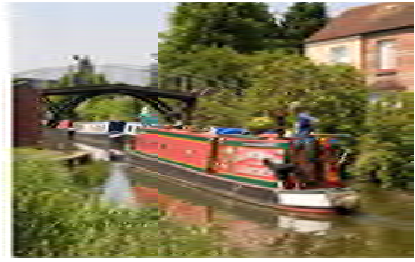


AYLESBURY VALE U.3.A.



Issue No. 92

September 2019

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Summer is here and don't we know it, it was almost 100 F in our garden yesterday 25th July and I found it unbearable. My Husband says "you moan when it's cold and moan when it's hot there is no pleasing you" but let's face it that was extreme. Anyhow it is cooler today and I for one am glad as I put on my Norah Batty stockings which I have to wear.

Well enough of the weather we are now in our new "home" at Stoke Mandeville Stadium for the next year or two. I am glad we were not in there this last week as they do not have air conditioning but at least it will be warm in the winter. What a sad day when after nearly 20 years, correct me if I am wrong, we were turfed out of Meadowcroft!! In the new year when we have more time the committee will start looking for other premises which will suit our needs. Although our thanks must go to Chris Lowe who spent every day looking at premises which either could not accommodate us on the days in question or it was too much money. I know those who attend the meeting are aware of this but I am mentioning it in the Newsletter for those members who do not attend the meetings. I would like to thank Derek Ayshford and Ken Roberson for the magnificent job they did informing those same members who do not attend.

Our week's holiday on the Isle of Wight on a houseboat in Bembridge was fantastic, lovely weather, enjoying a glass or two of Vino on the veranda, watching the ducks and swans in the harbour and going for walks with our Westie. We have been there before but it was lovely visiting the various places again.

Despite my ulcerated ankle we managed to go to Norfolk for 4 days staying in Norwich and going out on trains, some steam not as many as we would have liked and ended up on Sunday, when it was my birthday, at Sandringham. We went there by coach on an organised party looking round the house and grounds and then a cream tea in the cafe. I was disappointed the Queen was not there to wish me a Happy Birthday.

I would like to say a few words here about Shirley Stokes who has done a magnificent job producing this magazine, but there comes a time when enough is enough and Shirley would like someone to take it over. We have approximately 500 members, surely there must be someone out there who would like to do it or at least have a go. Shirley, I know, will help that person or persons, maybe two of you could do it. It would be a shame to lose the magazine. I hope to hear from someone soon.

Him indoors wants a cup of tea! That's all for now folks,

Sheila Satterthwaite



Hi Folks,

Just a short note to let you know that we have now signed the Contract-Of-Hire for our new venue for our Monthly Members' Meetings at the Indoor Bowls Hall at Stoke Mandeville Stadium. The Contract covers us for our next 11 meetings, namely Sept-2019 to July-2020.

As you know, we had a very short time frame in which to find a new venue, after our untimely and totally unexpected eviction from Meadowcroft following our May meeting. (The formal reason given by their management was that they needed to optimise best use of their hired spaces, (ie. their income) and they now had a better option than our once-a-month half-day sessions).

As a result, our choice of possible alternatives was very limited in terms of meeting all our requirements, including: costs, availability, location, numbers of attendees (over 250), seating, facilities, refreshments, accessible parking. This venue, although quite a bit more expensive than Meadowcroft, where we have been for over 10 years, is the only one which currently meets most of our requirements, and the majority of feedback received so far has been very positive.

We owe a great thanks to Chris Lowe, our current vice-chairman, for the major effort he put into researching alternative venues, taking into account our extensive requirements and the limited time frame he had available to him. However, as a result of the increased costs of hiring this venue, together with the increases in costs of other necessary expenditure items, we will need to increase the annual Membership fees by around at least £5.00 per member. The actual amount of this increase is yet to be quantified and agreed, and will not/cannot be applied until the 2020-2021 Membership year.

On behalf of the Committee, we hope you will bear with us and that you will enjoy our new "home" over the forthcoming months.

Mike Park

A HEARTFELT WORD OF THANKS FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY:

Following the last few months when major changes have occurred within our U3A; not least being the introduction of a new computer software system allowing us to spread the renewal process over May to July and to introduce BAC payments I want to thank all those who embraced the process and have renewed their memberships. I would urge those who have yet to renew to do so soon. It is always sad to see some members leave us; some have been with us for years but most of those leaving have moved away from Aylesbury. I'm pleased to say that the leavers are outnumbered by new members so hopefully we can maintain our 500 plus membership figure.

Ken Roberson

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

MILITARY HISTORY GROUP;

2019 so far has been a very interesting year again and we have had some very interesting talks given by the membership on a variety of subjects relating to Military History from Animals at War to the Course of WW2 War in Yugoslavia. The latest talk in August was given by Paul Rosentall on the Cyprus Problems of the 1950's. Our first trip out this year was to HMS Belfast moored in the Pool of London where other members of the Aylesbury U3A Branch joined us for a very enjoyable day. Our visit took place on June 5th which was very poignant as it was the day before D-Day +75 and on the actual day in 1944 HMS Belfast was on her way to give supporting bombardment to the troops landings in Normandy. Our second trip out will be to the RAF Museum at Hendon on the first Wednesday of September in shared transport. So, you can see we are a very active group so why don't you come along and join us at the Methodist Church Hall Stoke Mandeville the first Wednesday of each month at 10.00am and be sure of a warm welcome.



Ken Satterthwaite

Members on the Forecastle of H.M.S. Belfast

CRAFT GROUP:

In the coming year the Craft Group are going to try and perfect their paper cutting skills. We shall be sharing equipment so we will work in small groups starting on September 17th and carrying on into October. This heart was my first effort.



Heather Edwards

GARDEN GROUP:

Chris Reading has asked me to let you all know that she will be moving from Aylesbury to Somerset and will therefore not be able to be involved with the Garden Group any longer. Sadly this will now have to be disbanded until someone else feels able to take it on. We are grateful to Chris for her hard work



Ian Hancock finds a quiet moment to read the boards at Bad-desley Clinton unaware that Dan McGregor is watching.

ROGER FOX REPORTS ON SUPPORTING PACE:

Saturday 27th April, six members of the Aylesbury Vale U3A local walks group set off on a 6-mile charity walk to help raise funds for a local charity PACE. Generous individual sponsored donations given by members raised just short of £300. PACE informed us the total raised was in excess of £20,000.

PACE Community Fundraiser Lacey Bonham, describes the work and facilities PACE offers to the children in their care. "Children who attend our school groups have needs ranging from very complex challenges relating to their sensory motor difficulties, to children who have mild to moderate physical difficulties. Children are placed in groups according to their age, abilities and challenges. Some children in our services have visual and/or hearing impairment in addition to their motor disorders and curriculum delivery is carefully modified to meet these additional needs. PACE were very grateful for the individual donations given by members and in return, offered the U3A an opportunity to visit one of their schools to see the work that they do and to meet some of the children. Eight members visited the PACE primary school in Coventon Road, Aylesbury on the 16th July. We were split into three groups, visiting three separate classrooms. Children in each class were performing different tasks. A poetry class practicing for the next day's school assembly, a limerick class and a snakes and ladders class



Here are some of the thoughts of members after our visit:

Communication by eye contact

Kathy Herridge

I was in the group that visited the children making up limericks. There was a limerick that had been written about each child, which had then been cut into strips so the children each had to make their way the length of the room, collecting 5 strips of paper each on the way, so they could then be rearranged to form the appropriate rhymes. Because of the physical challenges involved, which varied from child to child, they first needed to warm up and loosen up their bodies and prepare to use each of their hands. Some would need to use supports to walk, some needed to roll themselves across mats. The physical challenges were huge but the children were cheerful and happy to take on the challenges and the staff were wonderful. It really was inspirational to see them all working together.

It's so easy to take our health and mobility for granted but to see these children being encouraged and achieving so much was a real experience.

Heather Edwards

Ann and I were in with the group playing Snakes and Ladders. The children had a variety of abilities. The game was mainly used to increase their motor skills. They had to push the big sponge dice from their table. Some really had to work hard to achieve this. The game also helped with number recognition and counting. The staff showed amazing patience, giving each child time to do their best.

Sue Moynehan and Roger Fox

We joined the assembly preparation group. This group were practicing poetry in preparation for assembly the following day. Each child had to prepare their own short, funny poem. Some children made their presentation using electronic aids. Some gave verbal presentations. It was moving to see the determination of each child given the physical challenges each had to face.

Mary Rogers

It was really special to observe the dedication and patience of all the staff equalled by the determination of the children to achieve what to most of us are just small tasks but giant steps for them. We were all blown over by the dedication of the staff who explained to us the equipment and methods used to help the children with both mobility and educational problems. Each child starts the day with exercises that are geared to each of their individual needs and one to one help is given throughout the day. We were then split into small groups to visit the 3 different classrooms and sit in on the class. To watch these small children, try their hardest to do simple movements and the joy on their faces when they succeed was most moving. It is hard to imagine what life must be like for the families with these children and what a life line Pace must offer so that these children can achieve their full potential with some even able to go on to university. It was a most humbling experience and opened my eyes to what is happening to help children from a wide area right under our noses in Aylesbury "

MORE NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

ROCK'N'ROLL MID-SUMMER PARTY

Thank you to everyone who attended the Mid-Summer Party on the 20th June.

I am pleased to announce that we raised £192 for our charity 'Friends of OSCAR' supporting children with brain and spinal tumors.

We were pleased to have the chairman of OSCAR come and say a few words of thanks and explain how the funds are used for the children.

John Wilford



U3A's Legendary Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party

**Featuring Music from the 50s, 60s, 70s
Rock – Pop – Soul – Motown – R&B
Licensed Bar & Raffle**

Thursday 12th December 2019

7.00 - 10.00 pm

Aylesbury Tennis Club. Wendover Road. HP21. 9NJ

Admission by ticket. £4.00 Available from U3A meetings from October
All profits go to 'Friends of OSCAR' supporting children with brain and spinal tumours.
For tickets and information about the event please contact John Wilford.
email: sound@avu3a.org.uk

MORE NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

READERS CIRCLE 2. :



This group finished its year with a lunch held on August 14th—just too late for a photo for the newsletter. However this painting called ‘The Reader’ (Oil on canvas by Viktor Romanovich Efimenko – Russian School) will be looking down on the occasional Autumn meetings in my house. . Members all contribute their own ‘picks’ for reading which are put into a hat, and drawn out accordingly—all very democratic. Our forthcoming programme ranges between Zoo Station by David Downing in September through to Oranges and Sunshine by Margaret Humphrey next March . We are experimenting by reading some Children's Books in the Autumn, before returning to our more usual adult selection.

Brenda Daniel

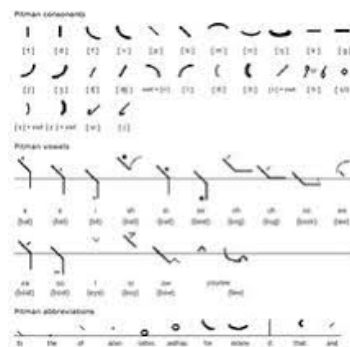
AND A PLEA FOR HELP! CAN YOU READ PITMAN SHORTHAND?

The **GNM Archive**, part of the [Guardian Foundation charity](#) is asking for help from U3A members who can read Pitman shorthand. The Archive collects, preserves and makes accessible records of the Guardian and Observer newspapers. It has acquired the unique collection of Clyde Sanger, the Guardian’s first Africa correspondent, reporting for the newspaper between 1960 and 1965. Clyde’s papers include around 130 notebooks mostly covering his work in Central, Southern and Eastern Africa. Many are partially written in Pitman shorthand, which the archivists (and most researchers) can't read!

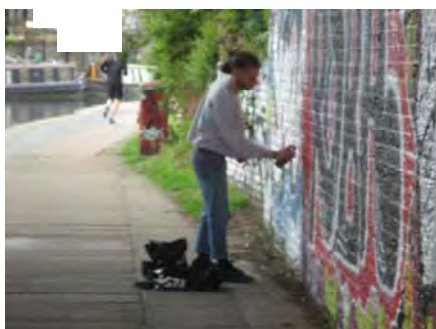
U3A members have so much experience and expertise that the archivists hope to find anyone who might be willing to transcribe the shorthand text.

Read more about this at <https://www.facebook.com/u3auk/>

Please write to elizabeth.drury@u3a.org.uk to express your interest.



Peter Harding comments—On the Exploring London Walks we do come across some interesting sights and situations. One of these occasions was seeing a graffiti ‘artist’ in action. Generally, we frown on such activity but some of the artist’s work does make you smile. This artist was seen on the walk between Mile End and the Angel along the Regents Canal.



Dates for your



TUESDAY 17th SEPTEMBER : Coffee Morning at 11 a.m. at the Watermead Inn: An opportunity for members new and old to meet, get to know each other and hear about the groups that are available. A coffee and biscuit only costs £2 and we would be very pleased to see you. Contact me if you would like any more details: Mary Singleton at social@avu3a.org.uk



MONDAY 7TH OCTOBER: To Bourton -on -The- Water and on to Snowhill Manor and Gardens:

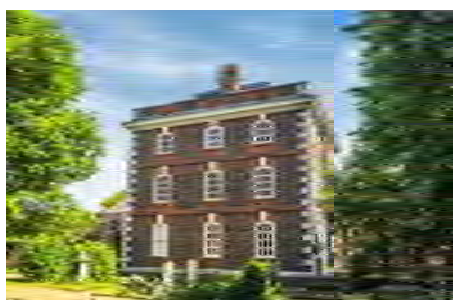
Bourton is a lovely place to visit however many times you have been before! Enjoy the morning at leisure and explore as you wish Birdland, the motor museum, the award-winning model village and the pretty centre with its shops and many eating places. Time here for lunch. Snowhill is a Cotswold manor house full of extraordinary treasures collected over a lifetime by Charles Wade. The manor is packed with 22,000 unusual objects – always changing - from tiny toys to samurai armour, musical instruments to fine clocks. The manor is set in a beautiful terraced garden with fine views of the Cotswolds. Time here for a cuppa before we go home.

Cost £17 (collection in July) Snowhill an additional £12 for non NT members. Departing Jansel Square at 8. 00a.m. returning approx. 6. 30 p.m.



One of the bridges over the River Windrush in the centre of Bourton.

THURSDAY 7TH NOVEMBER RAINHAM HALL (NT) & EASTBURY MANOR HOUSE:



These are two very different houses to the east of London. Rainham Hall has recently undergone a £2.5 million conservation project. It is one of the country's finest examples of an early 18th century merchant's home. Built by John Harle in 1729, it was to be partly a show home for the building supplies he imported. There is a new café in the old stables and a NT shop.

Eastbury Manor House is a brick-built Tudor gentry house set in tranquil gardens dating from 1573, with little altered since. Early 17th century wall paintings show fishing scenes and a cityscape and there is a fine original spiral oak staircase. NT shop and a café for light refreshments.

Cost £17 pp (Rainham Hall £6 extra, Eastbury £5 extra for non-NT members) To be collected in September. Depart Jansel Square, Bedgrove 8.30. return 5.30 approx.



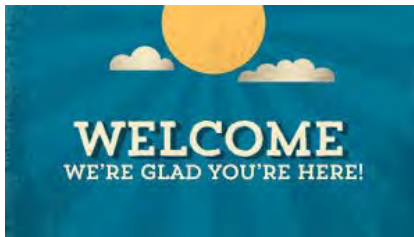
TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER : Another Coffee Morning at 11 a.m. at the Watermead Inn: Please join us to meet members new and old to meet, get to know each other and hear about the groups that are available. A coffee and biscuit only costs £2 and we would be very pleased to see you. Contact me if you would like any more details: Mary Singleton at social@avu3a.org.uk



pto. for Fish and Chip Supper and Quiz details

THURSDAY 17TH OCTOBER: QUIZ AND FISH AND CHIP SUPPER :

This popular annual event will take place at the Aylesbury Bowls Club on Wendover Road between 3 p.m. and 6.30 p.m. Tea and coffee will be served on arrival and the Bar will be open. If you don't like fish there are other options i.e. chicken or sausage. Teams of 6 can be entered or teams can be made up on arrival. Entry fee of £10 per person to be paid in advance at AVU3A meeting on 11 September. Further information from Mary Singleton.



We are delighted to be able to welcome the following new members. If you see a new face at a meeting please say 'Hello'

David Batty: Christine Campbell: Jean Carter: Jean Chappel: Frances Davies: Tony Eliman: Nel Guneratni; David Batty; Jean Thompson; Sue Moynehan; Paul Trayling



YOUR SPEAKERS FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER:

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 9TH: MARK LEWIS - WILLIAM MORRIS AND THE ARTS AND CRAFT MOVEMENT

Celebrating the life and work of this illustrious poet, artist and social reformer, who pioneered a movement that reacted against the soulless machine production of the Industrial Revolution and attempted to promote joyful labour, the enjoyment of fine craftsmanship and its eventual demise.

Mark Lewis is an artist, designer, historian, folklorist and recently retired university lecturer.

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 12TH: DR. KEITH HOOPER—DICKENS AND CHRISTMAS.

Dr. Hooper's area of expertise is Victorian literature and culture. Awarded a doctorate from Exeter University for his work on Charles Dickens, his commissioned biography of the author appeared in the autumn and was well reviewed and available internationally.

He has spoken at Literary Festivals, County Library sponsored events, U3A groups and Historical Societies. He has also been the subject of 2 recent local BBC radio interviews.

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10TH: JOHN WILFORD—A JOURNEY THROUGH ROCK'N'ROLL SOUND:

Ever wondered what it was like to tour with a big rock band? John will be talking about his 30 years in the rock'n'roll music business with well-known bands and musicians from the 1960s to the 1990s working as a sound engineer, tour manager and production manager. From pubs and clubs to Wembley Stadium and the Hollywood Bowl.

It's a behind the scene look at what happens on-stage, off-stage and back-stage, in the TV and recording studios— covering the good, the bad and the disastrous.

Warning; The presentation will contain music videos.



Reminders of a lovely summer day out in Longstock Park Water Gardens: Photos taken by Dan McGregor

Above Jeanette Walker, June Thompson. Cynthia Millward and Evelyn McLeod walk around the lake and on the right Jane Trow, Dot Simmons and Moira Bishop take their own photo.



Above Jill Gray and Caroline Hurford take a breather while enjoying this beautiful view



John Harwood was caught heckling some ukulele players at Cuddington Fete and had to be punished. Ken Roberson did the honours



Captain Satterthwaite takes command on the Bridge of HMS Belfast when members visited in June

Recruiting for members? Taken by new member Daphne Hughes at a visit to the Green Dragon Eco Farm



In July our Camping Group spent time in the beautiful Wye Valley and Lynn Dawson took these photos of Morris Dancers at St. Briavels and an embroidered shop front in Monmouth High Street.



Dot Simmons was intrigued by these onlookers at Jordans Mill!



Our Strummers get ready for action at the Quainton Railway Centre taken by Jerry Fagan

A HEARTFELT PLEA FROM THE GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR;

As ever the group leaders have been working hard to keep their groups going and with great success. Sadly, we have lost our Gardening group this year, and the Computer Group. However, we have now gained a new group called the Railway Group, aimed at members who like railways, outings and talks.

Several of our groups have now got waiting lists, as they are so popular.

At the beginning of the year, we decided that it would be a good idea to check our accuracy of details pertaining to the groups twice a year. So this was done in January and July this year. Any changes between these dates are made to the list and posted on the notice board at our monthly meetings. If you know of any member who is not on e mail, do contact me and I can always bring a copy to the monthly meetings for them.



October 18th this year will be our Annual Group Leaders meeting. This will be held as usual at the Bowls Club in Aylesbury between 10:00am and 12:00. All Group Leaders are invited, and the Committee members will be there as well.

Any suggestions from members for new topics to be considered would be very welcome, not necessarily for you to run the group, but for me to see if I can find a willing Group Leader. Please contact me by e mail with any ideas.

Jane Frow

THAMES VALLEY REGIONAL NETWORK PROGRAMME:

Don't forget that as members of A.V.U.3.A you can take advantage of all the activities arranged by 'our' Regional Network. The choice is enormous! It ranges from a study of Britain's Ancient Past at Benson in November through to the special Christmas Concert at St. James' Church, Paddington in December. The programme carries on into 2020 .

There is to be an Architecture Day again at Benson in April 2020: A geology Day in May and a visit to RHS Wisley in June, - always popular.

The objectives of the Thames Valley U3A Network are to advance the education of members of U3A's in the network and to encourage the provision of leisure activities for their social welfare by facilitating cooperation between U3A's in the Network. If you would like to receive information direct from TVN with details of Study Days and Workshops please e mail Eventsinfo@u3atvnetwork.org.uk with your request to be put on the list. You can of course unsubscribe using the same address at any time. Those of us who have attended a number of their events in the past know that they can be both stimulating and enjoyable—and an opportunity to make new like-minded friends, so why not try them out?



Dan McGregor took these photos at Baddesley Clinton and Leeds Castle just to prove that the sun doesn't always shine on U3A outings



A LAST LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



After quite a long time of having the privilege of talking to you all through the pages of the newsletter, I feel that it is time to take a break. I have enjoyed chatting to members through these pages, and want to thank all of you who have helped me, You have sent me interesting accounts of your activities; shared some of your life experiences; taken photographs and always been willing to respond to my cries for help. My recent request for additional photos elicited about 30 e mails! Above all you have tolerated my many shortcomings.

So many of you contribute to this publication. I wouldn't have survived the vagaries of my computer without the unfailing patience and assistance of Derek Ayshford. He must have received hundreds of pleas for help over the years. Alan Robinson has been indispensable in proof reading each issue—a fairly boring task. I am one of those people who read a word as it should be, not at all the same thing as seeing the actual word on the page. Alan has saved me from many a blunder. Richard Clark has helped me with making sure that the many excellent pictures you send are properly reproduced and all the Officers and members of the committee have been willing to assist and helped to disguise my many failings!

I can't remember how many issues I have parented. Some of the early ones went to the County Library archive in the days when they had time and storage to look after them. I followed on from Geoff Young and I do hope that somebody else will follow on from me. I know that for many people the printed medium is not as important as it used to be and fate will decide whether the newsletter, in any form, will continue. If it doesn't—thank you for the pleasure and privilege you have afforded me. I don't regret a moment of it!

Shirley Stokes