



Issue No. 102

WINTER 2021

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Hello everyone

Thank you for voting me in as Chairman of our U3A. I look forward to seeing us grow and add to the many groups that we already have. If you think you've got what it takes to lead a new group then please contact Jackie Rickard who will help you set one up.

I have been a member since 2012 and have seen many events, been on lots of outings and attended happy meetings since I joined. The Christmas Shows stand out as real fun and I hope that one day we could do another one (hint, hint!!).

There are some really good outings planned for next year. Dan has done a really good job getting them set up so please see if you can try one out.

Christmas will soon be upon us and the lunch is booked for 6th December at the Watermead Inn. It's always a good way to start the Christmas season amongst really good company. Thanks to Mary for her hard work in organising this event and for the coffee mornings which are also friendly sessions.

I hope that you are all happy with meeting in Walton Hall; they made us very welcome and it looks as if it will be a good permanent home. If you are in town in the mornings I can recommend the cafe in the hall – the tea and coffees are great and have a look at the cakes which are really worth trying! The ladies are very friendly as well.

We would like to hear from anyone who would be prepared to take over the position of Social Activities Co-ordinator. Mary has been in post since she joined our U3A and has enjoyed it enormously. However, apart from taking part in several groups (some of which require homework!), she is now assisting with gathering articles for our quarterly newsletter and proofreading it.

We also need a new Speakers Secretary as Sheila wants to stand down. She will show the person all the ins and outs of the job so please, if you think you would enjoy helping your fellow members, give me a shout please.

So Happy Christmas to you all and lets have fun at your U3A in 2022.

Chris Lowe

avu3a COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2021-2022

Chairman	Chris Lowe	chairman@avu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	Phil Toler	treasurer@avu3a.org.uk
Secretary	Moirra Bishop	secretary@avu3a.org.uk
Groups Co-ordinator	Jackie Rickard	groups@avu3a.org.uk
Hall Manager	John Wilford	sound@avu3a.org.uk
Membership Secretary	Dot Toler	membership@avu3a.org.uk
Outings Co-ordinator	Dan McGregor	outings@avu3a.org.uk
Speaker Secretary	Sheila Page	speakers@avu3a.org.uk
Social Activities Co-ordinator	Mary Singleton	social@avu3a.org.uk
Non Committee Post Holders:		
Quarterly Newsletter Team	Sheena Hudson, Richard Clark, Mary Singleton	newsletter@avu3a.org.uk
Sound Engineer	John Wilford	sound@avu3a.org.uk
Trusted Traders	June Thomson	trusted@avu3a.org.uk
Webmasters	Derek Ayshford and April Smart	webmaster@avu3a.org.uk

**All above members can be contacted via our website: avu3a.org.uk
on the "About Us" page where you can also find "Our Constitution"**

Thank you

It was such a surprise to receive a bouquet of flowers and a voucher for a meal at The Harrow for my husband and I at the meeting yesterday. I loved being Chairman and hope Chris enjoys it as well. So thank you very much Aylesbury Vale u3a members for being so thoughtful and kind.

Enjoy Christmas and let's hope for a healthier New Year.

Sheila Satterthwaite

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have 412 members of which 385 (93%) are on email.

We welcome 14 new members:

Rosalie Temple, Ann Waters, John Watkins, Terry Bloxham, Beverly Harris, Leo Kyte, Mike Reynolds, Tom and Lynda Kavanagh, Andrew Mills, Roy and Jessica Black, Rosemary Frost and Sonia Whiteman

Dot Toler

Membership Secretary

SPEAKERS SECRETARY

Apart from attending the monthly 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 mornings at a suitable venue.

Other social events can be organized as decided throughout the year such as 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 Legendary Rock'n'Roll Christmas Party

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

Thursday 9th December 2021 7.00 – 10.00 pm

Aylesbury Tennis Club. Wendover Road. HP21. 9NJ

Admission by ticket – £5.00 Available from U3A meetings
All proceeds go to a local charity

For tickets and information about the event
please email John Wilford: sound@avu3a.org.uk

 **Young
CarersBucks**



The Watermead Inn
The Piazza, Watermead HP19 0FX

Christmas Festive Menu



Main courses

(All main courses are served with roasted vegetables)

Traditional Christmas turkey

(Sage and onion stuffing, pigs in blankets, roast potatoes, Yorkshire pudding, gravy and cranberry sauce)

Roast Pork Belly

(served with mashed potato, baby carrot and red wine sauce)

Pan Fried Salmon (GF)

(Accompanied by dauphinoise potato, grilled mixed vegetables finished with a lemon and white wine sauce)

Grilled filled pepper (v)(GF)

(Filled with mix of pan-fried vegetables, sautéed new potatoes and Pomodoro sauce)

Desserts

Christmas Pudding with Custard

Carrot & Pistachio Cake (V)(Ve)

Tiramisu

Caramelised Orange Cheesecake

I am arranging a Christmas Lunch at the Watermead Inn on Monday 6th December 2021 at 12:30 pm. Please see the Christmas Festive Menu above. The cost of this 2-course meal will be £20 which includes a tip. For those who wish to join fellow members in celebrating an early Christmas, please choose a main course and dessert and pay in advance.

In order to retain a place at the table, please send me your meal choices by email: **social@avu3a.org.uk** and a cheque for £20 made payable to University of the Third Age Aylesbury Vale should be mailed to me at 6 Redwing, Watermead, Aylesbury HP19 0WB.

The Watermead Inn is situated in the central piazza in Watermead. If you are driving and need sat nav directions, the post code is HP19 9FX. There is plenty of parking available.

Mary Singleton
Social Activities Co-ordinator

Remembrance day 2021 Aylesbury and Birtton



St James' the Great Church in Birtton was beautifully decorated with poppies that were knitted by ladies from the parish and which also adorned trees in the garden.



Friars Square



Post Box in Market Square

WELL WORTH THE WAIT

At the fourth attempt I finally made it to my Cookery holiday in Sicily just a couple of weeks after Italy lifted the 5-day isolation rule for visitors. Yes, there was all the hassle and extra cost of having to fill out forms and take COVID tests but here I was in sunny Sicily. I went with a small company "Flavours" based in Edinburgh who specialise in holidays with a theme: Cooking, Painting, Pilates, Language to name a few and a big plus – NO single supplement!

The group of 12 stayed in a villa near Modica, 5 on the cookery course and 7 on the painting one, a mixed bunch, a German, an American, a honeymoon couple, a retired GP plus the rest of us. We learnt Sicilian dishes in the morning while the painters did their thing but all gathered together at lunch to enjoy the fruits of our labour accompanied with lots of wine.

Afternoons were spent on visits to local attractions in neighbouring towns or just relaxing by or in the pool.

Above all was the warm welcome and the fun we had. The sun shone, new friends were made, every day was a party. Around 7.30pm the sound of corks popping meant we all gathered in the courtyard until time for the delicious meal that had been prepared for us and again the wine flowed with bottles that magically replaced themselves.

It had been one of my best ever holidays and, because we all shared a common interest, no-one was ever left feeling alone. I can't wait to go on another Flavour's holiday – maybe try Andalusia next time and learn some Spanish dishes.

Mary Rogers



MY LIFE IN A RED JACKET

I started acting as a Toastmaster and MC [Master of Ceremonies] at the fairly young age (for a toastmaster) of 21 at one of London's most famous venues – The Café Royal.

My father had been a toastmaster and I had seen and learned from him at various functions – mostly Freemasonry Ladies Festivals. However, my introduction to my first function at this most prestigious venue filled me with trepidation. It was added to, when you realise that one of the duties was to work with Head Waiters, most of whom in 1961 were continental gentlemen with years of experience and were fairly forceable personalities. It took me several hours to learn how to deal with them but they and I soon realised that it was in both our interests to make sure the customer was left happy, and I learned how 'to stand my ground'.

The major role of toastmaster and MC is to ensure that the function runs smoothly and according to plan. Primarily I would talk to the event organiser [the Festival Secretary – in Masonry terms] agreeing what should happen at certain times, who the speakers will be and then ensuring that they are announced correctly with any specific title eg The Right Honourable, His Grace, and so on. Then during the function I had to liaise with Head Waiters, speakers, entertainers, etc to make sure everything went to plan.

After this I applied to the Institute of Toastmasters of Great Britain to become a member. They put me through a very thorough test of my knowledge of etiquette with trick questions such as 'how to you introduce someone who has been awarded an MBE'.

From our regular meetings I learnt more about being a Toastmaster and was able to extend the range of functions that I could officiate at Round Table, Civil functions, Rotary Club, Corporate functions, Weddings and many more.

I not only got paid for these services but was dined and wined at my own separate table. In these early years parking was relatively easy in London. I specifically remember doing a function at the Canadian Embassy which was situated at the corner of the Aldwych. This was at the height of the IRA bombings in London but I drove straight into the underground car park and was not challenged by anyone – I could have had a hundredweight of explosive in the boot. The function, I later learnt, was for a major arms dealer who was 'wining and dining' all the major banks and political party members

Peter Gallagher



COFFEE MORNINGS

I resumed our coffee morning meetings at the Watermead Inn on 20th September and I was overwhelmed with the number of people who came along. Previously I would expect between 12 and 25 members to turn up, but on this occasion over 50 members came along. It was phenomenal and there was rather a long queue for the coffee or tea! Thankfully I had bought sufficient biscuits to satisfy everyone.

Our second coffee morning of the year was on 1st November and, whilst fewer people attended, there were still over 30 people there. There wasn't such a wait for the coffee and biscuits this time! The sun was shining and everyone found someone to chat to and enjoy their coffee or tea.

The next coffee morning will be on **Monday 10th January 2022 at 11.00 am** at the Watermead Inn, Watermead HP19 OFX: An opportunity for members new and old to meet, get to know each other and hear about the groups that are available. As much coffee/tea and biscuits only costs £3 and we would be very pleased to see you.

Contact Mary Singleton if you would like any more details on 07986 582903 or social@avu3a.org.uk.



I resigned as leader of the Psychology group earlier this year and am very grateful to Linda Chapple for taking the reins and leading it forward. I understand the first meeting had excellent attendance and I wish them all a happy and successful new group.

Greig and I will be leaving the area within the next month for the next phase of our lives, to live in Thornbury near Bristol, to be near my daughter and family.

We would like to wish all our U3A friends farewell and say how much we have appreciated your companionship and humour over the last twelve years in all the groups to which we have belonged. It's certainly a big wrench to leave but we look forward to joining the Thornbury U3A and getting to know the area.

Take good care of yourselves and keep enjoying all the fun and friendship in your groups.
With best wishes

Lynne Dawson

OUTINGS



The first 3 outings are confirmed for 2022. I shall be advertising prices, times, etc in due course.:-

Tuesday 1st March 2022 – Crossness Pumping Station + Borough Market. Signing up at December U3A meeting.

Monday 4th April 2022 – A Day in Canterbury. Signing up at January U3A meeting.

Wednesday 4th May 2022 – Petworth NT + City of Guildford. Signing up at February U3A meeting.

Any queries direct to me on:- outings@avu3a.org.uk .

Dan McGregor

The Everlasting Turkey

On the first day of Christmas, my true love said to me,
I've bought a big fresh turkey and a proper Christmas tree.
On the second day of Christmas, much laughter could be heard,
As we tucked into our turkey... a most delicious bird.
On the third day of Christmas, people came from just next door,
The turkey tasted just as good as it had done before.
On the fourth day of Christmas came relations young and old,
We finished up the Christmas pud and had the turkey cold.
On the fifth day of Christmas, outside the snowflakes scurried,
But we were nice and warm inside, and had the turkey curried.
On the sixth day of Christmas, the Christmas spirit died.
The children fought and bickered... we had the turkey rissoles fried.
On the seventh day of Christmas, my true love he did wince,
When he sat down to table... and was offered turkey mince.
On the eighth day of Christmas, the dog had run for shelter,
For he'd seen our turkey pancakes... and a glass of Alka-Seltzer.
On the ninth day of Christmas, by lunchtime Dad was blotto,
He knew that bird was back again... this time as risotto.
On the tenth day of Christmas we were drinking home-made brew,
Anything to help us face that steaming turkey stew.
On the eleventh day of Christmas, our lovely tree was moulting,
And with chilli, soy and oyster sauce... the turkey was revolting.
On the twelfth day of Christmas, we had smiles back on our lips,
The guests had gone... the turkey too,
WE DINED ON FISH AND CHIPS!!

Sent in by Ron Adams

Prefabulous Childhood Memories by Jim Chignell

Remembering Neighbour – Charlie Watts – Rolling Stones Drummer

It is strange how, as we get older, distant memories of events in our early childhood can seem stronger, more vivid and easier to recall than sometimes trying to remember certain things that have happened in more recent days (like last week)!

Having had a very happy childhood growing up just after the war, memories of family life in our prefab home on an estate in Wembley are plentiful – full of joy, fun times, a few ups and downs, happiness and good friendships (some that have lasted to this day). There always seemed to be plenty to do, lots of children to play with and things going on, so life was never boring for a moment.

Our post-war prefab Council estate, known as Pilgrims Way, was built on green belt land between Kingsbury NW9 and Wembley Park; it nestled amongst rolling hills surrounded by woodland, farmland, green fields and was near to Barn Hill which had a huge pond. Due to the rural location of the estate, there were no such luxuries as shops or bus services nearby, so most people either had to rely on purchases from weekly delivery traders who used to sell their produce and wares from the back of vans, or they would have to cycle or walk quite some distance to reach a shop, as many families did not own a car. For this reason, and due to some rationing, gardening, keeping chickens and having allotments were popular and 'grow your own' was the thing of the day.

There were approximately 115 prefabs built on the estate which were originally intended to be temporary homes due to the housing shortage after the war, but they did, in fact, survive many years before eventually being demolished around 1972. The area is today known as Fryent Country Park and is a popular beauty spot for walkers, ramblers and naturalists.

Many of the families living on the estate had young children and we grew up together having wonderful adventures playing over the fields, climbing trees, exploring, blackberry picking, inventing all sorts of games and spending many happy hours paddling and fishing in Barn Hill pond for tiddlers and sticklebacks which we caught with a jam jar attached to string. Our long summer school holidays mostly seemed to be hot and sunny and we would go off out in the morning and only go back home when we felt hungry. There were very few cars on the road in those days and we never considered or even thought about any possible dangers such as those that prevail today.

We used to play outside in the road or in each other's houses when our parents were out and no one bothered or worried too much about keys in those days as doors were usually left unlocked during the day. Pilgrims Way was a fairly tight knit community and most of us kids got on well together. No one seemed left out or discriminated against and we made our own fun, inventing games to play and sharing and making the most of what we had.

A Tenants Association was formed by the residents and their contributions funded various treats and outings for us children, including a very memorable street party to celebrate the Queen's Coronation which included entertainment by the Harlem Globetrotters, various coach trips to the seaside, visits to London Pantomimes and Shows etc. and also provided a school coach which dropped us off and picked us up from our local junior school.

Many of us enjoyed sports such as football, cricket and netball at school as well as ice skating at Wembley Empire Pool, dancing classes and singing groups. We would often imagine and joke that one day our 'talents' would make us rich and famous and that we would live in a big house and be a 'star'.

Cont

cont

Well, although for us this was just a dream, it actually did become a reality for one of our neighbours who lived just a few doors up the road.....

.... his name was Charlie Watts who went on to become a global superstar, multi-millionaire and legendary drummer with the fabulous 'Rolling Stones' rock group.

Charlie was just 6 years old when he and his family moved into their prefab home in Pilgrims Way. He had a sister called Linda, his mother Lillian was a housewife and his father, also called Charles, was a delivery driver for British Rail. They were a friendly family and his parents and sister were always welcoming and sociable.

Being a quiet, reserved, rather sombre looking, mild-mannered person, Charlie was possibly the last child on our estate that we would ever have imagined could achieve such fame, fortune and great heights. He always had a love of music and his first drum kit was reputedly fashioned out of Meccano and an old banjo.

Charlie didn't mix a great deal with many of us younger kids, but he struck up a great friendship with his next-door neighbour, Dave Green, who later became a talented, well known jazz bass guitarist. Dave encouraged him to practice on his first real drum kit which Charlie would often play outside in his garden.

As a young teenager, unusually and unlike many of us kids, Charlie preferred jazz music to rock'n'roll and rhythm and blues to popular music, choosing to listen to Duke Ellington and Charlie Parker rather than the likes of Bill Haley and Elvis Presley.

After leaving secondary school at the age of 15, Charlie went to Harrow School of Art and studied commercial art and graphic design. He later began playing drums in London's Rhythm & Blues clubs where he eventually met Brian Jones, Mick Jagger and Keith Richards. In 1963 he joined their group 'The Rolling Stones' as drummer and used his artistic talents to design the group's record sleeves and tour stages.

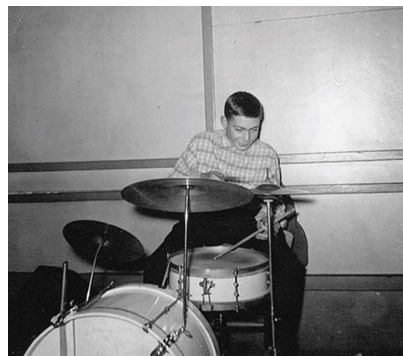
Charlie was always very smartly dressed and was often seen walking home up the road (he didn't drive), in a suit, white shirt and tie. He never seemed to smile much but his famous dead-pan expression apparently hid a very witty and sometimes humorous personality.

Some Pilgrims Way neighbours remember Mick Jagger calling round to pick Charlie and his drum kit up in an old van with a stuffed crocodile on the top.

Our famous neighbour will always be remembered with fondness and admiration.

R.I.P. Charlie Watts.

Born 2 June 1941 – Died 24 August 2021 aged 80



Young
Charlie Watts

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS



Sounds of the Sixties is a friendly group that meets once a month in Aylesbury Tennis Club on Wendover Road from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm to listen to music from the 1960s from different artistes, themes and genres, but can also include the 50s and 70s.

Previous subjects have included Rock, Pop, Soul, Motown, Blues, Folk, member's personal memories from their youth as well as specific artistes.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are served in the interval. Entrance is £1.00 to cover the hall hire and refreshments. Open 1.40 pm for a 2.00 pm start. We have space for new members if you would like to come along.

The following dates in this quarter are:-

- 21st December – Phill Rance, Birds and Flying.
Brian Little, Cool Yule.
- 25th January – Brian Little, Collaborators Act 2.
John Wilford, Artistes we lost in 2021.
- 22nd February – Richard Clark, Nico and The Velvet Underground.
John Harwood, Music from the Movies.
- 22nd March – Ann Dwyer, My Life from the Elephant to exotic Aylesbury in music.
Mary Singleton, More Memories from my teenage years.

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

OUTDOOR BOWLING

The U3A bowls group played a match on Thursday 9th September against Aylesbury Town and although we didn't win the game there is always a Cup presented to the U3A rink with the highest score (in this case our only winning rink). The winning rink was skipped by John Loughran assisted by Elinor Paterson and Ralph Rickus.

Unfortunately I didn't think to take a photo of all three players nor of the lovely plaque presented to the group. The plaque was in celebration of Aylesbury Town Bowling Club's centenary and each club they play this year receive a commemorative plaque.

Actually it was supposed to have taken place in 2020 but COVID meant we are a year late!!

Mary Rogers



MAH JONG AND PHOTOGRAPHY GROUPS

Hello, I just thought about updating you on my two groups:-

Firstly, my **Mah Jong** group is going strong with two new members which will bolster our numbers, but we would welcome anyone who has played before or new to the game. I'd be pleased to give 2 sessions training to get used to playing the basic game. All our experienced members would be very supportive of any new members whatever their standard.



Secondly, my **Photo Group** is also thankful for our 3 new members as we've lost 3 of our previous members from our days at Stone. Our new venue, the Scout Hall, Oakfield Road, Aylesbury, is very nice and clean with good kitchen, toilets, and a spacious hall with its own viewing screen which lowers and rises automatically. We should be pleased to welcome any new members regardless of their standard as we, the more experienced members, would be able to help out with advice either technical or photographic. We meet on the third Wednesday of the month and we hold 9 monthly meetings per annum in total running from February to November (not including August). At our meeting on 17th November 2021, the last one this year, we proposed our programme and outings for 2022.



I may be contacted by e-mail
on : mahjong@avu3a.org.uk or photo@avu3a.org.uk.
Thanks,
Dan McGregor

QUIZ GROUP

October's quiz saw the first 100% round when Table 2 showed off their knowledge of stately homes to score 20 points out of 20. Unfortunately, their knowledge of pubs and bars wasn't quite as good. Table 1 got off to a bit of a flyer in the first four rounds and were leading by 12 points at the halfway stage, but Table 3 gradually reeled them in until there was only a four-point difference going into the last round. Unfortunately, Table 3 couldn't keep up their strong finish and Table 1 with a very impressive 24 points out of 30 in the final round, pop and rock groups, were the eventual winners.

The quizzes are held at The Bull, Stoke Mandeville at 2.15pm on the last Wednesday of every month. The first quiz in 2022 will be on 26th January, followed by 23rd February, 30th March, 27th April, etc. Come along if you feel the need to exercise your brain!

Mike McCabe

PROPERTY FRAUD

Frequently the newspapers are talking about new and devious ways to steal either domestic property or, for new owners, take their money for the purchase of new properties. This can be reduced by simple steps though with modern technology cannot be eliminated. For some people their property can be sold without their total agreement. Fraudsters can intercept email addresses and set up fraudulent ones that appear real.

Restrictions to the title of your property can be recorded so that you are notified when the property is being used to have a mortgage or being sold without your approval. Website: GOV.UK gives greater detail Regarding money, never do large money transfers on a Friday as banks will not be so effective over the weekend at recovering fraud and also your solicitor may not be working at the weekends.

A Christmas Poem from the Spanish Group

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the casa,
Not a creature was stirringCaramba! Que pasa?
Los niños were all tucked away in their camas,
Some in long underwear, some in pajamas,
While Mama worked late in her little cocina,
El viejo was down at the corner cantina,
Living it up with amigos, carracho!
Muy contenta y mas que un poco borracho.

We had hung up the stockings with mucho cuidado,
In hopes that old Santa would feel obligado
To bring all the children, both buenos y malos,
A nice batch of dulces and other regalos,
Outside in the yard there arose such a grito
That I jumped to my feet like a frightened cabrito!
I ran to the window and looked out afuera,
And who in the world do you think that it era?

St. Nick in a sleigh and a big red sombrero,
Came dashing along like a crazy bombero,
And pulling his sleigh, instead of venados,
Were eight little burros, approaching, volados!
I watched as they came and this quaint little hombre
Was shouting and whistling and calling by nombre.
"Ay Pancho! AyPepe!Ay Cuca!AyBeto!
"Ay Chato!Ay Chopo!Maruca y Nieto!"

Then, standing erect with his hand on his pecho,
He flew to the top of our very own techo.
With his round little belly like a bowl of jalea,
He struggled to squeeze down our own chiminea.
Then huffing and puffing, at last in our sala,
With soot smeared all over his red suit de gala.
He filled all the stockings with lovely regalos,
For none of the ninos had been very malos.

Then chuckling aloud, seeming very contento,
He turned like a flash and was gone like the viento.
And I heard him exclaim....and this is verdad,
Merry Christmas to all.....y Feliz Navidad—

Barbara Whitaker

CRAFT GROUP

I am sure everyone will agree on the tremendous amount of work that went into completing this beaded cross stitch picture. Margaret George finished this during lockdown.



Jill Gray from the Craft Group kindly provided a demonstration and hands on workshop to make a paper craft gift bag. The bags were in the shape of a handbag and they looked beautiful when finished. We are lucky to have such talented members. Heather Edwards

TEN PIN BOWLING

Sorry I haven't been in touch but since the start of the pandemic. I have been living with Marg so my contact number is now 01296 584776.

I have just contacted Rogue Bowling to ask about resuming the bowling group. Colette, the manager, has stated that Wednesday would be a good day to attend. Unfortunately they don't open in the mornings during the week but they open from 12.00 noon on a Wednesday and she would charge us £4 a game. I would welcome your views on this option and whether you would be interested, either at this month's meeting or by contacting me through the website

As Marg and I are planning to get married next March, I am thinking of relinquishing my role and wondered if you would care to take over. Perhaps we could meet at the next meeting to talk it over.

Regards
John Harwood



LOCAL WALKS GROUP

Jennifer Mann and I organised the monthly local walk on Monday 13 September. We started from the car park near the Cross Keys in Great Missenden and walked towards Prestwood turning left after the railway station along a track parallel with the railway line. We turned off right along another track that led us through Angling Spring Wood and eventually came to View Farm and along another track to Hobbshill Wood and on to Sedges Farm where we stopped on a grassy bank for ten minutes for refreshments.

We carried on past the farm and took a left back towards Great Missenden by the side of the school. We then walked along a path where we had a good view of Missenden Abbey and the lake and on to the Church where we stopped to look at Roald Dahl's grave. We retraced our steps over the bridge and returned to the Cross Keys via the playing fields where we had lunch on the new terrace. The food was excellent and the service was great as was the weather and the company. The walk was about 4 miles with no stiles and only a couple of gentle uphill.

Diana Lewis



How are dogs and marine biologists alike??

One wags a tail and the other tags a whale

Sent in by Mary Singleton

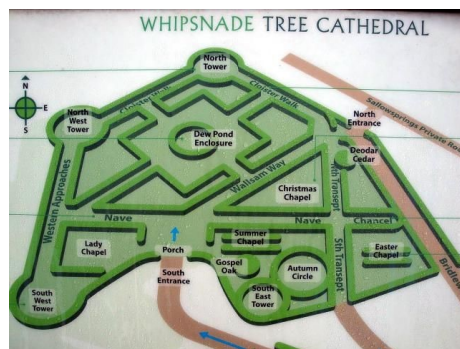


The local walk on **Monday 4th October** was organized by Steve and Heather Edwards. 28 walkers, and 2 dogs, met at 9.45 at the Old Hunter's Lodge in Whipsnade on a beautiful sunny, albeit rather damp, morning and walked a 4½ mile circular route up through Whipsnade Heath to Dunstable Downs from where we had a wonderful view northwards across the Bedfordshire countryside and beyond and down onto gliders parked in rows. It was rather blustery up there so not suitable for them to be in the air that morning.

We continued along Icknield Way and proceeded to the Whipsnade Tree Cathedral which consists of trees, hedges and shrubs planted in the form of a medieval cathedral. It was created after the First World War by Edmund Blyth who had served in the infantry and suffered the loss of two dear friends. He wanted to create a lasting legacy for his comrades-in-arms who were no longer with him. It is now in the hands of the National Trust and you can read Edmund's fascinating story on the website: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/whipsnade-tree-cathedral>.

We then proceeded back to the Old Hunter's Lodge where the majority of the group enjoyed lunch.

Mary Singleton



NOVEMBER'S WALK

On 15th November 2021 there were 26 of us (and 2 dogs) who met at the Baptist Church car park in Quainton on a slightly misty but nice day. The walk was a circular one around Quainton using the Swan's Way and North Buckinghamshire Way, taking in Quainton Stud, Ladymead Farm and far-reaching magnificent views of the area from the summit of Quainton Hill. The walk was 4.5 miles long with 2 stiles, lots of 'kissing gates' and one rather steep hill. After the walk 18 of us enjoyed lunch at The Black Boy in Oving.



Linda Chapple

THE RAILWAY GROUP

Three members who are train fans visited the Gloucester Warwickshire Railway Gala (GWSR) in early November. Usually held in September it was delayed because of COVID19 but despite this it was very well attended. The vintage railway runs from Broadway Village to Cheltenham Race Course. As well as the diesel and steam trains the beautiful scenery enhanced the journeys. In addition a stop for nourishment at the privately owned Gotherington station was called for. The owner had built his own garden railway and had an impressive collection of railway memorabilia !!

Richard Clark



PUZZLES (answers in next issue)

Where are these castles?



Answers to last puzzle

- 1) Diving
- 2) Keirin Track Cycling
- 3) BMX Racing

Last date for copy for the Spring 2022 Newsletter will be **1st February 2022** 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 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.

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 OWB.**