i>Ley Hill</i>
Lesley Neale	<i>Hyde Heath</i>		

If you know anyone you think might be interested in joining, please ask them to contact the Membership Secretary; contact details on page 5.

## Membership renewal 2020-2021

The cost of membership for 2020-21 has been set at £26, with a further £3.10 if you would like to have the *Third Age Matters* magazine. We are also introducing permanent membership cards rather than the previous annual cards.

Now that we have the Simple Membership system, there is a clear picture of memberships and payments, and members can maintain their own personal details. Therefore the renewal process no longer needs an application form. You have three options for renewing:

- a) Send your cheque made payable to Chess Valley U3A (**membership number on the reverse please**) and an SAE to The Membership Secretary, 12 Warrender Road, Chesham HP5 3NE.
- b) Pay by cash or cheque and collect your card/s at General Meetings in March or April.
- c) Pay by bank transfer, and either send an SAE or collect the card/s at a General Meeting. Please ensure that the bank transfer includes your name and membership number, and send the membership secretary an email giving date of payment. The CVU3A bank details are: sort code 401769, account 51458108.

Your new permanent card/s will be sent back to you in the SAE.

If you have any questions regarding renewal, email [membership@cvu3a.uk](mailto:membership@cvu3a.uk), or call 01494 782081.

*Jim Wilkie, Membership Secretary*

## Visit to Brookwood Military Cemetery & RHS Wisley Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020

We will travel by coach to Brookwood Military Cemetery (Commonwealth War Graves Commission) where we will have a guided tour.

Afterwards we will go on to RHS Wisley where we can have lunch in the newly refurbished restaurant (not included in the cost) or take light refreshments in the café and have a guided tour of the garden.

The cost is in the region of £31 depending on numbers and if you are not an RHS Member. If you are an RHS member, the cost will be slightly less but you must remember to bring your RHS membership card along on the day.

To register interest, please contact me on [eventscoord@cvu3a.uk](mailto:eventscoord@cvu3a.uk) or by phone 01494 773718

*Jackie Cobb, Events Coordinator*

## Members' Noticeboard

*This noticeboard is available to members looking for companions for specific outings, assistance with projects or to seek or dispose of items (for free). It is NOT for advertising items for sale or for notices of a 'campaigning' nature. To advertise on our board, please email [newsletter@cvu3a.uk](mailto:newsletter@cvu3a.uk). The newsletter appears quarterly and the deadline for the next issue is 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020.*

**Copy date for the next newsletter is 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020**

## From the Groups Coordinators

We continue to have a quiet time. When we go to regional meetings we hear of different new groups other U3As have and how few problems they have in finding new Convenors. Why are we so different?! We are here to help with any new group proposals or, if you have tried to join a group and find it full, others may be interested and we could help with a possible second group. Please contact us on [groups@cvu3a.uk](mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk).

If you are a Convenor please note the dates of this year's meetings and please let us know if there are any specific points you wish to raise.

If your group changes Convenor, please let us know so that we can update the membership system.

### 2020 Convenors' Meetings

Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am -1.00pm (lunch at 12:30pm)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October 1.00pm -2.30pm (lunch at 1pm)

**Sue Broad and Helen Barnard**  
**Groups Coordinators**  
[groups@cvu3a.uk](mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk)

## Chess Valley U3A Committee

Chair	James Cadle	<a href="mailto:chair@cvu3a.uk">chair@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 716992
Vice-Chair	Helen Barnard	<a href="mailto:vicechair@cvu3a.uk">vicechair@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 715588
Treasurer	John Anderson	<a href="mailto:treasurer@cvu3a.uk">treasurer@cvu3a.uk</a>	01753 887463
Business Secretary	Chris Kinsley	<a href="mailto:secretary@cvu3a.uk">secretary@cvu3a.uk</a>	01442 863028
Membership Secretary	Jim Wilkie	<a href="mailto:membership@cvu3a.uk">membership@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 782081
Groups Coordinators	Sue Broad	<a href="mailto:groups@cvu3a.uk">groups@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 718128
	Helen Barnard		01494 715588
Webmaster	Valerie Garrood	<a href="mailto:webmaster@cvu3a.uk">webmaster@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 433585
Newsletter Editors	John Bunyan	<a href="mailto:newsletter@cvu3a.uk">newsletter@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 778858
	James Cadle		01494 716992
Speaker Organiser	Michael Cohn*	<a href="mailto:speakers@cvu3a.uk">speakers@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 763542
Events Coordinator	Jackie Cobb	<a href="mailto:eventscoord@cvu3a.uk">eventscoord@cvu3a.uk</a>	01494 773718

\* indicates a non-voting member

### 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](http://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.

### Follow us on Facebook!



**CHESSVALLEYU3A**

# Chess Valley U3A Convenors

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

Group	Convenor/s	U3A e-mail
Art	Lin Spoor	art@cvu3a.uk
	Claire Fallowfield	
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	Mary Saywood	bookgroup1@cvu3a.uk
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 Bovington	
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
<b>MOTO</b>	Mo Barnes	moto@cvu3a.uk
<b>MOTO 2</b>	Stephanie Macnair	moto2@cvu3a.uk
	Peter Page	
<b>Opera and Dance</b>	(South Bucks U3A)	agopera@sbu3a.org.uk
<b>Patchwork &amp; Quilting</b>	Mary Thompson	patchquilt@cvu3a.uk
	Angela Bratton	
<b>Photography</b>	Keith Hoffmeister	photography@cvu3a.uk
<b>Pilates (1, 2 and 3)</b>	Christine Ross	pilates@cvu3a.uk
	Liz Howlett	
<b>Play Reading</b>	Claire Paterson	playread@cvu3a.uk
	Linda Hepworth	
<b>Poetry</b>	Christine Ogborne	poetry@cvu3a.uk
<b>Railways</b>	Graham Yellowley	railways@cvu3a.uk
	James Cadle	
<b>Scrabble for Fun</b>	Tony Muir	groups@cvu3a.uk
<b>Science &amp; Technology</b>	Mike Christianson	sciencetech@cvu3a.uk
	Allan Saunders	
	Peter Twist	
<b>Singing for Pleasure</b>	Angela Bratton	singing@cvu3a.uk
	Stephanie Rothwell	
<b>Spanish Conv (Inter)</b>	Hilary Alleston	spanishconv@cvu3a.uk
<b>Stamps</b>	Brian Feakes	stamps@cvu3a.uk
<b>Tai Chi</b>	Marian Bangs	taichi@cvu3a.uk
	Sue Broad	
<b>Theatre</b>	Chris Aylott	theatre@cvu3a.uk
	Diana Aylott	
<b>Ukulele</b>	Alan Bridges	ukulele@cvu3a.uk
<b>Amblers</b>	Susan Osborne	amblers@cvu3a.uk
<b>Walkers 1</b>	Wendy Nimmo	walkers1@cvu3a.uk
<b>Walkers 2</b>	Sue Rawbone	walkers2@cvu3a.uk
<b>Walkers 3</b>	Mick Rothwell	walkers3@cvu3a.uk
<b>Striders 1</b>	Andrew Brown	striders@cvu3a.uk
<b>Striders 2</b>	Ian Lee	striders21@cvu3a.uk
<b>Walks into History: Country</b>	Tony Biddle	walkshist@cvu3a.uk
	Peter Schweiger	
<b>Walks into History: London</b>	Angela Shipley	walkslondon@cvu3a.uk
<b>Wildlife</b>	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 Hitchenor	wine2@cvu3a.uk
Writers	John & Helene Bunyan	writers@cvu3a.uk

## The Grandeur of King George

On January 20<sup>th</sup> a group of U3A members braved the cold and showers to visit the 'Queens Gallery', Buckingham Palace, to view the exhibition: *George IV: Art and Spectacle*. The Group met outside the gallery with Jackie Cobb, who had ably organised the visit. We then entered to hear a lecture given by one of the curators, Catherine Jones. This gave us a fascinating introduction to George IV as an art collector. After a cup of what some of us considered aristocratically weak tea, we continued into the gallery to view the exhibits.

These included sumptuous paintings from artists such as Joshua Reynolds and Sir Thomas Lawrence, plus other artefacts, furniture and ceramics. Interestingly, George also collected the work of a number of lesser-known artists. Many of their paintings depicted the very plain studios and hard life of the artists, carpenters and ceramicists who created the artefacts and images which graced the ornate world inhabited by the wealthy two hundred years ago. The gilded galleries provided plenty to consider as we braved the cold, showery streets back to Victoria station.

*Helene Bunyan*

## Art reflecting life

I have always liked black and white films, not least as a form of social history and of scenes of the recent but distant past. Of local interest, Margaret Rutherford starred as a magnificent but miscast Miss Marple in a monochrome and deserted old Amersham in *Murder at the Gallop* in 1963. And thirteen years earlier in *The Blue Lamp* there were similar scenes of utter desolation, this time with a car chase (with a reassuring police bell as opposed to a nerve wrenching siren), through the empty streets of St Johns Wood where you could park a production line of cars with ease. In the same film and in all films at that time, males over the age of six months are all wearing trilbies or flat caps and smoking selflessly in order to create a genuine much loved London smog and the first NHS queues.

Much more recently, I was watching one of Clive James's *TV Postcard* series, this one of London, filmed in 1991 and therefore in colour, when one scene caught my eye. It was a group of feckless youth (aren't they all, and weren't we? And by the way, what is a feck?) lounging around in Piccadilly Circus. They all looked oddly still, unengaged, disinterested, bored and frankly idle (aren't they all...), but more so. Something was missing. It was not the ripped jeans uniform of which Frank Skinner comments "why do people try to look poor?" No, it was the absence of the mobile phone. Now the mobile phone has its critics, but the same picture today would be one of animation, engagement and interest as well as communication. And it was a reminder of how much society has changed and, dare one say, improved in the last 30 odd years.

*'Timewaster'*

Diary		
Date	Group	Event
3 Mar	Family History	Anthony Marr: Subject to be decided.
5 Mar	Wildlife	The Impact of Extreme Weather on Wildlife
7 Mar	Singing for Pleasure	Beaconsfield Festival of Music
9 Mar	History	JFK Assassination - Conspiracy Theory
11 Mar	Walks into History: Country	Cookham: Stanley Spencer
16 Mar	Science & Technology	Science Paradoxes
20 Mar	Railways	Chalmers Cursley: The Ghan
20 Mar	Photography	Photographing Insects, Birds & Flowers in the Garden
23 Mar	Digital Imaging	Using the RAW Editor in Photoshop
25 Mar	Gardening	The Lawn Care Calendar
26 Mar	Eclectic Music	David Fanshawe
26 Mar	Poetry	Simon Armitage
31 Mar	Jazz Appreciation	A Festival of Jazz
2 Apr	Wildlife	Birds Without Borders
7 Apr	Family History	Why Pay?
8 Apr	Walks into History: London	A Village in Piccadilly
15 Apr	Railways	Visit to Epping & Ongar Railway
17 Apr	Photography	Winter Wonderland. Creating an AV Display
20 Apr	Science & Technology	The Science of Transport
22 Apr	Gardening	Summer Flowering Plants
23 Apr	Eclectic Music	J S Bach
23 Apr	Poetry	20 <sup>th</sup> Century American Poetry
27 Apr	Digital Imaging	Ray Higginbottom: Chalfonts & Gerrards Cross C.C.
28 Apr	Jazz Appreciation	Jazz Royalty: The Count & The Duke
5 May	Family History	Indexing & Editing
7 May	Wildlife	Guided Walk round Stockers Lake, Rickmansworth
11 May	History	The First Roman Emperors: 27 BCE to 69 CE
13 May	Walks into History: Country	Hughenden
15 May	Photography	Spring into Colour. Wendover Woods.
18 May		Visit to Brookwood Military Cemetery & RHS Wisley
18 May	Digital Imaging	Turning your Photos into Works of Art
21 May	Singing for Pleasure	St Mary's Church Chesham: National Trust Concert
26 May	Jazz Appreciation	Alan Crussell: 55 years of Jazz
27 May	Gardening	Irises & How to Grow Them
28 May	Poetry	Poem Recitals & Limericks
30 May	Convenors' Meeting	
2 Jun	Family History	Dating Old Photographs
6 Jun	Wildlife	Looking for Orchids
10 Jun	Walks into History: London	The Crown
11 Jun	AGM	
30 Jun	Jazz Appreciation	Bob Thompson: Big Band Singing Stars

# News from the Groups

## GROUP MEETINGS

While members are generally welcome at any meeting of a Group, it is helpful if they advise the Convenor of that meeting before attending. Some Groups are full and most meetings are structured; the arrival of an unexpected member may cause an unnecessary and perhaps unwelcome blip to the arrangements.

***In public buildings it is important that the Convenor knows who is at the meeting in case of fire. Please, always sign in at the beginning and sign out and in again if you pop out for a while. Also, make sure you know where the fire exits are.***

## Art

Lin Spoor & Claire Fallowfield



In November we studied Japanese art after one of our convenors visited Japan. At Christmas we painted our own collective version of well-known paintings. These are displayed at The White Hill Centre. Recently we did pictures of Venice. Most of this group have been together for almost six years now. We have no vacancies at present.

## Art Discussion 1

Angela Bishop



Our Group chose to meet in December at 'Zaza' in Amersham for an Italian festive meal. In January we met to discuss the Bauhaus. Last year was the centenary of this movement, which started in Germany. One member introduced us to the principles of the movement; simplicity, form and function. It was launched by a group of architects, designers and artists. It had a stormy history, particularly during the Nazi regime, but its influence can be seen even today in architecture and design.

In February we met to see and discuss 'Childhood'. It was suggested that the first images of a child were portrayed in those of the Madonna and child, during the 15th century. Children were only portrayed as children in the 17th century, as seen in the works of Anthony Van Dyck, who painted several portraits of the children of Charles I. The group felt that the portrayal of children blossomed under the Impressionists as demonstrated in 'The Cradle' by Berthe Morisot; a haunting image of a mother looking anxiously over her baby. Finally one member reminded us of 20th century street photography of children captured by Roger Mayne. The black and white images proved nostalgic for our aged group.

Future subjects to be discussed are The Golden Age of Islam, Hundertwasser and Cartoons. Our Group is full at present.

## Art Discussion 2

Caroline Jenks



We have a year of varied and fascinating lectures and discussions ahead of us, with our new programme agreed in December. With all our members happy to speak at meetings, we had the pleasure of numerous ideas to choose from and members can pick whether they want to do a whole talk themselves, prepare a half-meeting-length talk, or contribute to a general theme. Our December meeting was also a sociable affair (lots to eat!) and a chance to share pictures related to Christmas or winter from around the world.

In January Caroline gave a talk on the Scottish Colourists, inspired by a recent trip to an exhibition of their work at 'The Lightbox', Woking. Contemporaries of painters in France such as Matisse and Derain, these four Scottish artists of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century produced wonderfully vibrant paintings, mainly portraits, landscapes and particularly colourful and attractive still-lives. Their work now fetches very high prices, but they are possibly still not as well-known as the 'Glasgow Boys' group who preceded them; their pictures were new to many in our group and they definitely gained new admirers.

Gill gave a delightful presentation in February called *A Year in Art*, having chosen a painting to reflect each month of the year. Some were specific to a month, such as *Quatorze Juillet à Paris* by Gustave Loiseau (1925) and *The Burning of the Houses of Lords and Commons, October 16th, 1834* by Turner. Others

captured the flavour of the month by its weather or traditions, such as *Winter Landscape with Elegant Skaters* by Adam van Breen (1611) for January and *The Tennis Party* by Sir John Lavery (1885) for June. We much enjoyed the wide variety of styles and periods that Gill had selected.

### Art Discussion 3

Helen Barnard

The Group is currently suspended due to low numbers. We will reconvene with more members. If you are interested, please contact us on [artdiscuss3@cvu3a.uk](mailto:artdiscuss3@cvu3a.uk).

### Book 1

Mary Saywood



This is a book group with a difference. We don't all read the same book! Approximately every six weeks, a group of avid readers meets to discuss the books we have read between meetings. It's a most stimulating and wide ranging session in which it's almost certain that at least somebody will have read the same book, the same author or the same genre as somebody else in the group.

Our discussions have included fiction: Joseph Kannon's *The Good German* and *Leaving Berlin*, biography: *Citizen Clem: A Biography of Clement Attlee* by John Bew and *Bess of Hardwick* by Mary S. Lovell. Even neurosurgery: *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi and *Do No Harm* by Henry Marsh, have featured. We discuss books on art, history, theology, politics and social studies. Favourite fiction authors include, C.J. Sansom, Rose Tremain, Kate Atkinson, Ian McEwan and Kazuo Ishiguro. We have opinions about the Man Booker list!

A group of avid readers who love discussing books, we are tolerant of a broad readership, passionate about them and interpretations of them in film and television. Meetings are at the Convenor's home in Great Missenden. Unfortunately, the Group has no vacancies at the moment.

### Book 2

Liz Howlett & Christine Ross



Book Group Two continues to meet in Chesham Library. This month we welcomed a new member, Alison. We look forward to hearing her views and opinions.

Over the past year we have read a varied selection of books but our current book is a little different: *In the Midst of Life* is by Jennifer Worth, author of the TV series *Call the Midwife*. In this book she documents her experiences as a nurse and ward sister treating patients who were near the end of their lives. For U3A members this can be a bit depressing and a bit too close to home. It is certainly thought-provoking though and shows how medicine and attitudes have changed over the past fifty years. There will be plenty to discuss at the March meeting then hopefully we will move on to something a bit more cheerful.

### Book 3

Eileen Overton



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 at the moment but please contact the Convenor in case a vacancy occurs. Our year started with *After You'd Gone* by Maggie O'Farrell and our February book is *The Submission* by Amy Waldman, which looks to be a very unique story, so we are looking forward to reading it. March bring us *Birds Without Wings* by Louis De Bernières and April, *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck, so taking us back to a classic.

### Book 4

Jackie Cobb



We meet on the third Thursday of each month in members' homes. We all choose a book to discuss, which everyone reads, having obtained their own copy. This is what we are reading or going to read in 2020: *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte, *Home From Home* by Veronica Henry, *Howards End* by E M Forster and *Snow Falling on Cedars* by David Guterson.

## Bowls (Short Mat)

Margaret Stickland



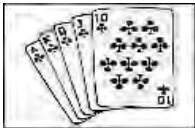
Indoor short mat bowls is held on Friday afternoons at the White Hill Centre in Chesham. There is a charge of £3.50 for each session, which includes a hot drink. Sessions begin at 1:15 pm in time for a 1:30 start. Although run by a member of Chiltern U3A, this is open to all U3A members, regardless of which U3A they belong to. Flat shoes must be worn. Experience is not necessary and

bowls are provided if required. The Group also plays outdoor bowls at Amersham Bowls Club from May to September.

Please contact Margaret Stickland on [bowls@cvu3a.uk](mailto:bowls@cvu3a.uk).

## Bridge

John Curtis & Patrick Clarke



Our Bridge meetings are held on Wednesday afternoons at Chartridge Park Golf Club and are well attended. Please contact the Convenors to find out whether there is availability on one of our tables.

## Bus Pass Adventures

Anne Muir



We decided to have a break from our adventures for the winter. Members suggested that it would be a good idea to have a Christmas lunch together as one of the Group's aims is to socialise. We all enjoyed the meal at Filo in Chesham and we hope to begin our outings again in March when, hopefully, the rain will have eased.

## Canasta

Julie Wolstenholme



The Canasta Group is going from strength to strength. We are still small and would welcome new members of any standard. Even if you have never played, we are happy to guide you through the game. As a group, we are still learning and we all contribute to the rules as we play! It seems Canasta can be played in various ways so we have now put together a list of rules that we play to and are easy to follow.

At the moment we meet in each other's houses but not everybody has room or wants to host an afternoon, so we rotate with those who can accommodate us. If you would like to give us a try, we meet every 3rd Monday at 2.00pm. Please contact the Convenor for more details.

## Chess

Peter Schweiger



Chess players are welcome at the Convenor's home on the last Friday of each month at 2.30pm. Contact the Convenor at [chess@cvu3a.uk](mailto:chess@cvu3a.uk).

## City of London Churches

Jackie Cobb



More visits for the City of London Churches Group are being planned in March. For more information please contact Jackie at [londonchurches@cvu3a.uk](mailto:londonchurches@cvu3a.uk)

*I came across a man playing chess with his dog the other day. So I said "that's amazing, a dog playing chess? He must be clever." The man said "He's not that clever. I'm ahead three games to one."*

*I had dinner with Gary Kasparov the other day. Problem was that it was a checkered tablecloth and it took him two hours to pass the salt.*

*(The Chess World)*



Meetings are 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. Obviously we haven't quite solved all the problems but we keep trying. We have different views; it would be a boring old place if we all thought the same, but we listen, learn and gain from our diversity. We would like to increase our numbers and would welcome some new additions to the group. If you would like to join us please contact the convenor for the next meeting details.

## Digital Imaging

Liz Stoelker



We meet in Little Chalfont Village Hall from 10.00 - 12.00 on the fourth Monday of the month, except when this is a Bank Holiday, when the meeting is on the third Monday. Presentations are given by members and we explore how to improve our photographs and how to create interesting effects that result in something quite different. The sessions are based on Photoshop Elements but other software can be used. Bringing a laptop with your photo-editing software to the meetings is an advantage but not essential. No previous knowledge is necessary as notes and sample images are sent to members before the meeting.

In December we joined the Photography Group for a Christmas Party at which everyone could have their 'Five Minutes of Fame'. For January's meeting we were asked to submit images that we had edited and ones for which we wanted help. The meeting was led by Lal and provoked a lot of lively discussion. Alex gave us a demonstration of Affinity Photo, an alternative to Photoshop in February and Neil introduced his '2020 Challenge' that we will work on throughout the year.

- 23 March Using the RAW Editor in Photoshop  
 27 April Ray Higginbottom from Chalfonts and Gerrards Cross Camera Club  
 18 May Turning your Photos into Works of Art

## Dinghy Sailing

Wendy Barnes &amp; Judith Young



The new sailing season starts on Wednesday 22nd April at Troy Lake, West Hyde, near Maple Cross. There will be two sessions, the first starting at 1pm, when we will rig the dinghies and then the more experienced sailors take beginners or the less experienced around the lake. We break for tea and cake at 3pm, and in the second session we practice racing techniques (only for those who wish to) and we finish about 4.30pm, which gives time to de-rig the dinghies and tidy up.

We have a rota of qualified helmsmen (and women) who man the safety boat whenever there are boats on the water and we are always looking for volunteers to join the safety boat rota. To this end, there will be a safety briefing for anyone wishing to join the rota on Tuesday 7th April between 2 and 4pm. New members are always welcome, and there will be an opportunity to meet the members and have a guided tour of our facilities on that same Tuesday between 2 and 4pm. We normally meet on the second Tuesday and fourth Wednesday of the month, between the end of April and end of October.

For more information, please contact either of the Convenors.

## Eclectic Music

Juliet Crussell &amp; Ron Hartwell



Our February meeting was our Group members' Desert Island Disc choices. On Thursday March 26<sup>th</sup>, Colin will present the music of David Fanshawe, much of which we may recognise, although not knowing the composer. We will also take a musical journey around Ireland: two very different soundscapes to entertain us. On Thursday April 23<sup>RD</sup>, Rod will dip into the glorious world of J.S. Bach, playing familiar and not-so-familiar works of the great man. Our May programme has yet to be finalised.

All meetings are held in Amersham Methodist Church. Woodside Avenue, from 2pm to 4pm. Hope to see you there.

**CHESS VALLEY**



Registered Charity No. 1126990

Pentire  
Cross Oak Road,  
Berkhamsted,  
HP4 3NA

1 March 2020

Dear Member(s)

I wish to inform you that the 12<sup>th</sup> **Annual General Meeting (AGM)** for Chess Valley U3A will be held on **Thursday 11 June 2020 at 2.00 pm at the Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham**. The purpose of this advance notification is to enable you to:

- Make nominations of candidates for election at the AGM, and
- Notify me of any motions you wish to be dealt with at the meeting.

You may wish to nominate someone to become a member of the Committee. To assist you in making a nomination I enclose (a) information about the election and (b) a nomination form which you should complete and return to me by 29 April 2020.

If you wish to propose any other matters for discussion these must be put in writing, proposed and seconded, and forwarded to me (via email at [secretary@cvu3a.uk](mailto:secretary@cvu3a.uk) or via post to the above address) by 29 April 2020.

We look forward to seeing you at our AGM on 11 June! The meeting will be followed by the usual talk which, on this occasion, will be by Adam Smith. His subject is *Country Houses in WW2 – Requisition and Destruction*.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Kinsley**

Hon Secretary



**The Twelfth Annual General Meeting**

**of the**

**Chess Valley U3A**

**at**

**The Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham**

**on Thursday 11 June 2020 at 2pm**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for absence**
- 2 Minutes of the 11th AGM**
- 3 Reports from (a) The Chairman**  
**(b) The Treasurer**
- 4 Appointment of an Examiner for the Accounts**
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee Members (and Trustees); see notes below**
- 6 Any other Business**

**Note 1:** Helen Barnard and Sue Broad have offered themselves for re-election as joint Groups Coordinators.

**Note 2:** John Anderson (Treasurer) will stand down at the AGM.

**Note 3:** During August 2019 John Bunyan and James Wilkie were co-opted by the Committee to act respectively as joint Newsletter Editor and Membership Secretary. In accordance with our Constitution, their terms of office expire at the AGM. It is understood that they both wish to continue their current positions.

**Note 4:** Other Committee Members were elected in 2019 and are willing to continue to serve until they are up for re-election in 2021.

**Chris Kinsley, Business Secretary**



**Nomination Form** (tick the appropriate box for this nomination)

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Hon Secretary
- Hon Treasurer
- Committee Member

Nominee's Name  
(print in capitals)

Nominee's  
declaration and signature

Proposer's Name  
(print in capitals)

Proposer's signature

Seconder's Name  
(print in capitals)

Seconder's signature

**Nomination Form** (tick the appropriate box for this nomination)

- Chairman
- Vice-Chairman
- Business Secretary
- Treasurer
- Committee Member

Nominee's Name  
(print in capitals)

Nominee's  
declaration and signature

Proposer's Name  
(print in capitals)

Proposer's signature

Seconder's Name  
(print in capitals)

Seconder's signature

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After the long break for Christmas we started off the New Year programme in February with a Members' Day. After recovering from the first hitch, when the interactive TV was double booked by the Town Hall, we had to abandon our intended programme but the day was saved by some interesting talks from three of our members.

We seem to have started this year on the wrong foot as our March speaker asked to change his date as he had an important genealogy meeting to attend. Luckily we were able to offer an alternative date on May 5<sup>th</sup> and one of our favourite speakers Antony Marr has agreed to fill in on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. We haven't finalised the title of his talk yet.

April 7: John Hanson: *Why pay?*

May 5: Francis Howcutt: *Indexing and editing*

June 2: Tom Doig: *Dating Old Photographs* (for the benefit of new members, we have arranged a repeat of an earlier talk)

We welcome new members, so if you see a talk you are interested in, pay us a visit. You might enjoy it.

### French Conversation

Morag Robertson



Notre groupe est composé de personnes ayant un assez bon niveau en français. Nos réunions, très amicales et agréables, ont lieu deux fois par mois; notre premier rendez-vous se tient le deuxième mercredi du mois autour d'un petit repas convivial dans un pub local ou une tasse dans un café. Nous avons également plaisir à nous retrouver le quatrième mercredi du mois chez un des membres du groupe. L'accueil est toujours très chaleureux et nos discussions se font dans la bonne humeur. Nous organisons de temps

en temps des soirées autour d'un bon vin et de quelques plats.

L'objectif est d'offrir aux membres de notre groupe le moyen de s'exprimer et de converser en français sur des divers sujets d'actualités, de pratiquer la langue mais aussi de passer un bon moment ensemble.

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

### French Intermediate

Hilary Alleston

We are a small friendly group with varying levels of French. Our monthly meeting is mainly chat, with a little help from the Convenor and sometimes a native speaker who is a great source of vocabulary and corrections to our grammar. We may also read a light-hearted text about an aspect of France or the French language.

### Gardening

Janice Cross



We did not meet in December, but in January we welcomed a new speaker, George Lockwood, who gave us a very informative and interesting talk on the perennials to be found at Highgrove. He also gave us an infallible way of deterring slugs and snails from plants, especially Hostas, which I publish here for everyone to benefit from: Crush two bulbs of garlic, boil in two pints of water for three to four minutes until blanched, strain and make the mixture back up to two pints. To use, mix one tablespoon in five litres of water and sprinkle on to the leaves in late afternoon (in dry weather). Re-apply every two

weeks!

In February, Brian Fisher took us on a tour of some of the lovely gardens to be found in the Caribbean. March will bring us another new speaker, Mike Seaton, who runs The Lawn Centre in Woking, and will tell us all we need to know about how to produce a luscious lawn. In April, Edwin Rye returns to showcase (and sell) Summer Flowering Plants, followed in May by regular Tom Cole who will talk on *Irises and How to Grow Them*.

New members and visitors are always welcome to the Group. We meet at the Albert Ellis Hall, Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, on the fourth Wednesday of the month, except in June and August when we visit gardens and December when there is no meeting. Early birds are welcome to help set

up from 2pm, and the speaker starts at 2.30pm, talking for about an hour, followed by refreshments. A small charge of £3 is made to cover costs.

25<sup>th</sup> March: The Lawn Care Calendar. Mike Seaton

22<sup>nd</sup> April: Summer Flowering Plants. Edwin Rye

27<sup>th</sup> May: Irises and How to Grow Them. Tom Cole

## German

Jenny Lee



Speaking foreign languages helps stop mental decline and boosts thinking skills according to a recent study. It also found that bilingual people were better at retaining shopping lists, names and directions. So, fingers crossed!!!

What is the difference between an English pensioner, a French pensioner and a German pensioner? The English pensioner reads *The Times* while eating breakfast and then goes to the golf club, the French pensioner drinks a glass of wine for breakfast and the German pensioner takes a blood pressure tablet and sets off for work (always the workaholic).

## Gentle Yoga

This group has closed.

## History

Claire Paterson & Ian Hutt



Our Christmas gathering was a miscellany. It commenced with a resume of our talks throughout 2019, followed by introductions from several of our members who will give talks on varying topics throughout 2020. These include *JFK Assassination - Conspiracy Theory* and *Tipu Sultan, The Tiger of Mysore*. A great quiz organised by James Cadle followed and, of course, mulled wine and nibbles, all much enjoyed. Ian Hutt displayed some sartorial exuberance, wearing a pair of shoes rimmed with seasonal lighting (ed.).

We were lucky enough not to have a repeat of the weather experienced by 'Birdie' Bowers a relative of our January speaker, Jo Laurie. Bowers was a member of Scott's team on the *Terra Nova* Expedition to the South Pole in 1910. Jo drew a very personal and intimate profile of 'Birdie' illustrated with some brilliant photographs. An excellent speaker, she really drew us into the daily life of the team and the many unplanned catastrophes that befell the party, conspiring against their goal to be the first to reach the South Pole. Scott wrote of Bowers that "he had been his closest and soundest friend". Known for his incredible toughness, dependability, unending cheerfulness and a dauntless spirit, he died with Scott and Wilson in their tent only 11 miles from a food depot.

Our February meeting saw the first of our Group Member presentations: Christine Ogborne gave a very informative and sensitive talk on her visit to Krakow. Spared much of the bombing, it is beautiful city of medieval buildings, churches and synagogues dating from the 16th century. Schindler's factory, now a museum, brings its history right up to date. Her visit to Auschwitz was a sobering experience which she conveyed well to her audience though emphasising the work done there, through education, to keep the memory alive and ensure nothing like it ever happens again.

Following Christine's talk, we were pleased to welcome again Charis Lister, a Chesham Grammar School history student who visited us in November with fellow students, to talk on Civil Rights in America. Charis presented her theorem; *Is Putin a Modern Tsar?* with great enthusiasm and a lot of proof gathered from her extensive research. An articulate and confident speaker belying her 18 years of age, we were totally impressed and convinced of her arguments. Because of Easter, there will be no April meeting.

9<sup>th</sup> March: Peter Healy: JFK Assassination – Conspiracy Theory

11<sup>th</sup> May: James Cadle: The First Roman Emperors – 27 BCE to 69 CE

*I once bought a wooden car. Wooden Engine, wooden doors, wooden wheels, wooden seats,  
put the wooden key in the wooden ignition... Wooden start.* (Dadsaysjokes)



The Italian Group continues to meet on the first and third Thursdays of the month at the White Hill Centre with the aid of our tutor Hilary. The Group struggles slightly to keep going owing to reduced numbers and the usual winter health problems, so anyone would be welcome to join us to see how they would get on. We are no longer complete beginners, although probably of mixed abilities but we all try to contribute as best we can. Please get in touch if you are interested in refreshing your Italian.

## Jazz Appreciation

Danny Robins



Our Group covers all types of jazz: New Orleans, Swing, Mainstream and Modern. We have excellent speakers using a wide variety of audio and visual equipment. Members share their knowledge and enthusiasm in an informal relaxed atmosphere. Afternoon tea, coffee and home-made cakes are served in the church hall at 3pm.

We meet on the last Tuesday of the month at 2pm in The Owen Room, Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham, HP6 6AJ.

April 28 Jazz Royalty: Spend the afternoon with a swinging Count and a sophisticated Duke.

May 26 Alan Crussell's 55 years plus of Jazz: Narrated by Danny Robins.

June 30 Bob Thompson: Song Stars: The ladies and gents who sang with the big bands and beyond.

If you wish to come for a taster session please contact the Convenor.

## Keep Fit for 60+

Chris Orme &amp; Diane Bovington



Our select group of men and women meet weekly at The White Hill Centre on Thursdays from 12.45 to 1.45. New members would be very welcome. Exercise is good for your well-being and it helps to improve both your physical and mental health, as well the social interaction with others. There is no pressure and you can participate at your own pace.

Payment for each half-session of about six meeting is made by cheque (to Chess Valley U3A. Please write 'Keep Fit' on the back of cheque) to be given to a Convenor at the start. It works out at about £5 per session, but costs could be reduced if we attract more members.

## Line Dancing



The Line Dancing Group is run by Chiltern U3A, but we also welcome members from Chess Valley U3A. We normally meet in the Methodist Church, Bellingdon Road, Chesham, HP5 2HA on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 10.00am. Meetings last one hour and we pay our teacher each time we attend a class. No experience is necessary and the emphasis is on enjoying ourselves, exercising body and mind and having fun. There is parking available at the venue.

We can currently accommodate a limited number of new members. Please contact the Convenors if you want to come along or require more information.

The Group has three Convenors: Lynne Benest tel 01494 721622, Linda English tel 01494 721366 and Elaine Knowles tel 01494 763781. Email [u3alinedance@chiltern-u3a.org.uk](mailto:u3alinedance@chiltern-u3a.org.uk). (all three Convenors receive the email).

*When I was a kid, my parents would always say, "Excuse my French" just after a swear word...I'll never forget my first day at school when my teacher asked if any of us knew any French.*

*My dad wants me to be a nurse but I want to be a danser. But I can do both. Work in the day time and a danser in the night time. He says this cood be true because he once new of ladys who did that.*

*(Blackboard Blunders)*

**Mah Jong****Julie Wolstenholme**

Mah Jong is a game played with tiles and originated in China. It's a very sociable and fun game played by two, three or four people. There is no competition involved as each person plays their own game and any mistakes are easily hidden! Don't worry if you haven't played before; if you have ever played the simplest of card games, you will quickly pick up the basics of Mah Jong. This is a friendly group of people who enjoy each other's company for an afternoon playing, chatting with a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit. Anyone is welcome from beginners to more experienced players. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays (except Bank Holidays) at 2pm in the Free Church, Amersham. The group is currently full. Please contact the Convenor to go on a waiting list.

**MOTO (Members On Their Own)****Mo Barnes**

The MOTO group's fortnightly Sunday lunches continue to be very popular with all the MOTO members usually in attendance. We are always on the look out for new venues to add to our 'gastro' repertoire! In addition, some of us visited the V & A museum to see the 'Mary Quant' exhibition; a trip down memory lane when we all remembered wearing the 'A' line and mini dresses and the PVC macs and boots with great hilarity! It was a hugely reminiscent experience for all of us. Unfortunately this group is presently full.

**MOTO 2****Stephanie Macnair & Peter Page**

In February, we visited the national Trust Property: Greys Court in Henley. Our first surprise was to be serenaded by a mystery pianist in the lounge. A rousing chorus of *A Policeman's Lot* from Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* by all present, managed to clear the room very quickly. Despite a drizzly day, the visit went very well and we were all impressed with the 'time-capsule' nature of the main building with its elegant 1950s look. The 'cowshed' tearoom was checked out, as was the brilliantly engineered donkey wheel used to draw water from a very deep well in the grounds.

We hope to repeat this visit later in the season when the grounds should be in full bloom.

**Opera & Dance****South Bucks U3A**

Each month, on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of the month from 2pm until 4.30pm approximately, we show recordings of opera, operetta, modern dance, ballet and other dance and opera formats that verge towards the avant-garde and far from the usual. The recordings are on DVDs, High Definition Blu-ray or memory sticks etc. and are introduced by the members or Convenors. We can no longer show video tape recordings. Please bring your current membership card. Our meetings are held at the Beaconsfield Rugby Football Club's clubhouse in Windsor End,

Old Beaconsfield HP9 2QS. The Club has two car parks, the rear one enables level entry to the club house via the terrace doors, and penalty-free street parking. Information at: <https://u3asites.org.uk/south-bucks/page/30683> Please check this page for future events.

**Patchwork & Quilting****Mary Thompson & Angela Bratton**

The Patchwork and Quilting Group meets twice a month. The first Wednesday of the month, we meet for a chat upstairs at Caffé Nero in Chesham from 10am until 12 noon and purchase our own refreshments. On the third Wednesday we sew from 9.30 am until 3.30 pm at Hyde Heath Village Hall. If there is a fifth Wednesday in the month we sometimes book the hall if it is available. We do not sew in August and December. At

Hyde Heath Hall a charge of £4 is made to cover photocopying, refreshments and other incidentals.

Three of us, having completed our Snowmen quilts, have inspired a few others to have a go. So that should keep them busy for most of this year!

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.



In December we held our usual Christmas meeting where members were invited to show off their work with their 'five minutes of fame'. In January Keith Hoffmeister talked about his year with his camera and we discussed plans for the coming year. In February we had a talk by Steve Brabner: *Stay Longer, See More*.

We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 2.00 in Little Chalfont Village Hall.

We intend to cover a range of topics of interest to members. In the summer we have regular field trips to a wide variety of locations and members can show their work at the following meeting.

New members are always welcome regardless of experience and ability.

March 20<sup>th</sup> Gill Ferguson: *Photographing Insects, Birds & Flowers in the Garden*.

April 17<sup>th</sup> Members' pictures: *Winter Wonderland*. Keith Hoffmeister: *Creating an AV Display*

May 15<sup>th</sup> Members' pictures: *'Spring Into Colour*. Members' pictures: Field trip to Wendover Woods.



The three Pilates Groups are all going from strength to strength and Sue, our instructor, is delighted with our progress. Everyone cheerfully puts up with the vagaries of the heating at the British Legion Hall: One end is freezing and the other is baking hot, so thank you to you all for your understanding. We are looking forward to the more moderate weather

and, even further into the future, returning to Jubilee Hall.

All three classes are currently full and very few places arise. Apologies to those who have been on the waiting list for some time.



There was no meeting in December as it was too close to Christmas. As we were unable to have our usual summer lunch, it was agreed that we should have a New Year one instead. A play reading was considered but was rejected, as lunch would probably overrun which, of course, it did. Hosted by Linda and Roger

Hepworth and contributed to by all members, it was a most enjoyable gathering... and we probably talked about some plays!

We have chosen 'An Inspector Calls' to read at our February meeting. A play written by the English dramatist J.B. Priestley, it was first performed in the Soviet Union in 1945. Maybe because of similarities with Chekhov's writings, it has become one of his best-known works. It is a three-act drama focusing on an upper middle-class family and the death of a young working-class woman. Who is to blame for her death? Not a detective story as such but a dissection of the events, nevertheless. It is an expression of the author's socialist political principles and a scathing criticism of Victorian and Edwardian hypocrisies.

For March we are going to obtain 'Joking Apart' by Alan Ayckbourn. A play about a 'perfectly happy married couple', expect that state to be blown apart then.

We enjoyed Christmas poetry and mince pies at our December meeting and in January we chose two female poets, Alice Oswald and Kathleen Raine. It was interesting to read a variety of poems by each of them and compare their verse and their different lives. In February we looked at poetry from Australian and New Zealand poets. Following his recent death, Clive James featured heavily in the meeting and his wonderful poem *Japanese Maple* was read, among others. Other poets we chose were 'Banjo' Paterson (author of *Waltzing Matilda*) and Fleur Adcock.

Future Meetings are:

26 March Simon Armitage

23 April 20<sup>th</sup> Century American Poetry

28 May Poem Recitals and Limericks



A very interesting and enjoyable talk was given in December by our very own James Cadle on the Central Line. Who knew that there were numerous failed attempts at getting a cross-city tube bill passed through Parliament before the Central Line was born? Who knew there was a movable platform at White City to accommodate the trains on a sharp corner when entering the siding? There was a great wealth of information which we all very much enjoyed hearing about. So good, we have booked James to present the Piccadilly Line in December this year!

At our January meeting we had another of the excellent Railway Roundabout DVDs supplied by Keith Hoffmeister with sections on the Kyle of Lochalsh line, Isle of Wight railways and Cambrian Coast railway. We also discussed whether our visit to Pendon Model Railway in June should then move on to Didcot and so attempt both in one day, but we agreed to keep these separate.

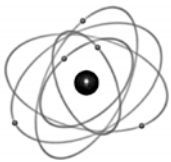
March 20<sup>th</sup>: Chalmers Cursley: *The Ghan*

April 15<sup>th</sup>: Visit to the Epping and Ongar Railway

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

### Science & Technology

Mike Christianson, Allan Saunders & Peter Twist



We meet at 2pm on the third Monday of each month at the Amersham Free Church, Woodside Road, Amersham HP6 6AJ. Emails directed to [sciencetech@cvu3a.uk](mailto:sciencetech@cvu3a.uk) will be seen by all three members of the steering committee.

March 16: Peter Twist: *Science Paradoxes*

April 20: Paul Le Blond: *The Science of Transport*

### Scrabble for Fun

Tony Muir



The Scrabble for Fun Group meets in the Harding Room at Chesham Library. It is the fun element we are aiming for, so we all agree that only words that are in a standard dictionary can be used. Phones are relegated to pockets and handbags. If you wish to join us, please enquire to [scrabble@cvu3a.uk](mailto:scrabble@cvu3a.uk).

### Singing for Pleasure

Stephanie Rothwell & Angela Bratton



Weekly rehearsals are very well attended and we are busy preparing for our first event of the term. On Saturday, 7th March those members who are available will be taking part in the annual Beaconsfield Festival of Music. This is always a most enjoyable occasion in which we have participated several times in the past. It is a great opportunity to hear other local choirs perform as well as giving our own performance. We shall be singing four songs and then joining all the other choirs to sing the finale number.

We have several repeat bookings at local venues in the coming months, while on 21st May we are performing at St Mary's Church in Chesham for a National Trust Concert. On this occasion we'll be joined by Vintage Brass in singing *Hymn to the Fallen*; a beautiful piece from *Saving Private Ryan*. Thanks, as always, to Keith our choir leader for guiding us with patience and humour every week and to Gwen, our accompanist, for giving so freely of her time to keep us on the right note.

If you enjoy singing and would like to join the Group then please contact one of the Convenors. We still have a few spaces particularly in the alto and bass sections. We are a very friendly and supportive group and the rehearsal sessions are at times challenging but also good fun. There is no audition ordeal; the emphasis being on the enjoyment and benefits of singing in a group. We meet each Monday evening in Amersham Free Church from 5.15 pm to 6.45 pm. There is a small termly charge, which covers all music and any additional expenses.

*Potluck Supper, Sunday at 5pm - Prayer and medication to follow.*

*(Church bulletin board - Max Bowen)*





Nos reunimos dos veces al mes en la casa de la convenor, donde lo pasamos bien charlando de muchas cosas, y personales y de interés corriente. Todos tenemos mucho interés en España y la lengua española, además de los países hispanohablantes de América.

## Stamps

Brian Feakes



There have been two meetings of the Stamps Group since the last bulletin. Five members of the group were present at the November meeting and were shown an excellent collection of stamps from Estonia, coupled with a detailed discussion on the history of the country.

At the second meeting held in January, five members of the group were shown a superb collection of Postal History dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, which covered Bristol and its surrounding area. Our presenter has agreed to return later in the year to show the group more Postal History covering Bristol and the county of Somerset. It is a privilege to view these collections of stamps and Postal History, which have usually taken our presenters many years to assemble, often at great expense.

Details of the next meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March are still to be finalised. The meeting that would normally be held at the end of May will be bought forward to the beginning of May when members of the group will be visiting the International Stamp Exhibition at the Business Design Centre in Islington.

The group continues to run with a very small membership and would welcome new members.

## Tai Chi

Sue Broad &amp; Marian Bangs



We are all enjoying our Tai Chi and will be glad to resume after the week break for half term. It is interesting to see that there is much more in the press about the benefits of Tai Chi and also that Doctors are recommending Tai Chi for balance, stress relief, fatigue and more because while other exercises drain you, Tai Chi is easy and actually gives you energy. We all certainly feel refreshed and calm when we finish!

We are gradually reducing our waiting list. If you are interested in joining, please contact the Convenor.

## Theatre

Chris &amp; Diana Aylott



Our latest visit to The 'Mill at Sonning', in February to see *Singin' in the Rain*, was probably our most enjoyable ever. We have now heard that they will be doing *Top Hat* there from November 2020 to February 2021, so a return visit during that time might be popular. On 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 we shall be going to see Tom Stoppard's latest play *Leopoldstadt* at 'Wyndham's Theatre'. All the tickets have been sold, but at the moment there is no waiting list so please

let us know if you are interested.

We now need ideas for June or July, and August or September 2020, so suggestions would be most welcome. Although most people have seen *Les Miserables* in the past, perhaps it will soon be time to see the splendid new version of the show at the Sondheim Theatre.

Any Chess Valley U3A member is welcome to join the Theatre Group and should contact the Convenors by email at [theatre@cvu3a.uk](mailto:theatre@cvu3a.uk) so that their name can be added to the mailing list.

## Ukulele

Alan Bridges



The Ukulele Group continues to grow and since the New Year, we have had several new members join us. At the moment we are practising new music for a return visit to the Good Companions in March, which will be followed in April by our second gig at Amersham Free Church's lunchtime concert. In July we entertain the Amersham Townswoman's Guild for the first time.

Unfortunately due to the expanding numbers we are no longer able to take any new members, nevertheless, if anyone is interested in joining us please contact me and I'll put your name on the waiting list.

## Walking Groups

Members come on walks and accept lifts from other members at their own risk and carry their own simple first-aid kit, water etc. and should be responsible for their own safety when crossing roads or climbing stiles. Our walks are on uneven and sometimes hilly ground and paths are often muddy so good walking boots are essential for most walks. Suitable warm and waterproof clothing is necessary – we will not usually cancel in case of rain! Car-sharing is recommended; talk to other Group members and find out who lives near you. In fairness to all, Walkers 2 have decided not to allow dogs; for other Groups, please check with the Convenor.

Walks can only go ahead if there are at least three members present - one to break a leg, one to stay with the injured person and one to get help.

### Amblers (3 - 4 miles)

Sue Osborne

The Amblers Group walks on the second Tuesday of every month, departing from a local pub/cafe at 10.30. Generally, we number about eight walkers, although many more have expressed an interest and all are notified two weeks in advance. In January, mindful of the mud, we enjoyed following the Firecrest Trail in Wendover Woods and in February, circled the Batchworth and Bury Lakes at Rickmansworth Aquadrome.

As the weather and conditions (hopefully) improve, we intend returning to our walks through the countryside, from Beamond End, the 'Russell Arms' at Butlers Cross and other places. Many thanks to those who have led walks recently and we hope other members will volunteer to do so in the coming months.

Information is sent directly to members by email.

### Walkers (5 - 7 miles)

#### Walkers 1

Wendy Nimmo

Don't like the mud, don't like the rain, but I suppose we'll just have to get over it and we do! Walking in mud burns a lot more calories but it's hard work. As you trudge along, your boots get heavier and heavier, a bit like having weights around your ankles, so it's much better exercise. Also, it's a bit sticky, so you have to pull your foot up a little more when striding. Having said that, roll on the drier weather and days of firm paths and sunshine. We're still walking every first and third Tuesday of the month and we have places for anybody who would like to join us.

#### Walkers 2

Sue Rawbone

Our last walk of 2019, the Christmas walk on the third Thursday of December, was unfortunately cancelled because of poor weather conditions but this did not stop us enjoying our lunch at the 'Ivy House'. 2020 started with a walk from Winchmore Hill with our next planned walk from 'The Black Horse', Chesham Vale. My thanks to everyone who has volunteered to lead and we now have leaders up to and including August. We walk on the fourth Thursday of the month (except December) and new members are always welcome.

#### Walkers 3

Mick Rothwell

Since the last notes, we congregated with Walkers 2 at the 'Ivy House' for our Christmas Lunch, foregoing the joint walk planned for the morning. Thank you to Elizabeth Usher for leading February's walk from the Bridgewater Arms, Great Gaddesden. This was a five and a half mile walk following an undulating route towards Berkhamsted and back along Golden Valley to the pub. If any potential walkers would like to join us on the first Wednesday of each month, please contact me on rothwellmick@aol.com. We normally start at a local pub, and those who wish, can stay on for a meal afterwards

**Booking Arrangements for Walkers 2 and Walkers 3:** Members can book with either Group when places are available. Walk details are sent out to the Group 2-3 weeks in advance of the walk and are circulated to the other Group one week before the walk if places are available. If you are interested in walking with either Walkers 2 (fourth Thursday) or 3 (first Wednesday), please contact either of the Convenors.



Another walking year starts with the joint membership of the two groups close to 90 people. We welcome a new Convenor; Andrew Brown, in place of John Bratton, who remains a member of both groups but has stepped down as Convenor after six years. We hope to see both John and Andrew on many future walks.

Unusually for Striders, the joint Christmas walk had to be cancelled because of the dreadful weather forecast for that day; but the Christmas Lunch went ahead without muddy boots and a change of clothing, and was even more successful than in previous years. Thanks to the efforts of Daryl Ann Hardman and her team of volunteers, ably assisted by a new raffle supremo; Jeremy Wyman, we raised over £2,000 for the Belarus Children's Hospice, enjoyed an excellent meal, and were well entertained by some of the trustees of the charity and the dulcet tones of Nigel Hughes on his guitar. The children in the hospice enjoyed a New Year's Eve party with our donations as well as a regular programme of physiotherapy for their various conditions.

Returning to more mundane matters, we are hoping to experience drier walking conditions in the forthcoming months for our regular walks and arrangements are well in hand for the annual Summer Walk which this year will be the Seven Sisters Walk along the south coast from Seaford to Eastbourne – a walk we last did six years ago which proved very popular with our members. John Bratton already has a coach booked for 7<sup>th</sup> July and will be circulating members in due course with an invitation to reserve seats. From April to October Jill Smith will be organising a programme of long all-day walks, for which she still needs some walk leaders to volunteer their services. Please contact Jill if you are able to lead one of the walks. In May she has also organised a group of us to travel to the Brecon Beacons to do a weekend of walks led by experienced HF Holiday guides.

For any U3A members who would like to join one or other of our groups, Striders 2 walk on the first and third Tuesdays of every month and Striders 1 walk on the second and fourth Tuesdays. We do rely upon our members to take their turn in volunteering to lead walks and are rarely (if ever) disappointed. All regular walks are between 7 and 10 miles in length, usually starting and finishing (for lunch) at a local hostel. Jill's longer summer walks are usually between 10 and 13 miles in length with a picnic lunch at a convenient location en route. New members are always welcome. Please contact one of the Joint Convenors, Ian Lee or Andrew Brown, if you would like to join one of our friendly groups.

### Walks into History: Country

Tony Biddle & Peter Schweiger



The walks are held on the second Wednesday of each month and alternate between London and Country. Each walk/town visit involves some fun in a little pre-reading or research and then pre-walking the route to ensure familiarity, to plan where to park, toilets *en route*, and where to lunch when leading the group. Please support your Convenors with any ideas for new town walks that you would like to do. Contact Tony Biddle on 01494-725429 or e-mail: [walkshist@chessvalley-u3a.org.uk](mailto:walkshist@chessvalley-u3a.org.uk)

#### Northwood – January 8<sup>th</sup>

Peter Schweiger organised and led our first walk of 2020. Fortunately we enjoyed one of the relatively rare dry and warm days this winter. Peter lived in Northwood prior to moving to Amersham and he also enlisted the help of one of his old friends; Paul Akers, who has lived in Northwood for over 60 years. We met up at a local café for refreshment before commencing our walk. Our first stop was a short stroll away when Paul drew our attention to a venerable and comparatively unusual weeping Beech tree. We then crossed the A404, which continues through Amersham and High Wycombe to meet the M4 near Maidenhead, at Links Way. There were many very impressive properties, but should you have the odd £3,000,000 in the piggy bank you would still struggle to find anything within your budget.

Next we entered Ruislip Woods, passing a lake erroneously described as limpid, and skirted Northwood and Haste Hill golf courses in addition to Ruislip Lido. The woods were unfortunately the location of an horrendous accident in 1948 when two aeroplanes collided overhead. On leaving the woods we walked up the High Street, which was originally the centre of the village before Northwood rail station opened when the focus moved to the current position in Green Lane.

We then moved onto Carew Road where we saw the impressive house where Peter used to live. This apparently was strategically placed opposite St Helens boarding school for girls enabling him, as a teenager, to wave to the schoolgirls opposite from his bedroom window. He assured us that they waved back. Finally, most of us returned to our start point and an excellent Italian restaurant for lunch. It was unanimously agreed that we had all enjoyed an excellent day.

Ian Hutt

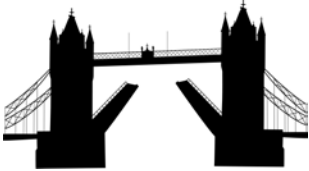
March 11: Cookham: Stanley Spencer

May 13: Hughenden

## Walks in London

Angela Shipley

Treasurer: Mick Rothwell



### The Lure of the Underground

Our walk commenced at Baker Street Tube Station where, in 1863, the Metropolitan Line became the first underground railway line in the world. Credited with being the most prominent and successful promoter was one Charles Pearson; a prominent London solicitor, campaigner and social reformer.

Concerned by the severe congestion throughout London following the success of the overland train system and Marc Brunel's success with his tunnel underneath the Thames, Pearson convinced enough businessmen to finance this first venture. Steam driven at this time, the line was a great success, prompting others to follow. The rest as we say, is history.

From Baker Street we travelled the short distance to Kings Cross, scene of an horrific fire in 1987. Caused by a lit match falling underneath the wooden escalator it soon became an inferno resulting in the loss of 41 lives. On a positive note, safety procedures were extensively reviewed, improved and wooden escalators eliminated. On a lighter note; from there we travelled to Covent Garden, one of the many stations designed by Leslie Green and his distinctive design has lost none of its attraction. From there, it was a short walk to Leicester Square and yet another Leslie Green masterpiece. Our final stop was Westminster; although not strictly the newest of tube stations, the deep tunnelling underneath the station to facilitate the Jubilee line and the resultant reconstruction of the station itself, could just about qualify the station as the latest construction. Mention must also be made of Harry Beck, a draughtsman who was commissioned in 1913 to design a map of the tube network. This he did, and although many attempts have been made to improve his design, it has stood the test of time.

Liam Dineen

April 8<sup>th</sup> A Village in Piccadilly

June 10<sup>th</sup> The Crown

## Wildlife

Harry Howlett & Keith Sonley



After a busy 2019, the group has already had two very interesting talks in 2020: January saw us learning about the risks to our vital chalk streams; it's difficult to believe they are struggling when we've had so much rain! While the water companies extract a great deal from the streams, it appears that the Chilterns area uses more water per head than any other region, so we can all do our bit. In February the talk was titled *Natural Signals*. It was about the interesting and unusual ways that animals communicate with each other. March

will see us learning about the impact of extreme weather on wildlife, from a lecturer in Meteorology at Reading University, and we have a number of other confirmed dates as listed below.

As usual we meet on the first Thursday of the month. We look to mix afternoon meetings at Amersham Common Village Hall (ACVH) with outdoor field visits, which are often in the morning, finishing at a local hostelry.

March 5<sup>th</sup> AVCH - Talk - *The Impact of Extreme Weather on Wildlife*

April 2<sup>nd</sup> AVCH - Talk - *Birds Without Borders* - the amazing stories of bird migrations

May 7<sup>th</sup> Walk - Guided walk by Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust round Stockers Lake, Rickmansworth

June 6<sup>th</sup> Walk - Looking for orchids – location to be confirmed

July – September: To be arranged

October 1<sup>st</sup> Field trip with Bucks Badger Group

November 5<sup>th</sup> AVCH 2:00pm - Talk from Bucks Owl & Raptor Group

December 3<sup>rd</sup> AVCH 7:30pm - Our annual social evening  
We have even got a provisional booking for 2021!

We have a membership of around 80, with an average attendance of 29. If you would like to join the group please email the Convenors on [wildlife@cvu3a.uk](mailto:wildlife@cvu3a.uk)

### Wine Appreciation 1

Pauline & Tom Hohenberg



Our November meeting was hosted by Alan Ede, whose theme was *Wine from countries I have holidayed in*: Seven different countries and all different grape varieties. In December the Brattons hosted a dinner to which everyone brought along a dish and a wine to accompany it. This produced the most unusual and enjoyable mixture imaginable and resulted in a really fun evening.

In January the Hawkins were the hosts with an eclectic choice of wine; essentially it was to highlight the origin of grape varieties and where they are now most used in the production of wine. Of the eight wines tasted, members were asked to give points out of 10. The top white was La Forchetiere 2018 Sauvignon Blanc from the Loire and the top red walk away winner was The Full Fifteen Cab Sac 2012 from South Australia.

In February we are doing a tasting at Waitrose with many of our friends from WAG2. We have also been delighted to welcome four new members to the Group.

### Wine Appreciation 2

Graham Hitchener



WAG2 don't hold a meeting in December as it's normally a very busy time for members. Instead of having a Xmas party, we hold ours over into January and this year we returned to the 'Rose and Crown' in Chorleywood, which I can heartily recommend. Everyone enjoyed an excellent three-course dinner with wine (of course).

February's meeting took a slightly different theme in that instead of one person or couple choosing their themed wines, everyone brought a favourite wine of theirs. The wines came from France, Italy, Portugal, Chile, Australia and New Zealand. The Bargain of the night was Lidl's Roussanne at just £3.99! However, the best wine of the evening was Andrew's Cabalie Vieilles Vignes. Unfortunately, it's a lot more expensive!

### Writers

Helene & John Bunyan



Writers have been busy over the last three months. Recent work has been presented on a visit to Lapland, Christmas conversations, rituals and formative years. We have even heard from Father Christmas himself about his sleigh ride around Chesham. Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month at the Quaker Meeting House in Old Amersham at 2.00pm (brought forward from 2.30 because of winter conditions). Our March topic will be talismans. We welcome new members.

*The great thing about books is there are no commercials.*

*Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read. (G. Marx)*



**SOLUTION TO  
SPOT THE DIFFERENCE:**  
1) Office window frame removed  
2) String of tree lights removed  
3) Office lights turned on  
4) Signpost removed  
5) Bench removed  
6) Red car added  
7) Memorial railing removed

# 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 Jazz Appreciation meets on the last Tuesday of each month (pm) 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 <b>OR</b> 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)	<b>General Meeting</b> (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><b>MOTO</b> (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 above)

Art Discussion Group 2 replicate Maurizio Cattelan's £91,000 artwork: 'Comedian' (consisting of a fresh banana which was eaten). They are open to similar offers from U3A members.



It was back to Ron's home for Eclectic Music's Christmas celebrations.

The Country Walks Group confirm their location on their recent walk around Northwood.

On a cold day Angela took the London Walks Group into the National Gallery where they were transfixed by their guide's talk.

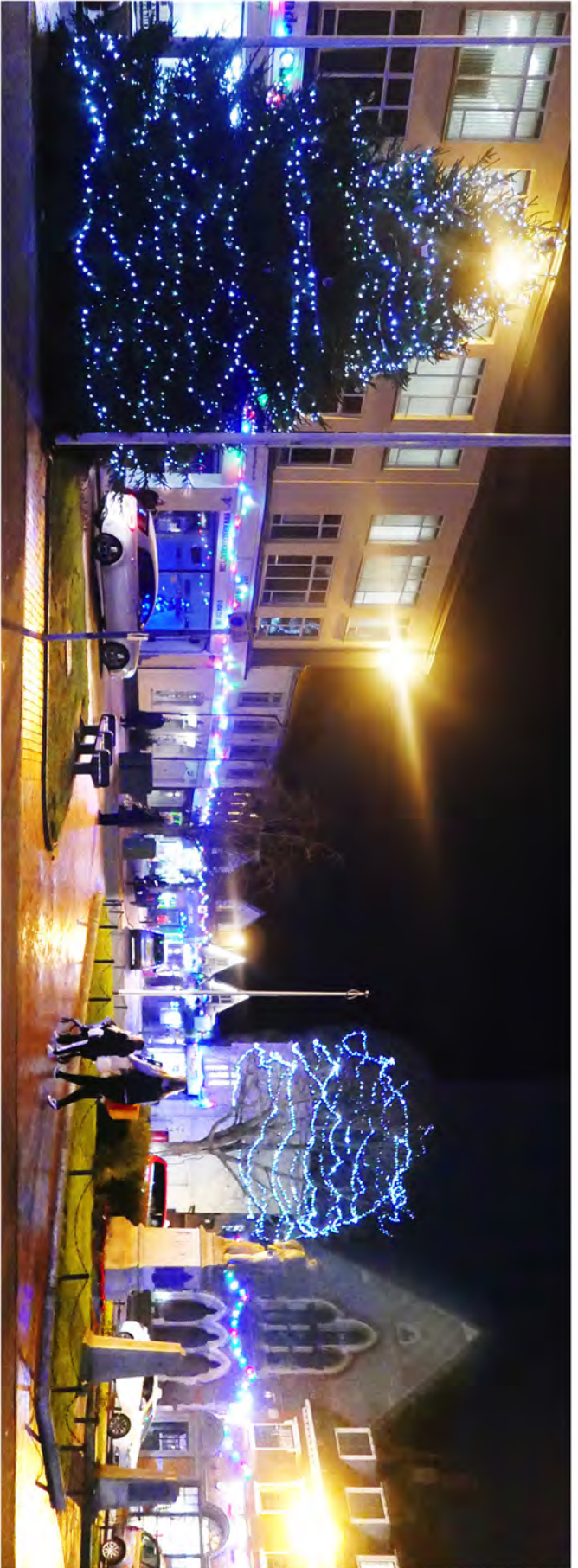
January saw a visit to the Queens Gallery exhibition: 'George IV: Art & Spectacle'. Some depictions of Caroline & George were surprisingly irreverent.



Here are two photographs of Chesham Christmas lights.

There are seven differences between the two pictures. Can you spot them?

The solution is on the inside pages.



# SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

