

Issue No. 104



SUMMER 2022

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello everyone

I hope you are all well and enjoying being able to meet friends and go out and about again. I am delighted to be able to give you all some very good news about a new venue for our monthly AVu3a meetings. As from our next monthly meeting on 8th June, we will be meeting in the brand-new conference centre at Roman Park in Berryfields which is situated next to Aylesbury Parkway Station. Public transport is available from Aylesbury but, if you are driving, take the Bicester Road out of Aylesbury and turn left at the roundabout where Miller & Carter restaurant and the new Lucas Furniture store are situated. You will find the Roman Park buildings at the end of this road. Car parking is available in the railway station car park but you will need to give your car registration to the receptionist on arrival in order to avoid being charged. There are also some "disabled" spaces directly in front of the hall itself. Once again we will be meeting in the mornings between 10.00 am to 12 noon.

This hall is a brand new eco building with underfloor heating/air conditioning, access to an outdoor area, large windows and a high ceiling giving a very airy feel. There is state of the art technology for our speakers' presentations including screens, sound etc. The comfortable chairs will be put out for us and tea, coffee, biscuits, etc will be available at a small cost during our break. You can bring your own if you wish.

This hall will also be the venue for our tea party on 14th September celebrating the u3a's 40th birthday and HM Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Spaces are available so please contact Dot Toler to book your place. (See further details on page 4)

I know that many of you have not been happy with the town centre hall, so please come and give this new hall a chance. The committee has been searching for a suitable hall for a long time and we feel that this one is the answer to our prayers. I am sure that you will enjoy the new venue and it will be great to see you again. There will soon be tennis courts in situ too, so how about somebody starting a tennis group?

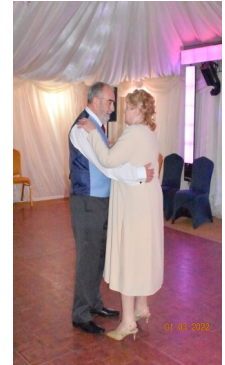
Have a good summer and keep coming to your U3A.

Chris Lowe

WEDDING BELLS



The marriage between John Harwood and Marg Southam took place on Friday, 25th March at Notley Tithe Barn, Cheersley. The stunning bride was dressed beautifully in a gold dress and was delivered and attended by her son, Andrew. The groom, best man and senior male family members were in black tailcoats. The civil ceremony, conducted by two Registrars, was held at 2.30 pm and photos (by Dan McGregor) taken outside in lovely weather after which we had drinks revelling in the sunshine before going inside to enjoy a delicious meal. There were speeches by Marg's son and John followed by his best man. The cake was cut (there were 3 made by Ken Cooper) followed by the happy couple's wedding dance and disco. Many friends from our AVu3a attended the evening function.



Dan McGregor.

Sheila Satterthwaite and Bobbie Lowe ready for the coffee break at the monthly meeting in March.



Wheatfield and blue sky resembling the Ukraine flag provided by John Wilford

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 419 members of whom 394 (94%) are on email.

We welcome 7 new members:

Charles Demery, Sarah Tovell, Diane Slaymaker, Max Pickering, Rosanna Stefanelli,
Elsie Duggan and Simon Hurst

Dot Toler
Membership Secretary



There are still two vacancies on our Committee and would urge all members to consider taking on one of them. The role of Speakers Secretary is now being covered by our Chairman, Chris Lowe. He has made arrangements for the speakers for the rest of the year but it is not fair that he should be dealing with this on top of his own role. Come on, folks, someone step forward!

SPEAKERS SECRETARY

Apart from attending the monthly (except August) AVu3a committee meeting, this role involves sourcing suitable speakers for our monthly meetings, making arrangements for them to present to our members, and assist with setting up any equipment in the hall if required. You will also introduce the speaker and at the end of the presentation, invite questions from the audience. The current incumbent will ensure a complete handover is carried out.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES CO-ORDINATOR

The duties of this role include attending the monthly Committee meeting and organising a bi-monthly coffee morning at a suitable venue.

Other social events can be organized as decided throughout the year such as a Chinese lunch, Quiz with Fish and Chip supper, Christmas Lunch. The current incumbent is happy to assist with making these arrangements.

This post is ideal for anyone who is new to our U3A as you will soon get to know lots of people especially our members who enjoy these social occasions.

For more information contact Mary Singleton at social@avu3a.org.uk or call on 07986 582903



U3A's 40th Birthday and The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebration to be held by Aylesbury Vale U3A branch.

A suggestion put to the committee earlier this year was to celebrate the above with a cream tea party to which they agreed. Therefore a 'Tea Party' will be held on Wednesday 14th September between 2.00 pm and 4.30 pm at Roman Park Hall, Berryfields to commemorate both events. The Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire, The Countess Howe, and Lord Howe will be our main guests of honour. Unfortunately, as the hall is limited to numbers, only 180 members will be able to attend.

This will be open to full members on a first come first served basis and will be funded by AVu3a, ie it is a **free** event therefore, if you wish to attend please contact Dot Toler by telephone (leave a message stating your full name) on 01296 432405 or via e-mail at tea_party@avu3a.org.uk . Subsequently, at the July Meeting, an invitation card will be given to each person attending. No card, no entry, I am afraid.

This is going to be a fabulous tea party and memorable event, so please do get in touch with Dot to secure your place.

If you are attending the Tea Party and have any special dietary requirements, please advise Dot Toler.

There will be **no** normal monthly meeting on the day of the Tea Party.

Ken Satterthwaite & The Tea Party Working Group



The next **Coffee** mornings will be on Monday 27th June and Tuesday 6th September at 11.00 am at the Watermead Inn in the Piazza, Watermead, Aylesbury HP19 OFX. There is plenty of free parking available. The cost will be £3 per person for as many cups of coffee or tea as you wish and biscuits.

The 301

The skyward deck that stunk of fags
The cubbyhole for travellers bags
The netless coop for squawking hens
Excited for their market spends
The wicker baskets on each lap
No seating for the working chap
The usual hens claimed place and won
The best seats on the 301

At 10 past 4, with bated breath,
The clippies fear a gruesome death,
As schoolkids stampede to the Stop,
to be the first 'up front and top'.
And whilst on board our bus expels,
About 10 thousand decibels,
Of shrieking students having fun,
There's nothing like the 301.

The evening ladies, hats with plumes
Perch, roosting, 'midst the diesel fumes
And preening in their wool clad best
Wipe fag ash from their ample breast
2 bob return to Kingsbury Square
They find their sweethearts waiting there
Alight the coop with stinky fixtures
And spend the evening at the pictures
But miss the credits now and then
As last bus home is half past ten.
They won't be spending 4/6d
To catch the later 706
As when is all that's said and done
There's nothing beats the 301



I came across this poem from exiled Buckingham girl Julie Breedon. It's about the old green London Transport 301 bus which ran from Aylesbury to Watford. It could apply to any old country bus route. Ron Adams

CHINESE BANQUET

AVu3a held a Chinese Banquet at The China Brasserie restaurant in Fairford Leys at lunchtime on Wednesday 23rd March 2022. 40 people came along and we all thoroughly enjoyed both the exceptional food and convivial company.

Our next social event is being planned and expected to be a Quiz and Fish & Chip Supper at the Bowls Club, Wendover Road, in October. Further details to be provided in due course.

Mary Singleton, Social Activities Co-ordinator

OUTINGS



Coach trips in the forthcoming months are as follows:

Thurs 2 June	Cambridge Botanic Garden & Ickworth House (NT)	£28
	(+£10.45 non- NT members)	
Wed 6 July	Kentwell Hall & Long Melford	£37
Mon 1 August	Arundel Castle & Arundel Town	£42
Thu 1 September	Salisbury Cathedral & Wilton House	£45
Tues 4 October	Fulham Palace & Kew Gardens	£32
Wed 2 November	The Vyne (NT) & Henley on Thames	£17

Further information can be found on our website <https://www.avu3a.org.uk/wordpress/> by clicking on 'Trips' and then again on the particular trip you are interested in. Emails will also be sent out as a reminder.

If you have any queries you can contact Dan McGregor at outings@avu3a.org.uk or at the monthly meetings.

Dan McGregor

NEW TRICKS

Whether baking or tending your houseplants, these past couple of years have seen many of us return to old hobbies or take up new ones. I have impaired sight and had given up on ever completing a jigsaw again. I thought it would be a useless task.

However, I decided to give it a go. I did not hold out much hope but with a little help from my son I managed to finish it and was very proud of what I had achieved. To date I have now done thirteen, although it takes me a while to complete each one. It has given me so much pleasure and helped me pass the time over the last two years. I enjoyed the challenge and never gave up.

TIPS. Look for strong, bold colours and avoid those which have a lot of the same colour eg blue sky or green. Pictures that have been painted are a lot harder to do.

I belong to the Macular Society for people with sight loss and help to run a club once a month in town. You can chat to people who have similar problems and get help with different aids. For further information please contact me on 01296 393159.



Valerie Sheppard

We look forward to our Mid-Summer Rock'n'Roll party on 16th June with a live band THE BLUE MOONS. This year we shall be supporting Alec's Angels, a local charity supporting children with cancer and their families

U3A's Mid-Summer Rock'n'Roll Party

Featuring 'Live' 50s & 60s Rock'n'Roll Band

THE BLUE MOONS

**Rivets Sports & Social Club
Whitehead Way, Aylesbury HP21 8AD
Tickets £6**

Thursday 16th June 2022. 7.00–11.00 pm

**Licensed Bar. Raffle in aid of 'Alec's Angels'
A local charity supporting children with cancer and their families.**

alec's angels x

Reg Charity No. 1146145. <http://www.alectsangels.co.uk>

**For tickets and information please contact
John Wilford – email: sound@avu3a.org.uk**



Ellesborough Church near Chequers proudly flying the Ukrainian flag .

Sent in by Richard Stevenson

THE COUNTY HALL

It is a brutal building
that County Hall.
It is hard and dark
and far too tall.

It is however a fine example
of the overtly Brutalistic style
so prevalent after the war
when harsh concrete was used for quite a while.

It is Brutalism at its best
and we have an example in our town.
It reminds us of the excesses of the planners
who had come straight down, from Gown.

And what of the architect Fred Pooley
who designed Fred's Fort?
Or Fred's Folly or even Pooley's P...s!
He is greatly admired now he is mort

Richard McGonagall Stevenson

Fred Bernard Pooley CBE (18 April 1916 – 11 March 1998) is best known as the county architect of Buckinghamshire and his futuristic monorail proposals for a new town in north Bucks that eventually became Milton Keynes. Pooley was born in West Ham, East London and trained at the Northern Polytechnic in the evenings while working in the West Ham engineer's department by day. He qualified as an architect, planner and surveyor before serving with the Royal Engineers during World War II. He also qualified as a structural engineer and arbitrator.

He married Hilda in 1944 and had three daughters and lived in Whiteleaf outside Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.



County Hall

Starting Work in 1958.

Aug. 5th. STARTED WORK AT PEARKS STORES, 56, Kingsbury. Man knocked disinfectant over cheese. Was sick because I couldn't stand the smell of luncheon meat.

Aug. 6th. Packed bags of sugar.

Aug. 7th. Dustbin day and sweeping front. Half day.

Aug. 8th. Busy day, pay day.

Aug. 9th. Bought a new bike from Curry's (*then down the High Street near the old Post Office*) Busy day for Mr Bentley, Alan, Rose and Rita but not for me. (*I was not to be allowed to serve in the shop for another six months.*)

Brought apron and jacket home for Mum to wash.

Aug. 11th. Cleaned front windows and frames. Busy for me. Biked to work. Played Monopoly.

Aug. 12th. Load of boxes and crates came....two lorries. Flooded outside in dinner hour. June back.

Aug. 13th. Teemed with rain. Bused home instead of biking. Played Monopoly with Bill and Zooch. (*Christopher and Richard Dickens*)

Aug. 14th. Alan (*Dover*) away relief managing at Chesham branch.

Aug. 15th. Money ! Another disinfectant bottle knocked over ! Finished film.

Aug. 16th. Payed first payment for bike. Mr. Yeo (*District Manager*) came this afternoon.

Aug. 18th. Mr Bentley on holiday. Pete Neal (*Bletchley manager*) took over for two weeks. Dinner in shop. Bused home.

Aug. 19th. Bused in, fell off bike. Supplies in. Went down Post Office.

Aug. 20th. Went up Olly's with Baggie.

Aug. 21st. Went to Oxford in Uncle Frank's car.

Aug. 22nd. Mr Yeo came.

Aug. 23rd. Went round Southcourt with recruited leaflet droppers from Whitchurch, Bill Dickens. Smoke (Vic) Freeman and George Ford for Pearks.

Aug. 25th. Drills outside shop all day.

Aug. 26th. 81 parcels off wagon. (BRS)

Aug. 27th. 17 cwt. of sugar to be weighed.

Aug. 28th. Half day. Biked on old bike. (*Why ?*)

Aug. 29th. Felt terrible, had two tablets. Bed at 10.30 pm

Aug. 30th. Went to International Stores for sugar. (*We must have borrowed some, but after 17 cwt. came in ? We did, though, have special offers of 2lb of sugar and 1lb of lard*)

Last day of my month's trial and last day for Pete Neal.

Here's a photo of Pearks Stores to go with my diary. I took this in 1963. Ironically, over the road is the site of the old Bacon Shop which moved to Cambridge Street in 1962. I worked at The Bacon Shop for 44 years from 1964. The second shot was taken when I was Relief Manager at the Bletchley shop.



Ron Adams

Brill Village, a brief history and its little secret!

Brill is a beautiful historic village in Buckinghamshire equidistant from Aylesbury and Oxford. It is blessed with a position on top of a hill that gives excellent views over the counties of Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. This location has shaped its unusual and varied history.

The name "Brill" is of historic importance since it is one of the few places in Buckinghamshire to have a name with a Celtic element – "bre" meaning hill. The Domesday Book records in 1086 that Brill had been a Royal manor owned by Edward the Confessor. The King had a hunting lodge which remained a Royal manor until 1337.

Brill has three Grade 2 listed buildings – All Saints Church from the 12th century, Brill windmill from the 17th century and the 18th century Manor House on Oakley Road. There are a further 50 listed buildings in the village. Brill was within the Royal Forest of Bernwood and remained the main settlement until its deforestation in the 17th century. Many grand Manor Houses were built in Brill in the Royal era and many fell into disrepair. The current 'Manor House' is assumed to be built on the site of the earlier Manor House.



Brill industry focused on pottery. This was evident in 1210–1220 and continued until the 20th century. Brill houses and buildings are constructed from stone and brick, not the traditional thatch which is a feature of many Buckinghamshire villages.

The Civil War in the 17th century was important to Brill. Brill Hill was the divide between the Aylesbury Parliamentarians and the Oxford Royalists.

For many Brill has a little secret! Despite its well documented walks, iconic windmill, amazing history and its glorious views over the hills towards Oxfordshire and beyond, one more thing remains to discuss! Brill was once the terminus of the London Metropolitan Railway!

Brill enjoyed a brief spell as a small spa resort in the 1830s. The iron-rich springs at nearby Dorton had a pump room and baths. The Brill Spa Hotel was built at the end of the road "The Green" about 30 years before any later train activity started. Unfortunately, Royal patronage didn't take place and so the project withered. If it had taken place the role of the tramway and a possible extension to Oxford may have been significant as well as the role of Brill village itself.

In the 19th century it was not uncommon for landowners to want their own railway for various reasons. Consequently in 1870 the 3rd Duke of Buckingham started to build a 6½ mile railway for his estate at Wotton. It ran from Quainton Road to Brill including stops at Waddesdon Road, Westcott, Wotton and Wood Siding. Like many rural villages there was little population and these stations often were not near residential places. The completed railway was called the Wotton Tramway (Brill Branch). All carriages were horse drawn initially and subsequently it took nearly two hours to travel between Quainton Road and Brill at approximately 4mph which is brisk walking space.

Initially the line was only authorized to carry goods such as milk, coal and bricks from the local kilns. Small spur lines were built at Brill and Westcott stations for the transfer of the building materials, especially bricks, used for the building of Waddesdon Manor which took place between 1874–1885. This used about 25,000 bricks a week from Poore's brickworks at Brill. Due to the speed of the horses and volume of goods two basic locomotives were used and these were later upgraded to cope especially with the gradients involved.

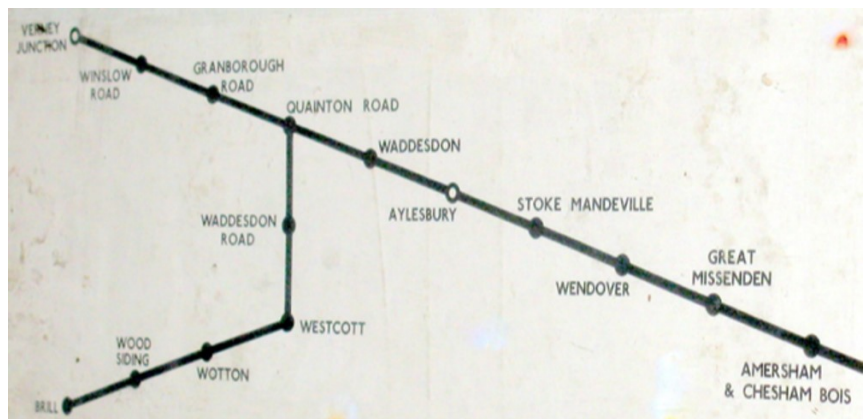
In 1892 the line was approved for passenger use after upgrades to stations, trains and the track. The tramway had been renamed 'The Oxford and Aylesbury Railway' despite not serving either town! Faster journeys were available with the journey to Quainton Road now about 45 minutes and a trip to London Baker Street taking about 2¾ hours.

By 1903 The Metropolitan Railway took over the operation and running of the tramway. At a similar time, Grand Central Railway built the railway from London to High Wycombe and beyond. A station was built at Wotton making it one of the smallest places to have two stations! A station called Brill and Ludgershall also was built but was several miles from Brill itself.

In 1933 the Tramway became part of the full London Underground network with the setup of the London Passenger Transport Board. Further improvements to the track, signalling and electrification to Amersham continued. The tramway was soon closed down by the operators in 1935 who just couldn't see a way of it being commercially viable, only two years after being the end of the Underground! If the proposal to make Brill a Royal spa town had happened the railway may still be there.

Any visit to Brill will have reminders to the past such as Tramhill, Tramway, Spa Close, "Sleepers". There are also station buildings at Westcott.

Richard Clark



Bucks Art Weeks

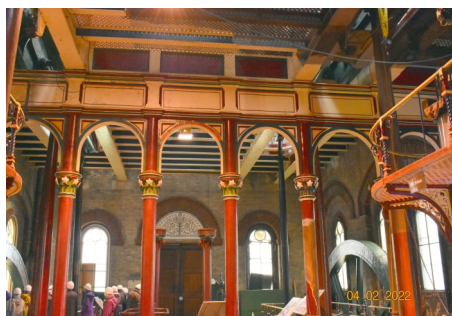
One of our members, Daphne Hughes, will be exhibiting some of her work at her home in Wing during Bucks Art Weeks. She is an established mixed media abstract artist using photography as a medium and basis for her original paintings. Also watercolour paintings with contemporary topics. **Opening times will be Saturday/Sunday, 11/12 and 18/19 June, 10.00 am to 4.30pm.**

For further information and contact details see her website: www.dh-abstract.co.uk. Bucks Art Weeks run from 11th to 26th June 2022 when 273 artists will be exhibiting their works in various places in Bucks. They include jewellers, potters, woodturners, sculptors, printmakers, tapestry weavers, stitchers, etc. See more information at www.bucksartweeks.org.uk

OUTING TO CROSSNESS PUMPING STATION AND BOROUGH MARKET

We set out very early on a soggy morning at 9.45 am. We were met by a very helpful and knowledgeable lady called Petra Cox who took us into the hall and provided us with coffee and biscuits. We then went into a film room where she proceeded to give us a 40 minute lecture about the history of the site and reasons for its being there.

After that she took us around showing us a model of the system before taking us into the beam engine halls where we saw the progress they are making restoring the engines. All the work is performed by volunteers and very impressive it is too, with beautifully painted steelwork and highly polished metals. We were then shown around outside and given descriptions of various buildings on site and their purpose. We then went back inside for lunch and more free coffees. I think I can truly say that everyone, without exception was impressed by the visit, particularly by Petra who was a font of knowledge and only one of two permanent staff members at the museum.



Built in 1865 by Joseph Bazalgette as part of Victorian London's sewerage system, Crossness Pumping Station is a Grade 1 listed industrial heritage site and a masterpiece of 19th century engineering, architecture and design. It came about as a direct result of the 'Great Stink' of 1858. Read about the history and timeline, which is fascinating, at: <https://www.crossness.org.uk/timeline.html>

We left at 1.30 pm for our drive to Borough Market in Southwark, SE London, crisscrossing the river. We arrived there about 2.30 pm and strolled around the market which is predominantly food stalls. Not too much to see, so quite a few of us looked for somewhere to have refreshments until 4.00 pm when we set off in horrendous traffic through the City and North London. We arrived back in Aylesbury at about 6.00 pm having had an eventful, but enjoyable day.



Dan McGregor

Photos courtesy Dan McGregor

Peter Ashton took these pictures in the grounds of Petworth House, and interior and exterior views of Guildford cathedral during the trip to **Petworth and Guildford** early in May.



Interested in volunteering at the Trenchard Museum?

I am Assistant Curator at the Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton. We are staffed entirely by volunteers and, as none of us are getting any younger, we are always looking for more. You don't have to be ex-military, just have an interest in local history and a little time to spare and there are no barriers such as age or gender. A couple of our volunteers are u3a members. If anyone at AVu3a is interested, please contact me at garron.cd@btinternet.com.

Garron Clark-Darby

Bucks residents offered discounted home composting equipment

Buckinghamshire Council is offering residents discounts of up to 40% on home compost bins, hot composters and food waste digesters. Many of these items are made from recycled plastic and all of them are made in the UK. You can pick up a discounted composter, food waste digester or water butt at: Recycle for Bucks website <https://www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk/>.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS



SOUNDS OF THE SIXTIES

Sounds of the Sixties is a friendly group that meets once a month at Aylesbury Tennis Club on Wendover Road from 2.00 pm to 4.15 pm to listen to music from the 1960s from different artistes, themes and genres, but can also include the 50's and 70's. Previous subjects have included rock, pop, soul, Motown, blues, folk, novelty themes, member's personal memories from their youth as well as specific artistes.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the interval. Entrance is £1 to cover the hall hire and refreshments. Open 1.30 pm for a 2.00 pm start

24th May Phil Davies will present – Joe Meek. (The famous record producer).

Val Sheppard will present- Music Memories Part 2. (Recalling memories from her youth).

28th June Phil Davies will present – Sam Cooke. (The famous soul singer).

John Wilford will present – 1967 Summer of Love. (Celebrating music from those hippy days of 55 years ago. Wear your bangles, bells and beads).

26th July Brian Little has a double presentation – Byrds and Chycks.

23rd Aug Ann Dwyer will present – From 21 to John Travolta (My life in music Part 2).

Terry Bloxham will present – Protesting Songs.

For more information email: **John Wilford:** sixties@avu3a.org.uk

We are very fortunate that **THREE NEW GROUPS** for our members have been formed.

They are:

Belote (a card game)

belote@avu3a.org.uk

Italian Literature & Language

italian@avu3a.org.uk

Vive La France !

vivelafrance@avu3a.org.uk

These are all being run by a new member, Rosanna Stephaneli, who can be contacted either by using the above email addresses or by calling her on 01296 330869 if you would like more information.

Jackie Rickard

CRAFT GROUP

After many years as leader of the ever-popular Craft Group, Heather Edwards has decided to relinquish that role but will still be an active member of the Group. Her commitment, ideas and enthusiasm have been amazing and we have, with her leadership, learnt many new skills. Jill Gray has volunteered to take over her role with the support of Liz Hazel and Chris Rosenthal and, as a team, we are assured of many exciting projects to come!

As a thank you, many members joined Heather for lunch at The Charter where she was presented with a Spring Garden Pot and a gardening voucher. Thank you to Jill for organising this outing which was enjoyed by all who attended.



Jackie Rickard

During March the Craft Group members attended very successful workshops run by Margaret George who is also a group member. Margaret demonstrated the technique of creating Embroidered Cards using coloured shiny threads and beads.

Future workshops are planned for later in the year which will include Decoupage Boxes and Folded Patchwork Christmas Trees.



Jill Gray

The **Military History Group** is now back fully functional in their new location, the **Tennis Club** on Wendover Road, and has a full programme for 2022. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00 am for about two hours where talks on military history subjects are given by the members with an outside speaker on occasional meetings. Some of the subjects planned for the coming year are: The Crusades, Little Big Ships and Operation Oyster just name a few. So If you have any interest in this group please come along and join us. We will welcome you with open arms. Alternatively you can talk to me at the monthly meeting.

Ken Satterthwaite

LOCAL WALKS GROUP

A 'BRILL' IANT WALK

On February 14th the Local Walking Group, this time organised by Joe Southall and Diana Lewis, took 25 members on a 4½ mile circular walk from Brill Windmill via Boarstall and Oakley. There were spectacular views on this fine morning looking down from the hill where the Windmill is. Unfortunately it had rained the previous day and so the ground was very slippery. Everyone mucked in and helped people across the more challenging dips and muddy sections. Lovely views continued and we made our way to Boarstall church where we stopped for a short break. From here we could catch views of the National Trust listed Boarstall Tower. Continuing on we skirted Boarstall Wood and touched Oakley before starting the slow climb back to Brill Windmill.



The Local Walks Group started the March walk at The Half Moon pub in Wilstone. We cut across the fields and up the steps to the reservoir. The group then headed over towards Drayton Beauchamp where we skirted the 15th century church and joined the canal path on the Wendover Arm (which is being restored). We stopped along the canal for our break. The weather was warm and sunny and we had a great view. We came back along the other side of the reservoir and down into the village. The majority of those walking stayed for lunch. We will definitely do this walk again in the future.

Heather Edwards

Photos courtesy Phil Toler



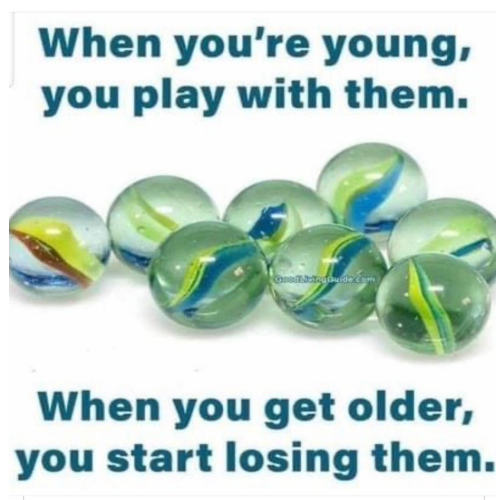


St Mary's Church in the tiny village of Puttenham is a magnificent medieval building – early 14th century. In the early 15th century the tower was added. There is an elaborate nave roof and the chancel was largely rebuilt in 1851 for Rev Thomas Holme retaining older features. The south-facing porch was rebuilt in 1869 and again in general restoration in 1888–9 by Carpenter & Ingelow for Rev Robert Merrick when the chancel floor was raised and relaid, roofs repaired and tower parapets and turret-top rebuilt.

The Grade I listed church is built on clay. Consequently this has meant drainage has been poor and the church has suffered with damp problems. A few years ago, swales, or drainage channels, were cut in the churchyard round the church perimeter to improve drainage. This was achieved and in 2017 major restoration works were completed with the new nave floor raised to that of the chancel and new heating and lighting systems installed.

Puttenham is one of the 51 Thankful Villages in England and Wales that suffered no fatalities during the Great War of 1914 to 1918.

Mary Singleton



Bridge for Improvers Group

Due to family commitments Bob Burr has decided to relinquish his role as leader of the Bridge for Improvers Group. Thank you, Bob, for your commitment to the AVU3A over the years.

It would be wonderful if any other member could take over this exciting role. Please contact Jackie Rickard at groups@avu3a.org.uk if you feel you can take on leadership of this group.



Creative Writing Group 2

Since our group resumed face-to-face meetings in September we have managed to meet regularly every month and have renewed our joy of writing and sharing our work with each other in person. We continue to meet on the first Monday of the month in each other's houses. The group is now full having welcomed a new member in February.

Our meetings are always very lively and, although we have a theme for our piece of writing each month, it never ceases to amaze us how different our contributions are! We have enjoyed lots of "true" stories but our members also have plenty of imagination when writing fiction.

Recently we were invited to take part in a flash fiction competition under the title "Wish you were here". One of our members, Bob Close, has been longlisted so we await the final outcome with excited anticipation.

We have discussed an interesting idea. We would like to put together an anthology of what we consider to be our best short stories and publish them in a slim volume. Watch out. It may be for sale in the future!

Bobbie Cadwallader—Group Leader

YOGA GROUP

It's been wonderful to welcome new and returning members to our small, friendly group, and there are still spaces available for new members.

We meet every Wednesday at 11.45 am in Fairford Leys Community Centre, and all are welcome whatever your experience or level of fitness.

To find out more contact Jan tel: 07969 779222 or email janbakeryoga@gmail.com



London Walks

London Walks Group, led by Peter Harding, resumed on Friday 22nd April 2022 after over a two-year break due to the Covid pandemic. 6 walkers met on the first carriage of the 09:18 train to Marylebone from Aylesbury Vale Parkway Station and others joined en route to total 11. This was for the Paddington and Marylebone Circular Walk.

This was the first time I had joined this walk and thoroughly enjoyed it. Peter made sure we all stayed together and set a gentle pace with lots of stops in order to see places of interest. I will mention just a few of them that I found particularly interesting:

- Coade Stone Keystones above front doors (Brenden Street) – London Building Act 1774 – Coade stone replaced wood to reduce the risk of fires.
- Blue Plaque in Cato Street recording the Cato Street Conspiracy of 1820.
- Seymour Leisure Centre – foundation stone laid in 1935. The Centre was built to encourage health and hygiene in the poorer classes.
- Decorative coal hole covers in the pavements of Wyndham Place.
- Paddington Street Gardens, the site of St George's burial ground – 80,000 people interred there between 1731 and 1857. Marylebone Workhouse was on the northern side.
- Marylebone High Street – nice shops!
- St Mary's Church situated by the Tyburn stream (now underground) became known as St Mary's-by-the-Bourne responsible for the name 'Marylebone'.
- St James Roman Catholic Church, Spanish Place
- The Wallace Collection

We stopped en route at a little restaurant in Thayer Street called Bonne Bouche and enjoyed lunch there.

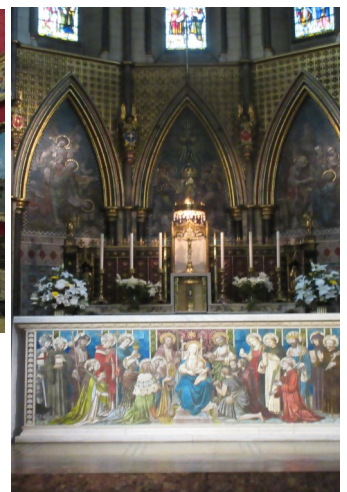
Mary Singleton



Chemist in Crawford Street established 1814 sells 'photographic chemicals' and 'toilet requisites'



Margaret Harding admiring a painting of Venice by Canaletto in the Red Room of the Wallace Collection in Manchester Square



The altar in St James RC Church, Spanish Place



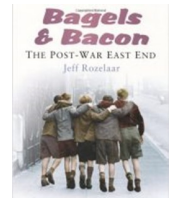
Group picture outside the Wallace Collection

Speakers at forthcoming Monthly Meetings

Please note that these and future meetings will be held at the **Roman Park Hall at Berryfields** (next to Aylesbury Park Railway Station) at 10.00 am (doors open at 9.30 am)

Wednesday 8th June 2022

Bagels & Bacon – a second helping by Jeff Rozelaar



Wednesday 13th July 2022

My Life as an Extra by Andy Bustin



Wednesday 14th September 2022

No meeting – Tea Party (Ticket required) 2.00 pm to 4.30 pm

Wednesday 12th October 2022

Travels with Auntie – BBC World Service by Alistair Lack

Wednesday 9th November 2022

Disraeli– Life at Hughenden by Fritha Irwin



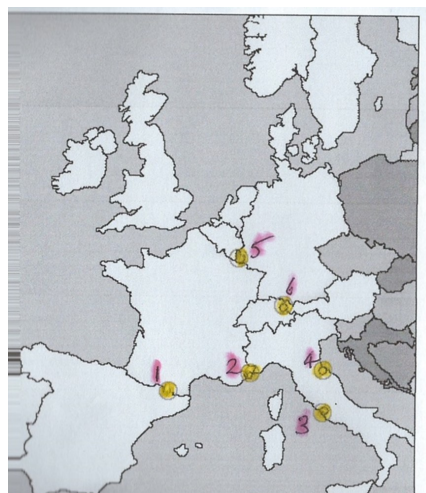
Wednesday 14th December 2022

Christmas Party



Puzzle—You Know Europe?

What are the 6 marked countries



Answers to last Quiz

Row 1—Seat, Subaru, Maserati

Row 2—Hyundai, Porsche, Ford Mustang

Last date for copy for the Autumn 2022 Newsletter will be 1st August 2022 so please send any items you may like to share with us to newsletter@avu3a.org.uk.

If you do not use internet/email then please send your contribution, either typed or handwritten, by post to Mary Singleton, 6 Redwing, Aylesbury HP19 0WB.