

Summer time and the livin's easy...

// *This last quarter has been one of much activity. The Interest Groups continue to pursue their own specialisms and studies. The numbers and variety of outings has expanded, spanning theatres, visits to places of interest or short holidays. You can read all about them in the following pages.*

Nothing gets done without the efforts of your committee, the group co-ordinators and a willing band of volunteers. We are blessed with a hard-working team which keeps

the wheels turning. Most of the committee members and volunteers have given great service over several years. We need more input from volunteers if we are going to maintain the same level or increase activities.

*So please step forward and volunteer your help in whatever capacity you can: it is **your u3a!***



Enjoy the sunshine,

Andrew Hicks,
Rickmansworth u3a Chair



Your u3a needs YOU!

Our immediate need is for...

Content Editor – to source and create content for Ricky u3a communications, including Bulletin, member emails and social media.

Technical Support – to join the team operating the A/V gear at our monthly and other meetings.

Please contact Andrew Hicks at hicks5462@hotmail.com



Monthly meetings

There is no monthly meeting in August. The next one is on **Thursday 12 September** when accomplished wildlife photographer, Tom Way, will give us a presentation entitled "*Wildlife on your Doorstep*", illustrated with his brilliant photographs. It should be a most interesting meeting.

Outings

Thanks to Mike Grossmith, we now have a very active programme of outings to theatres, places of interest and short holidays. It has brought a new dimension to our u3a. In June, we went to see the highly entertaining "**ABBA Voyage**" to rekindle days of youth.

Memories were also brought back on the visit to the **Shuttleworth Collection's** vintage and contemporary aircraft – the day was finished with a superb display by the **Red Arrows**.

Our next outings are equally exciting:

Theatre

Wed 11 Sep: "*Hello Dolly*", West End

Visit

Wed 4 Sep: **Blenheim Palace**

Winter Holiday

Mon–Fri 4–8 Nov: **Norton Grange** on the Isle of Wight

We hope to expand the programme of outings throughout 2025. Please let us know of any shows that you would like to see or places you would like to visit.



Interest Groups

In accordance with data protection recommendations from the National u3a, we do not publish personal contact details of Interest Group Co-ordinators. To contact a *specific* Group, please go to the Rickmansworth u3a website at... <https://u3asites.org.uk/rickmansworth/contact>.

You will be directed in the first instance to the Ru3a Interest Groups Co-ordinator, Jean Paddick, who will ask the *specific* Group Co-ordinator to get in touch with you.

19th & 20th Centuries' History

The Group has just celebrated its fifth anniversary. We have covered much ground in that time, including Zoom meetings throughout the Covid lockdown. In the past year we have addressed a diverse array of topics and characters as below.

We have a summer break in August. In September, Bill Fraser will talk about

Churchill's war-time Scientific Adviser, Frederick Lindemann and his brilliant colleague Reginald Jones. In October, we revisit the "Wall Street Crash" and "Great Depression" just to cheer us all up!

The group now has 22 members and meets at 10am on the third Friday of each month. New members are always welcome.

Co-ordinator: **Andrew Hicks**

Neville Chamberlain: a reputation recovering in retrospect?

Benjamin Disraeli: Queen Victoria's favourite

The Spanish Civil War

The Napoleonic Wars and the Congress of Vienna

Otto von Bismarck: the Iron Chancellor

The History of the Israeli-Palestine Conflict

The History of Armenia

The Meiji Restoration and Britain's role in the Rise of Japan, 1868 - 1902

The Life and Works of John Betjeman and the History of the Poet Laureate

Art Appreciation

We meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 2pm in Our Lady church hall. We look at varied art topics chosen by the members to help our discussions and, of course, compare notes over tea and biscuits!

There is no meeting in August. The next meeting is on 23 September when we will discuss "Animals in Art - History and Symbolism", introduced by Sharon Kassemzadeh. Do come and join us!

Co-ordinators: **Bob Wallace** and **Jean Dodds**

Bridge

We meet at the Mill End Community Centre at 1:45pm on first and third Wednesdays.

Upcoming dates are:

- August 7th and 21st
- September 4th and 18th
- October 2nd and 16th

We normally have 3 tables playing duplicate. The cost of £2.50 covers the hall rent and refreshments.

Co-ordinators: **Valerie MacDonald** and **Mary Kingsley**

Creative Writing

We meet at 10am on the second Wednesday of each month in members' houses. We choose a subject for the following month and read to the Group what we have each written over the preceding month. This can be poetry or prose, fact or fiction.

Co-ordinator: **Frances Chater**

Delicious Delights' Food

In June we had a 'Fish' afternoon with members making fish dishes, such as prawn cocktail, fish cakes and haddock fish pie amongst others.



In July we got together with another Food Group (Food Fans) and held a summer picnic in the Aquadrome. It was an enjoyable afternoon with lovely foods to enjoy despite rain threatening. We had a variety of dishes including chicken, falafal

salads, quiche and other savoury dishes, as well as lovely desserts such as fruit kebabs.

It was agreed to repeat this enjoyable event next year in July. Unfortunately, I have to postpone the August meeting as so many people are away. We are looking for a few new members so that we have enough who can attend without having to cancel due to low numbers. Enthusiastic foodies are welcome.

In September we will have afternoon tea at the Kings Arms, Old Amersham with more treats later in the year.

Co-ordinator: **Jenny McGrath**

Engineering Heritage

We meet at 2pm on the second Tuesday of the month at Our Lady's hall. This is a joint group with other local u3a, with talks on a variety of engineering or heritage subjects.

Past subjects have included 'Bricks and brick making', 'History of early ironclad warships' and 'OS maps and mapping'.

Future talks will include 'The idle women of the canals', about the ladies who operated the fleet of canal boats during WW2 and 'Smoke, steam and soot', the story of the early days of the Metropolitan railway. New members are always welcome.

Co-ordinator: **Chris Hillier**

Fabric, Finery and Fashion

The group meets on the second Monday of the month. It is very active and organises visits to exhibitions and other places of interest. If you are interested in joining the group, please let us know.

Co-ordinator: **Denise Davies**

Food for Thought

The group continues to meet monthly either with a meal in a member's home with everyone contributing or going out for lunch.

Co-ordinator: **Margaret Lemarie**

French for Beginners

The group meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. It is led by Claire Guenebeaud who has excellent teaching skills and encourages a conversational approach. The study is based on the course book of Bloomsbury Foundation Languages French 1, Third Edition.



The group comprises 10 members, generally about 7 or 8 attend each meeting. It is good learning and good fun. Those who wish to start to learn or brush up their 'rusty' French are very welcome.

Co-ordinator: **Claire Guenebeaud**

French 'B'

The group meets every second Friday in members' houses. It is very friendly and everybody makes a contribution, regardless of their level of French. We have a varied programme, studying articles from French newspapers and magazines, playing games and discussing subjects of interest. We have space for one or two new members if you are interested in joining us.
Co-ordinator: **Margaret Pereira**

French 'C'

The group now has 13 members. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. We have a range of abilities from intermediate level to native French speakers. We use the bi-monthly magazine "La Vie Outre-Manche" as the basis for translation and discussion. The sessions are good fun. We occasionally have a musical session stimulated by an article in the magazine... and our French is improving!

Members with some knowledge of French who wish to practice and improve their language skills are welcome.

Co-ordinator: **Andrew Hicks**

Gardening

We are looking for members to come forward with new ideas to get the group up and running again. It had always been very popular and is sadly missed, so please put on your gardening wellies and guide us into creating a vision of tranquility and beauty in our garden or allotment.

Co-ordinator: **to be appointed!**

Golf

If you fancy playing golf on a Friday come and give us a try. We are a friendly group playing nine holes at Aldenham, Grimdsyke, Nine of Herts, Wexham Park. You don't have to be an expert but need to have had a few lessons and your own clubs.

Coordinator: **Brenda Smart**

Pageturners

Pageturners is a book club. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at a member's home. We try to read a wide range of books and push ourselves out of our comfort zone. We would welcome a few new members and their book suggestions.

Co-ordinator: **Gill Gowing**

Philosophy

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 2pm in Our Lady's small hall. Background information and/or internet links are circulated beforehand and an open and good-natured discussion usually takes place. We have up to 9 members attending regularly. If you would like to join us as observer or participant, get in touch.

Co-ordinator: **Bob Mountain**

Play Reading

Our lively and friendly group meets on the fourth Thursday of the month at 2pm, at Our Lady's hall. If this fits into your busy schedule, we'd love to see you. We do a wide range of plays, from restoration comedy and classics to 60s kitchen sink dramas and contemporary works, with the emphasis on reading, rather than performing.

You don't need to be Sir Ian or Dame Maggie (though we won't turn you away if you are). Enthusiasm is more important than experience.

New male recruits will be especially welcome – ladies outnumber gents by some distance at the moment. Please get in touch if you fancy giving it a try.

Co-ordinator: **Paul Kendall**

Poetry

It is hoped to relaunch the group which has been in temporary abeyance. New members are invited and welcome.

Previously, the group doesn't read out poems composed by members but like to hear famous and popular poetry that we can all appreciate.

Co-ordinator: **to be appointed!**

Singing for Fun

We meet at Christ Church, Chorleywood, at 10am on the third Wednesday of the month – next dates are 21 August and 18 September. We are a friendly group, so if you enjoy singing, why not come and try us out?

Co-ordinator: **Carole Eldridge**

Walks in London

The walks, led by Colin Oaks, for the remainder of the year, are as follows:

Thu 15 Aug: Victoria Revisited. Entrance to Pimlico. Victoria Station by Victoria Arcade

Thu 19 Sep: Greenwich Palace. Pensioners and Power. North Greenwich (Jubilee Line)

Thu 31 Oct: Chelsea Halloween Special. Sloane Square Station (Circle/District Line)

Thu 21 Nov: Stepney. News from the East. Stepney Green (District/Ham & City)

The walks usually last two hours and are at a gentle pace, stopping to hear the history of the area. Afterwards, most of us stop for lunch together.

Wine Appreciation Group

Ricky WAGs (Wine Appreciation Group) continues to enjoy monthly tastings, with the latest featuring the wines of Côtes du Rhone, California, Sicilia and "Bestsellers". As well as detailed presentations by 'volunteered' members, we have splendid wine maps to show where our selected wines come from.



We all enjoyed our **Wine & Cheese Summer Picnic** in July, blessed with sunny weather and piped-in magnificently by Bill Fraser. All great fun, but unfortunately the group is

full at present. Salut!

Co-ordinator: **Ross Thomson**



Automatic Number Plate Recognition

PLEASE remember to enter your vehicle registration number every time you attend a meeting, however short, at Our Lady's.