

AYLESBURY VALE U3A



Issue No. 94

March 2020

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello fellow AVU3A members!

At the time of writing it has stopped raining at last and, although it is very cold, I prefer it. We now have some lovely sunshine! The daffodils are now poking their way up through the frozen ground and I expect by the time you read this the daffodils will giving us a lovely splash of colour. I noticed the snowdrops are blooming together with the Helleborus which means Spring is on its way.

Christmas has gone along with the turkey and chocolates and I do like chocolate but it puts on the weight. Never mind I have eaten all the boxes bar one and it still has the cellophane wrapper on so it is safe! Thank you to all those who wore their Christmas jumpers to our meeting. I loved the Christmas hats. Well done to all who took part in the competition and especially to Irene Scott who was voted the winner. It gave us a good laugh and we will do it again. I thought John Wilford's talk was amazing - such an interesting and busy life. I am reading his book at the moment and I do not know how he remembers it all - perhaps he kept a diary.

We are having some decorating done in March so I thought it time we looked at paint colours; so off we went to B&Q to get some tester pots. I shall soon be able to open a shop because I keep going back for more. I had certain colours in my mind for the kitchen and lounge but, just like a woman my husband says, I have changed my mind! So if you are thinking of decorating and you want to see what some colours are like I have several A4 sheets of painted paper. These tester pots are not cheap! I think I will take pot luck.

I have been thinking about Easter, well they had Easter Eggs in Morrisons last week!!! I might give our men something to make; I am working on it so watch this space.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

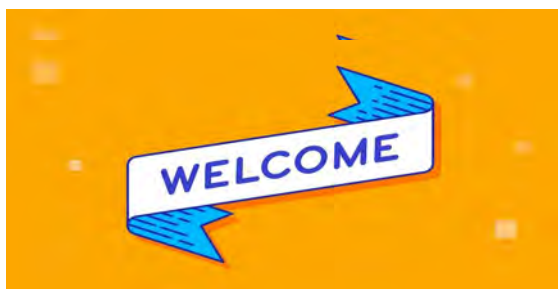
Sheila Satterthwaite

YOUR AYLESBURY VALE U3A COMMITTEE 2019—2020

Chairman:	Sheila Satterthwaite
Vice Chairman:	Chris Lowe
Secretary:	Maureen Clark
Treasurer:	Mike Park
Group Co-ordinator:	Jane Trow
Membership Secretary:	Ken Roberson
Social Activities:	Mary Singleton
Speakers Secretary:	Sheila Page
Outings Co-ordinator:	Dan McGregor
Hall Manager:	James Cartwright

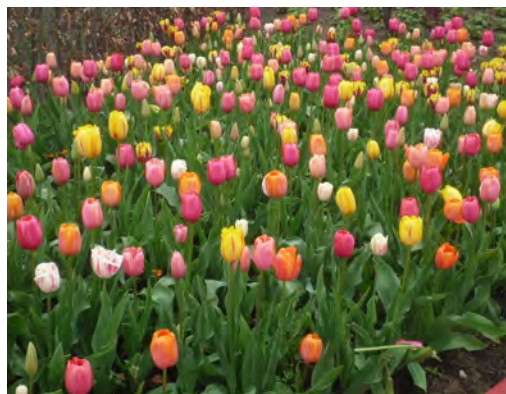
Non-Committee Activities

Newsletter Editor	Sheena Hudson
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Mary Singleton
Assistant Newsletter Editor	Richard Clark



NEW MEMBERS

Jim Chignell, Linda and Roy Edmonds
Lily Etherington, Susan McCabe, Kathryn and Keith
Sayer, David Smith, Mandy Stenson, Jane Sugden,
Diane and Keith Woodhead, Ruth and Neil Saunders



Tulips at an international garden show near Utrecht The Netherlands

CHRISTMAS 2019

U3A Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party.

I would like to say a big thank you to all those who attended the Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party at the Tennis Club in December. Despite the weather, the flu outbreak and the general election there was a good turnout.

Monies raised as a result of ticket sales and the raffle amounted to £267.00 which will go to 'Friends of OSCAR', a local charity that supports children with brain and spinal tumours.

Thanks again for your support. I look forward to seeing you all at the Mid-Summer Rock'n'Roll Party on Saturday 20th June 2020 at the Aylesbury Rugby Club, which this year is featuring a live 50s-60s Rock'n'Roll band 'THE BLUE MOONS' as well yours truly playing your favourite tunes.

John Wilford



Photos taken by Ken Satterthwaite and Richard Clark

Hat Competition—December 2019 Meeting with some very festive jumpers. Irene Scott was the winner of the competition



Photos taken by John Harwood and Richard Clark

AVU3A Christmas Lunch

On 4th December 2019 forty one members of the Aylesbury Vale U3A sat down to a Christmas lunch at the Watermead Inn which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. The manager, Kristina and her team had also decorated the tables and provided us with crackers. There was a choice of three main courses and three desserts, including traditional turkey and Christmas pudding which proved to be most popular with our members. Many of the diners wore their Christmas jumpers or other seasonal adornment and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Photo taken by Mary Singleton



THE MOON

Blue moons, harvest moons, worm moons - there are lots of different names for different phases of moons, but did you know each month the full moon has a different name?

The first full moon of the year, is called a **wolf moon** apparently named by North American Indians as they thought that wolves howled particularly at this moon. The full moon on Friday 10th January 2020 looked a bit different as the moon had drifted into Earth's shadow just after 7 pm and became a wolf moon eclipse, casting an eerie shadow across the moon.

The modern calendar doesn't quite follow the moon's phases so sometimes there's more than one full moon a month. This is called a blue moon. In 2020 October's first full moon will be a harvest moon and the second a blue moon.

Throughout history people have used the moon, and the light it reflects, for different tasks - like hunting, planting and harvesting. Cultures across the world give these full moons different names to fit with what was happening in the month. You can find out all their different names at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/51047406>

Eric Rose



Donations to the U3A:

Riviera Travel will make a donation to the U3A equivalent to 10% of the cost of your trip if you mention that you are a U3A member when booking with them. The donation is made upon arrival back in the country following your trip.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

LOCAL WALKS

21 members enjoyed the scenery of the Waddesdon estate on Monday 18th November. The walk, led by Sydney Johnson, was 5 miles long with spectacular scenery. We lunched at the Lion Pub in Waddesdon.



Photo taken by Dr Eric Rose



Photo taken by Heather Edwards

Around Rickmansworth Lakes followed by Pub Lunch—16th December 2019



Photos taken by Sheila Page

WALKING IS SUCH FUN !!

The Local Walk on Monday 13th January was organised by Diana Lewis and started at The Lions at Bledlow. The walk had to be changed because of mud but, following some recent wet weather, the new route had its own challenges. One gate was flooded and we had to improvise to negotiate it. There was a loud cheer when the last walker made it across without landing in the water. Everyone enjoyed the walk and the rain held off until we were safely in front of the pub fire.

Pictures show: Tony Davis making it across our temporary bridge without assistance, Roger Fox making friends with a curious pig and Steve Edwards scraping mud from a stile,



Military History Group

2019 was good year for the **Military History Group**. I can report that we had a wide variation of subjects presented by the members ranging from 'Animals at War' to 'Trains at War' and our membership is slowly growing. We also had two great outings during the year, one I reported on in a previous newsletter; the second one was to Hendon Royal Airforce Museum, which incidentally is free entrance, but a cost for the parking. I know those who visited it had a great time and were very impressed with what was on offer. We are now into 2020 and the programme for this year looks very interesting. The majority of the talks are given by group members who research their subjects in books and online and subsequently present their findings, creating interesting discussions with other members. So if anybody else in the branch has got an interest in Military History come along and join us for some fascinating presentations.

We meet at the Methodist Church, Eskdale Road, Stoke Mandeville on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00am.

Ken Satterthwaite



Members in front of a
Sunderland flying boat at
Hendon

RAILWAY GROUP

Our first meeting of 2020 was well attended. We discussed our individual interests, plus ideas for outings were put forward with a wide range of ideas. The Statfold Barn Railway is one we are going to visit - it is a large, narrow gauge railway in the Midlands with a variety of rolling stock. We also talked about the Chinnor Railway, the Severn Valley Railway and the Great Central. Then we watched a dvd about locomotives on British Rail before 1960.

Chris Lowe

THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group started the New Year with a block printing session. Everyone had fun and we did not get too messy. We practiced on a scrap of fabric to choose our blocks and get used to the technique. We then made unique tea towels. Once dry the paint can be ironed to set it so that the items are washable. We shall continue at the next two meetings.

The results were excellent.

Heather Edwards



Readers' Circle 2 decided to indulge themselves this Christmas and instead of one of our Group hosting a buffet lunch at home, we booked ourselves into Pendley Manor at Tring for a Festive Christmas Lunch on the 18th December. We had a very nice leisurely lunch in the Oak Restaurant there and also had the bonus of free coffee and mince pies.

As usual there was much talk about books we had read during the year and suggestions for our new batch of books soon to be chosen by the Group. We may peruse some Victorian writings in the next programme running from April onwards as we had read 3 children's books during the current programme in addition to our 'normal' ones. In all, we had a very interesting and stimulating book year with many opinions voiced!

Brenda Daniel



Photography for Pleasure

The Photo Group held its post-Christmas lunch at the Charter Pub on Wednesday 15th January, after a short meeting to decide our programme for 2020. We've decided to do only one outing this year and instead concentrate on improving our knowledge on techniques and making better use of our cameras. We'll be setting ourselves homework on what we've learned and display our work at the following month's meeting. We shall decide at a later date where we shall be going on our single outing and having lunch there as well.

We are all very happy about the success of our group's 2020 calendar and we contemplate producing one again next year.

We shall be having our usual meetings at Stone Methodist Chapel on the third Wednesday of the month at 9.45 am.

Dan McGregor

The Ten Pin Christmas Lunch.

On 9th December 2019 my merry band of bowlers met at the Charter for our annual festive meal. As usual the food was great, although my group spent so much time discussing their latest strikes or gutter balls, they probably didn't notice! We're all looking forward to another fun year.

Regards John Harwood
Group Commandant



Dates for your



AVU3A COFFEE MORNINGS

Our bi-monthly coffee mornings at the Watermead Inn are becoming more popular with about thirty people attending. We have a very pleasant hour or so consuming coffee and biscuits and having a chat about all and sundry. It is especially good to see new members or potential members coming along to talk to well-established members to learn something about what we do and the groups we either run or take part in. Forthcoming coffee mornings are held on the third Tuesday every other month at 11 am at the Watermead Inn, 11 Lakeside, Watermead, Aylesbury, HP19 0FX as follows:

17 March 2020

19 May 2020

14 July 2020

Purpose: To give new members the opportunity to meet longer serving members in order to get to know people and hear about the groups they have joined or lead.

Chinese New Year — The Year of the Rat

Our AVU3A Chinese Meal is now booked at the China Brasserie in Fairford Leys on Wednesday 25th March 2020 at 12:30 pm. Price will be £21 for a set meal which includes a tip.

You can book online at the AVU3A website or email social@avu3a.org.uk to book your place and to advise of any special dietary requirements. Payment will be taken at the U3A meeting on 11th March.



PUZZLES (answers next issue)

- A. This post box is in the Aylesbury area.
Where and why?
- B. How many minutes is it until 6pm
if 50 minutes ago it was 4 times as many
minutes past 3pm?



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY continued

Tuesday	17th March	Coffee Morning	The Watermead Inn
	11.00-12.30		
Wednesday	18th March	TVN—History of the Thames and its boats	
Friday	20th March	Visit to Amazon	
	10.30-12.00		
Tuesday	24th March	Psychology— MIND	Tennis Club
	10.00-12.00		
Friday	27th March	Visit to Amazon	
	10.30-12.00		
Wednesday	1st April	OUTING—Canterbury	
Wednesday	8th April	TVN—Cyber Crime	
Thursday	23rd April	TVN— Understanding Historic Buildings	
Monday	4th May	OUTING—Petworth House and Guildford	
Tuesday	19th May	Coffee Morning	The Watermead Inn
	11.00-12.30		
Friday	22nd May	TVN—Geology of the Thames Valley	
Tuesday	9th June	OUTING—Cambridge and Ickworth House	
Saturday	20th June	Mid-summer Rock n Roll Concert	Aylesbury Rugby Club
Wednesday	24th June	TVN—Visit to RHS Wisley	
Monday-Saturday	29th June-4th July	Study Tour	East Anglia

TRUSTED TRADERS is a service provided by our U3A members, to other members, aimed at passing on the names of tradespeople who have given a good service and who they are happy to recommend to others.

I am the person to contact when you may need, for example, a plumber, electrician, gardener or handyman. Neither I nor the U3A give a guarantee of good work so feedback to me, good or bad, is important so that I can keep the list up to date as change may occur over time.

New recommendations are always welcome. Gardeners and joiners are currently in short supply! I can be contacted by email at junethomson@sky.com

OUTINGS 2020

MONDAY 4TH MAY 2020

PETWORTH (NT) and CITY of GUILDFORD

Petworth is an extraordinary and surprising ancestral seat created by just one family over 900 years and displays the finest art collection in the care of the National Trust. Separate servants' quarters offer a glimpse of life below stairs.



Guildford offers plenty to do. Visit the Castle with its lovely gardens, the Cathedral, the Undercroft (medieval wine cellar); see Abbots Hospital (old almshouse still in use) or explore the cobbled High Street with its interesting architecture and its mix of independent shops, major high street names and modern shopping malls.

COST £16 pp (Petworth £13.50 extra for non NT members)

COLLECTING IN MARCH

Depart Jansel Square, Bedgrove 8.30, return 6.00 approx.

Organiser - Dan McGregor

TUESDAY 9TH JUNE 2020

CAMBRIDGE BOTANIC GARDEN and

ICKWORTH HOUSE (NT)

Cambridge Botanic Garden spreads over 40 acres and has 8000 species from all over the world. With its woodland garden and lake, its alpine and tropical areas, it is stunning at all times of the year and a real oasis for visitors.



Ickworth House is an Italianate palace in the heart of Suffolk. Its impressive rotunda is home to one of the finest silver collections in Europe and it also boasts an impressive art collection with works by Gainsborough, Reynolds and Hogarth. You can experience 1930s domestic service in the restored servants' basement.

COST £23 pp Includes entry to Botanic Garden. (Ickworth £13.40 extra for non-NT members)

COLLECTING IN APRIL

Depart Jansel Square, Bedgrove 8.00, return 6.00 approx.

Outing organiser – Dan McGregor

SPEAKERS

8th April

Stephen Logsdail

Cannabis

For the second time this year, we have one of our own number addressing our monthly meeting.

Stephen Logsdail will explain the scientific understanding of cannabis, its effects on the human mind and body, and its use, actual and potential in medicine. At the end of the talk you will be able to engage in an informal discussion with your young family members or even your MP!

13th May

Ian Keable

Dickens the Conjuror

Charles Dickens was an amateur conjurer for around seven years of his life. His best known show was on the Isle of Wight in 1849 when he wrote a highly amusing, and informative playbill to promote his appearance. Dickens called himself the 'Unparalleled Necromancer', and this provides the focus to learn about how Dickens became a conjurer, which magicians inspired him and how his magic sheds light both on his character and his writings. The talk includes performances by Ian of some of Dickens' tricks.

10th June

Stephen Barker

Hardit Singh Malik, the Flying Sikh

From his arrival in the UK alone in 1912 as a fourteen year old, to Balliol College, Oxford and into the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War, Hardit Singh Malik lived an extraordinary life, often in the face of great adversity, yet always with charm and good humour. He played cricket for Sussex and was an Oxford blue in golf, playing with the Prince of Wales. He rose to become the Indian Ambassador to France after a long and distinguished career in the Indian Civil service, yet always maintained strong bonds with Great Britain. Yet it is as a fighter pilot during 1917-19 that he is best known, coming up against the Red Baron and the British military establishment. This illustrated presentation lasts for 50 minutes and includes several film clips.

8th July

Lacey Bonham

The Work of PACE

One year after Roger Fox organised a visit to the PACE centre for some of our members, Lacey Bonham is coming to visit us to explain the work, challenges and achievements of PACE in our area.

Last date for copy for the Summer 2020 Newsletter will be 30th April 2020 so please send any items you may like to share with us to newsletter@avu3a.org.uk. Thanks as always to all of you who contribute to our newsletter. Please continue to send in news of your activities within the U3A and for any other items which you feel might interest our readers. Our very productive photographers are reminded that under the new Privacy Laws, members featuring in the very welcome photographs submitted for publication should have given permission for their image to be so used. If you do not want your photo reproduced please make that clear! Our thanks go to Alan Robinson for continuing to proof read our final copy and also to Derek Ayshford for his ongoing support! Don't forget to look at our website avu3a.org.uk where you will find up-to-date news and details of all our activities.