

# AYLESBURY VALE U.3.A.



Issue No 84

September 2017

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMEN

Now the summer holidays are nearly over, we hope you had time to enjoy the summer weather with family and friends. Our summer began with a family house party in Dorset followed by four camping trips with the U3A in the beautiful English countryside.

Next month we will be having our AGM and we are still looking to fill the posts of Vice Chairman and Social Events Coordinator and Outings Coordinator. While we believe that nobody could fill the shoes of Gay and Ian, perhaps a small team could organise a number of trips. Greig is willing to be chairman for a final year, if elected, but would welcome the election of someone else to fill the role. Marilyn Dunnet is stepping as joint website manager and we would like to thank her for the sterling work she has performed. Derek Ayshford has very kindly agreed to replace her in the meantime.

The committee would like to thank you for your support during the recent Fire Drill practice. The hall was evacuated in only five minutes and we learned some valuable lessons from the exercise. The new portable projector has proved a great success and has been used by a couple of groups and we would encourage the group leaders to see the benefits of using it in their activities.

Believe it or not, casting and rehearsals for this year's Christmas Show have begun and the crew are determined to put on as good a show as last year, if not better. The new coloured format for the newsletter has met with approval and should encourage the group leaders to submit articles about their activities.

Finally, thank you all for your continued interest in and support for our U3A.

*Lynne Dawson and Greig Sneddon*



A beautiful day for the visit to Constable Country. The photographs from top left show the Guide talking about the Constable painting of 'The Lock' although it was pointed out that he omitted the horizontal struts which would have obscured a view of Dedham Church; A warm welcome to our group: Val Shepherd with Bridge Cottage in the background, and finally our Guide talks about Constable's painting of Willy Lott's Cottage.

As always some delightful photos from Gay Hancock.



Please note that the Wednesday Tai Chi Group meeting at the Multi Cultural Centre has now closed. The Monday Group will continue as normal.

The Wednesday practitioners would like to thank Joan Lewis for what has been a very enjoyable 7 years.

## OUR FIRST EVER GOLF DAY

Our photograph shows the winning 3 Ball, Jerry Fagan, Gill Mead and Billy McCunn, after the first AVU3A Golf Day at Aylesbury Park Golf Club. A great day's golf in excellent weather. We plan to hold them quarterly, and hope more golfers will join in the next one. New or experienced golfers are welcome. So if anyone else is interested, then contact me and I'll put them on the list. We all had a lot of fun.

Here's to the next one !

*Beth McCunn*



## HOW ABOUT SOME NEW GROUPS ?

Another successful and friendly year has been enjoyed by all our many Groups. I would urge Leaders to contact me should any changes need to be made for next year's Directory. Whilst we have such a diverse selection it is always good to have more. Singing, dancing, hand bell ringing, board games etc the list of possibilities is endless. I am always available to help and advise on the setting up of a new Group should the need arise, it just needs a few enthusiastic and willing members to add an even greater selection of activities to our U3A:



*Jackie Rickard      Group Coordinator*



## A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS:

Meryl Hunt: Mike Park: Pauline Park: Margaret Tebb: Philip Toler:  
George Hogan: Silvia Hogan: Elaine Parker: Fred Dorn: Mick Doyle:  
David Price: Margaret Price: Pollie Newman: Phil Davies Brenda  
Surridge: Roger Surridge: Kath Spencer: Carol Tearle: Sue and Terry McGill: Mike Mur-  
phy: Theresa Farquharson: Tracey Loftus: John Winchcomb: Andy Lintern; Beth Doyle  
and Angela Romano.

*Tony and Jill Davis*

Membership Secretaries.



## ANNUAL GROUP LEADERS MEETING:



*Although it took place some time ago and just too late to include in the last newsletter, we thought that you would be interested to know about some of the topics discussed at the Annual Meeting which is open to all Group Leaders or their deputies, and which gives them the opportunity to share problems and new ideas.*

The Group Leaders Meeting was well attended at the Aylesbury Bowls Club and a good cross section of Leaders and Deputies attended. Various items were discussed including the reforming of the Gardening Group, the availability of Bishopstone Village Hall as a possible venue for meetings, and the new projector available to any Group for their use. A booklet was available for all giving invaluable advice on how to begin setting up a new Group.

It was requested that when sending out group emails, the sender clicks on the BCC button which effectively 'hides' all our personal e mail addresses thus giving us a certain amount of security when on line.

**Jackie Rickard**

Group Coordinator

## TO WALK OR NOT TO WALK - THAT WAS THE QUESTION.

Having enjoyed weeks of very hot sunshine, the Gentle Walkers were looking forward to their monthly walk this time around Bedgrove Park. Sadly, leader Christine Dilkes had to telephone all the group members early in the morning to cancel for the first time during her watch. A gale was howling, rain was pouring down and the ground was soggy.. However, not to be daunted a dozen or so members decided to meet at the planned lunch stop and enjoy morning tea or coffee instead. The coffee break stretched on for so long that it turned into the planned lunch stop as well, and our photo. shows some of the group—dry and not wind swept - looking none the worse for the lack of exercise. They weren't even looking sorry for the change in their plan!



**Shirley Stokes**



A special thank you to Mike Bean for designing our new all colour masthead on the front page.

## SPEAKERS CORNER:

### WEDNESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER: THE VICTORIAN NOVEL: SOAP OPERA AND SERIAL KILLERS—DAVID GRYLLS.

Dr David Grylls is a Fellow of Kellogg College, Oxford and a literature tutor at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education. His publications include books on Charles Dickens, George Gissing and Victorian parent-child relationships. He is a regular reviewer for many national newspapers and has lectured widely in the America as well as Britain, and also in France, Sweden, Italy, Greece and Gibraltar.



Victorian novels were hugely various but they also had many features in common because of the way they were published. They could either be read in instalments or borrowed in separate volumes from libraries. The argument of this entertaining lecture is that virtually all features of Victorian fiction - themes, techniques and values - can be traced to the way the books first appeared.

### WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER: LIFE IN THE LIBRARY—PETER MUSSETT

Peter Mussett's wistful ruminations on forty years spent in the shadowy, archaic world of the British public library. Expect scandal, intrigue and outrage - all in Dewey Decimal order. Peter Mussett has lived in Princes Risborough since 1988. He is of Huguenot origin and comes from the UK's most easterly inhabited island. His interests include gardening, Victorian art and the nefarious deeds of Jack the Ripper. His frustrations include his inability to learn German, and the away form of Colchester United !

*Joe Southall: Speaker Secretary*



Member Chris Rosentall has just finished a mammoth cross stitch of the Great Wall of China. Purchased ten years ago, she has brought the project to many craft Group meetings and finally finished this huge undertaking. Starting with a blank canvas and a paper pattern there were 60 different colours involved.

*Heather Edwards  
Craft Group Coordinator*

*By sheer coincidence Heather sent in this item after the comment from a past newsletter was written on page 11. Do you think that someone is trying to tell us something ?*

*The Editor*



Brenda Tumilty, Chris Reading, Jill Bartlett and Cynthia Millward by the cascade and Frances and John Dix and Pat Jamieson sit in the shade in the Tudor Courtyard at Ightham Mote. Taken by Gay Hancock on the summer visit to Laycock Abbey and Bowood



And in the garden at the same venue Tony Poth asks "Can anyone see the gardener?"

## CRAFT GROUP:



Members of the craft group were delighted by favourable comments made by visitors to their display at the July Meeting. At the monthly meeting in November there will be the opportunity for everyone to buy as we will be having a sale with all proceeds going to Children in Need. As well as Christmas cards, tags and decorations, there will be a variety of gifts and

goodies. You never know, you might even be tempted to buy something for yourself.

The blankets on display in July were made of squares knitted and crocheted by our group members and their friends. They are destined for the charity 'Knit For Peace' (see their website). We have three blankets completed and enough squares for another two. There will be other blankets for sale in November at a cost of £15 each, all of the money going to Children in Need. Orders for blankets can be taken on the day if you would like to choose specific colours.

*Jean Ashton*



# Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party 2017

Featuring Music from the  
50's, 60's & 70's

Rock – Pop – Soul – Motown - R&B  
Licensed Bar, Decorations, Lights and Music,  
Party Hats, Balloons, Fancy Dress Optional

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

7.00 - 10.00 pm

At Aylesbury Tennis Club. Wendover Road. HP21.9NJ  
Admission by ticket only available from U3A Meetings in  
September / October / November

**Any queries regarding this event please contact John Wilford at:**

**[sound@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:sound@avu3a.org.uk)**

## **A MESSAGE FROM GAY AND IAN HANCOCK !**

It's an old adage, but true – the more you put into something, the more you get out of it. Since we have been doing the outings, we have been to places we would probably never have visited; we have got to know so many lovely people, and we have had some really enjoyable days out, both on our “recces” and afterwards with our members.



Would you consider running an outing with a partner or friends? It's really not that hard! An easy way to start is to work with a company that will organise things for you, such as City and Village Tours. (We are using them for our Legal London trip in November). They offer a huge variety of day trips in and around London. All you need to do is book the coach and meet up with their Blue Badge Guide, and the rest of the day is run by them. U3A “day-trippers” are very well behaved! They are punctual, appreciative and very good company, and organising days out is a very rewarding job.

Please think about helping the outings to continue. We will be happy to offer any help and advice we can. With many thanks to all our “customers”, who have made our task such an enjoyable one

***Ian & Gay Hancock***

## THE 2017 STUDY VISIT TO SWANSEA IN PICTURES



The Right Worshipful  
The Lord Mayor of the City &  
County of Swansea Councillor  
Philip Downing and Mrs Lilian  
Downing receive the U3A  
Group in the Guildhall



The first time that U3A members can  
claim to be going around the bend ?



A happy group on the Brecon Mountain  
Railway— a 1 ft 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> in narrow gauge tour-  
ist railway on the south side of the Brecon  
Beacons, photographed by our delightful  
driver Shaun Cato



Getting kitted out to go down  
'The Big Pit' at Aberafon. By law  
visitors must wear the same  
equipment that the miners carried:  
helmet, cap lamp, belt, battery  
and self rescuer.







Margrit Kennedy and Rita Booth couldn't resist having an official photograph taken on our visit to the Royal Mint in Llantrisant surrounded by £1,000,000. (They weren't allowed to bring any of it home though!)

We watch a jousting competition in Cardiff Castle and the children enjoy making a Welsh Chinese Dragon !



A panoramic view of Swansea and the Bay taken from the restaurant on the 28th floor of the Meridian Tower—the tallest building in Wales



The old village square at St. Fagans Open Air Museum

Our Tourist Guide Anne Pelleschi—and yes— we do know that Dylan Thomas was not an alcoholic!

We had so many great pictures in the end that, regrettably, we had to make a choice. Thanks to Molly Sanderson, Ron Meadowcroft, Richard Clark, Tony Davis, Daphne Shearer, Mike Bean and our coach driver Shaun Cato for sending them all in. We have many more!



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:



### **TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> OCTOBER: GLOUCESTER AND WORCESTER STEAM RAILWAY AND SUDELEY CASTLE.**

We board the train at Cheltenham racecourse for a 25-minute ride to Winchcombe, passing through some beautiful Cotswold scenery on the way. We then take a short drive to Sudeley Castle for coffee and a short introductory talk. We spend the day here, and you can eat in the restaurant or bring your own food. Cost £41 includes train fare, castle entry, coffee on arrival and an introductory talk (but no meals). Depart Jansel Square at 8.00 a.m. return 6.45 p.m. approx.



### **COFFEE MORNINGS:**

Our next regular coffee mornings giving new and old members the chance to meet and exchange news will take place on the **20th September and 15th November** at The Broad Leys P.H on Wendover Road. Please come and join us! 10.30 a.m. cost £2

### **MONDAY 6TH NOVEMBER - LEGAL LONDON:**

We start the morning with coffee in a local pub and then set off on a walking tour with a Blue Badge guide (total walking during the day 880 yards). We visit Lincoln's Inn and Staple Inn and end up in Carey Street. This is followed by a one-course lunch at the Inn of Court pub (choice of menu available). A short coach trip via the Old Bailey brings us to our afternoon destination. Housed in a grand Edwardian building, the Supreme Court has three courtrooms and apparently it is possible to sit in on cases being heard. At the end of the afternoon you can buy refreshments in the Supreme Court café which occupies the old cells and exercise yard. Cost £48 inc. coffee on arrival; one course lunch (additions at your own cost), entry charge to Supreme Court and services of a Blue Badge Guide.

Depart Jansel Square, Bedgrove 8.45 am, return 6.30 pm approx.

### **WEDNESDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER—JOHN RUTTER'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL.**

John Rutter conducts the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra to present you with a delightful array of Christmas music and sing-along carols. We will be going to the matinee performance at 3pm and arrive two hours before the show to enable you to have lunch at a venue of your choice beforehand.

Cost £38 pp. Includes ticket but no meals. Depart Jansel Square, Bedgrove at 11.00, return by 8pm approx..

## THE SOUNDS OF THE 60'S—OR NOT AS THE CASE MAY BE!

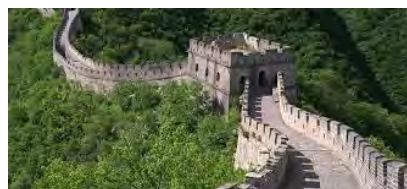


At a recent 'Sound of the 60's' meeting, the C.D. Player went kaput. Richard Clark who sent us this photo suggested that we might have the makings of a new group—Electronics for Beginners perhaps !

He also pointed out that while the some of the 10 men who attended tried to help, the 13 women remained firmly seated.

## HOW ABOUT THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA ?

At our last monthly meeting, David Aylett proffered thanks to Derek and Pam Ayshford for the excellent Study Visit they had arranged to Swansea and Gower. As you can see from the pictorial record on pages 8 and 9, there were many interesting things to see, and a good time was had by all.



Derek reminded us that these visits had been taking place since the earliest days of our U3A, and when I was recently asked to search out something in the records for a fellow member I re-read the special celebratory newsletters which had been prepared for our 10<sup>th</sup> and then 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations .The first visit took place in 1989 some months after Aylesbury Vale U3A was founded and was planned by then Chairman Eric Dorrance, and Barbara Whitaker. The group stayed at Sheffield University and enjoyed a days walking in Derbyshire and visits to Buxton, Chatsworth, the Blue John Mine and the Cutlers Hall.

Since then we have been to Durham, the Ribble Valley, Wales and Scotland, Hull, Keele, Exeter, Shropshire, Devon, Norfolk, Kent and Somerset etc. etc. Not forgetting our overseas visits to Dutch Bulb Fields, Bruges, Ireland, Poland, Brussels, European Christmas Markets and the maple tree glories of Autumn in the USA. As Barbara remarked in that early article, "The Great Wall of China can only be a matter of time!"

The records are full of memories too. The Fire Alarm in the middle of the night when one member remembered her outer clothing but forgot her underwear while on another occasion somebody arrived in her underwear having forgotten her coat. One male member even turned up at the emergency meeting point fully dressed and complete with his clothes neatly packed in his bag, and carrying his always- with- him rucksack. The stories are numerous and the memories too. It would be such a shame for this proud record to come to an end,

So why not volunteer to arrange just one visit. The Great Wall of China still awaits !



## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS:

### THE MILITARY HISTORY GROUP: GROUP

The Military History Group got off to a good start in this academic year with a quiz and a lunch at The Bell and then we got into the serious stuff of Military History in the following months. Our talks so far this year have covered the role of the S.A.S. the Trenchard Museum, which we later visited, and Operation Market Garden. Additionally members were invited to give short ten minute presentations on topics in which they were particularly interested. Still to come we shall be looking at some naval aspects of the American Civil War; the American War of Independence and holding another quiz, together with several items yet to be finalised. If you would like to join us we meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 10.00a.m. at the Stoke Mandeville Methodist Church in Eskdale Road.



*Ken Satterthwaite*

### CAMPING AND CARAVANNING:

Eleven members of the Camping Group visited Priddy, near Wells, for 4 nights. We all really enjoyed visiting Wells Cathedral and the Bishop's Palace. We also took the opportunity to meet up with an ex member of our Group, Clare Hawes. Clare moved away last year and very kindly invited us for afternoon tea. We did not require any supper!

*Heather Edwards*

LONDON WALKS : June 16 saw the walkers set out in sunshine on a walk in North London. The City's longest local nature reserve Parkland Walk is a 4.5 mile linear green walkway which follows the course of the railway that used to run between Alexandra Palace and Finsbury Park. The railway was closed in 1971. This was one of the hottest days of the year but luckily the walk was mostly in the shade. (This walkway was shown on the BBC Countryfile programme on 30<sup>th</sup> July.)



Tony Poth reported on the day and photographed the Palm Court at Alexandra Palace and the site of the former Crouch End Station.



Last date for copy for the December Newsletter will be November 11<sup>th</sup> so please send any items you may like to share with us to Shirley Stokes on [newsletter@avu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@avu3a.org.uk)

Thanks as always to all of you who contribute to the finished product, and who forgive me for my errors! Please continue to send in news of your activities within the U3A and for any other items which you feel might interest our readers. Photographs are also very welcome.