

The background of the entire page is a soft-focus photograph of snow-covered branches, likely from a flowering tree, with delicate white blossoms and snow-laden twigs against a pale, overcast sky.

Chichester

u3a

Newsletter - Winter 2022

Learn, laugh, live

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Cover Photo by Alissa Nabiullina

Happy Holidays
to one and all!

MONTHLY SPEAKER SERIES

December 2022: LUCKY TO HAVE JIM

Going by the warm professionalism of his talks, Chester-based Jim Holmes deserves to have plane-loads to join his tours to south-east Asia. A year back he Zoomed our monthly meeting out east. This

The experience had Bullet Train efficiency - everything visited in an hour - with fine verbal rhythm and photos to match. The presentation fizzed with “amazings” and “fantastics” but all clearly justified. The Japanese have a basic British-style reserve concealing bubbling communal friendship, but perhaps those occasional tremors help shape their national persona.
—Terry Timblick

COMING UP

Monthly meetings are held at the Assembly Rooms on North Street at 14:00.

19th January - Steve Herra, a third generation Cunard employee, will speak on “Cunard History and Glamorous Stars”.

16th February - David Thornley will talk about the Samaritans and the many ways in which they help, what training is required, and whether any of us may be interested.

16th March - Neil Hanson will speak on his career as an author and ghostwriter for sports stars, showbiz legends, captains of industry, SAS men, pilots, a treasure diver, an explorer, a kidnap negotiator, an undercover investigator and a spy.

time, in person, he led us to a Japan even a wide-ranging traveller like Joanna Lumley has not necessarily seen in all its wonderful weirdness, ahead-of-the-minute modernity, distinctive traditions and, incredibly often, natural beauty.



U3A INTEREST GROUPS

Monday

AM

Discussion Group 1
French (Intermediate 1)
French Conversation 1
French Conversation 2
Keep Fit
Line Dancing
Rambling
Science Discussion
Shorter Rambles
Table Tennis

PM

Book Group 12
Bridge for Fun
Painting for Pleasure
Wine Tasting

Tuesday

AM

Art Appreciation
Book Group 8
Dog Walking Group
Gardens and Allotments
Local History 2
Poetry and Prose for Pleasure
Spanish Improvers
Tuesday Table Tennis
Writing for Fun

PM

Book Group 14
Bridge (Boxgrove)

Cryptic Crosswords
Online
Discussion Group 2
Italian Conversation -
Intermediate
Recorder Ensemble

Wednesday

AM

Behind the news
Book Group 6 : Modern
Novels
Bus Walk
Croquet
Crosswording for Fun
Spanish Conversation -
Advanced
The 19th Century Novel
and its Legacy
Wednesday Walks

PM

Book Group 10
Bridge (Felpham)
Climate Change Group
DVD Shakespeare
MahJongg for Beginners

Thursday

AM

Badminton
Book Group 7
Cycling for Pleasure
Fly Fishing
German Conversation

Local History 1

PM

Book Group 15
Book Group 4
Poetry Group
Spanish Conversation

Friday

AM

Birdwatching
Book Group: World of
Books
French (Intermediate 2)
Practical Science
Workshop
Serendipity Discussion
Group
Ten Pin Bowling

PM

Apple Group
Greek - Intermediate

Variable

Camera Group
Metal Detecting
The Volunteer Bank
MOTO (Members on their
own)

**To contact a group,
use the u3a
website or email:
groups@chichesteru3a.org.uk**

GROUP NEWS

Categories

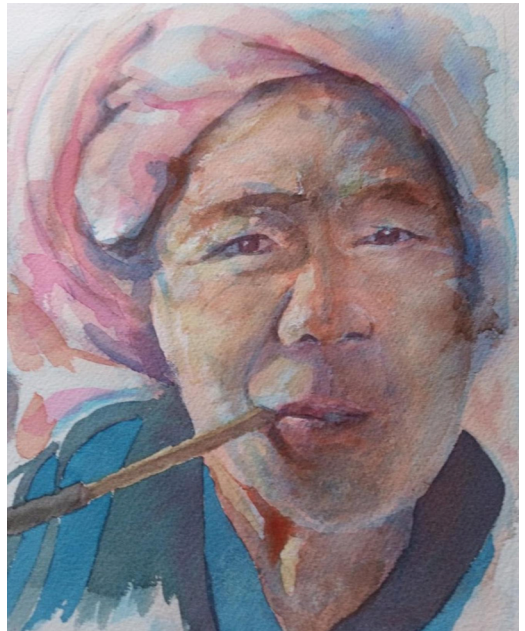
Art & Crafts
Health & Fitness
History & Humanities
Indoor Recreation
Languages
Literature

Maths, Science & Technology
Music
Outdoor Recreation
Social
Social Imperatives

Art & Crafts

Painting for Pleasure

Henry Marshall: Painting for Pleasure meets every two weeks and we enjoy a couple of hours of painting and socialising. Each December we have an exhibition of a piece of work painted that year and here are some pictures from our online gallery.



Art Appreciation Group

Carolyn Draughn & Linda Brown:

The u3a Art Appreciation group meets once a month. We have over 60 members in total and the average attendance on the meeting day is about 40.

We (Carolyn and Linda) have been running the group since June 2017. There was a period of 20 months when the Coronavirus pandemic prevented us from meeting 'in person'. During that time we sent monthly emails to all our group members accompanied by images of artworks with commentaries in order to stay in touch and to continue with art appreciation and art inspiration.

We were asked: "How would you describe what happens in your group?"

We structure our meetings in a magazine format with presentations of varying length, some in-depth on a particular artist or works of art and some which are short news items. Our focus is always on the images, rather than on the commentaries. We like to think at Art Appreciation that our aims consist of these three E's: to Enlighten, Educate and Entertain on all aspects of Fine Art. (Please note: unfortunately we have

had to close our waiting list for the moment, due to the need to limit numbers.)

Health & Fitness

U3A Keep Fit Group

Lois Coulthart: Exercise to music, ending with floor exercises. We are a friendly group and you are welcome to stay for a coffee afterwards.

Venue: Westgate Leisure Centre

Time: 11:25am

Day: Monday

Cost: £4.60 per class

Car Parking cost refunded.

Mats and weights (optional) provided.

History & Humanities

Local History Group

Looking back at 2022

Our first meeting of the year, in February, was in Bosham. One of our members, Joy, did a tremendous amount of preparation and we had a wonderful walk looking at the buildings and how they tell the story of the village. The sun was out, the tide was out and it was a

great way to spend a cold February morning. It really did snow while we were all enjoying our pub lunch!

In March and April we had guided tours around the City of Chichester and the Cathedral and then in May we were given a tour of Selsey Life Boat station. In June we visited St Mary's Hospital. Canon Bruce Ruddock was our guide



and gave us an insight into its beginnings in the 12th Century up to life as a resident today. The word 'hospital' has its root in our word 'hospitality' – so it was set up to offer hospitality to 'wayfarers' or travellers. We had a fascinating guided walk around the surviving city walls in July and then in August we visited the canal. We started off in the visitor centre (it was raining) with a guide and when the rain stopped we walked along the canal path with our guide explaining the history.

We met at the beautifully renovated Graylingwell Chapel in September and once again, a guide brought the building, its people and surroundings to life for us.

In October we ventured further afield going to Arundel. Our walk started at the Museum and our guide then took us around the town telling us all sorts of facts and stories of the way in which the place has changed and the life of its

residents has changed.

For our last meeting in 2022 we visited Chichester Festival Theatre where two guides told us about its history and we then had a fascinating behind the scenes tour. At the start of the year there was one Local History Group, led by Maria, but we had a waiting list and as new members joined after the pause because of Covid, the list was getting longer. A second group, led by Sandra, met for the first time in July and now follows approximately the same itinerary as the first group.

Local history has proved very popular in Chichester as both groups are currently full!

Behind the News

Vanessa Stern: This friendly group meets in Summersdale at a member's house on the fourth Wednesday morning from 10.30-12pm once a month. We start with coffee, our discussions are very informal and since starting in September we have had interesting discussions on the following subjects: Intolerance; Do universities need a rethink?; Unacceptable opinions, has respect been lost for different views?



Subjects for discussion are selected at the meeting for the following month, to allow time for

some preparation.

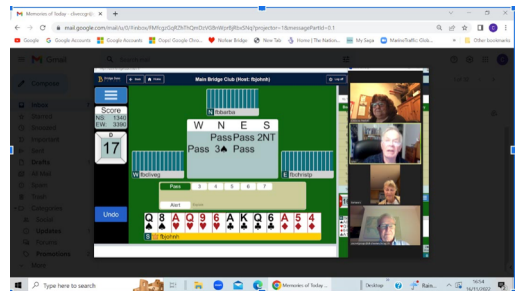
The aim is to have 8 or 9 members; we started off with full numbers but with health and family commitments there are now spaces for a few more members.

Indoor Recreation

Felpham Bridge Group

Clive Grinyer: Since September of 2021, thankfully, most of our players have been able to return to our regular Wednesday meetings at Felpham Memorial Hall. During the lockdown period we actually increased our membership because we learnt how to play on-line and that was the only way that anyone could continue to play. The use of Zoom meant we could see and hear each other, which enhanced that important sense of human contact.

We now have five or more full tables at the Hall but some ten



members choose to continue playing on the BBO program, using 'Bridge Base Online' with Zoom for communication. It seems that this has become a vital resource for a few members who are no longer able to travel to Felpham. Overall, we now have an average of 30 members playing at two sites on our traditional 'Club Day'.

For many years now our group has included members from



three local u3a branches, Bognor Regis, Chichester and Arun West. New members are always welcome at FBG even if they just come for a trial visit. The only requirement is a valid u3a membership and the ability to play without basic instruction. At Felpham Village Hall you could simply turn up with your u3a membership number and £3 (cash) attendance fee. Enquiries

about joining us may be addressed to: bridgefelpham@mail.chichesteru3a.org.uk or via your own u3a Groups Coordinator. For us, Bridge is a fascinating game played in a friendly atmosphere. Whilst we think of ourselves as, perhaps, only intermediate level players, we try to achieve a respectable standard of play and to finish between 16 and 20 hands in 2 hours. We play English Standard 4 card Acol using "Chicago" scoring. Tables and partners are changed after every four games and any spare players are asked to "sit out" for a few minutes.

Here are some extracts from members' own comments:-

"Relaxed, enjoyable, friendly, we turn up each week to play; several of us for many years. Barba Ames (Arun)

"Maggie and I look forward to playing bridge on-line with Felpham Bridge Club and over time our standard has improved. We much enjoy our Wednesday sessions."
Bill Brisbane (Chichester)

"Some very nice new people have joined. Wednesday Bridge at Felpham has always been a happy afternoon."
O'Hanlon (Arun)

"I think it excellent that you can play from

Chichester)

"It would be very sad if bridge on line stopped as I'm disabled. I started on line from lock down and I'm so grateful as I can't get out; my husband is thankful too because he gets a rest." Christine Penfold (Arun W)

Tenpin Bowling Group

Peter Mulvaney: The Tenpin Bowling group has been established for several years prior to the Covid pandemic. The pandemic virtually stopped the game when we had up to 30 players regularly in attendance. Now we are back at the Tenpin Bowl in Chichester Gate, the first and third Fridays each month starting at 10am (note the cost is £6.00 for Two games an excellent discount from the normal charges), but numbers are down. The Bowling Company staff are doing their best to set up clean lanes, the seating area for each lane is isolated with plastic panels and after each game staff are disinfecting all the bowls on the lane before returning them to the storage shelves behind the seating area. A number of members are back bowling, at the moment we have about ten regulars and several

new Bowlers so the game is starting to pick up and we look forward to good progress in the New Year.

Line Dancing Group

Carolyn de Ruiter: The line dancing class meets on a Monday morning in Donnington Parish Hall. We have been running for 17 months and we are building up quite a repertoire of dances. It is a relaxed, easy going class and we have a lot of fun learning dances that our very competent dance instructor Sue



teaches us. We also stay behind after our class sometimes for an hour and enjoy a social chat and coffee in the hall, this gives us a chance to get to know each other a little better.

Earlier this year, Sue felt that we had all progressed so well that we should sit medal exams. There was no pressure to do an exam but Sue told us that the most important attribute we would have to show is

enthusiasm for dance! Simply demonstrate that we really enjoy our dancing, the footwork, timing etc were secondary. Well, she managed to convince fifteen of us to give it a go and on a blustery rainy day in November, we took our bronze and silver medal exams. I am very pleased to report that all of our dancers passed their exams, and not only passed, but either with a Highly Commended or Honours! Superb!! Everyone said what a positive experience it had been.

The line dancing is a popular group and I have never been without a waiting list. I will be taking on a few dancers from the waiting list this coming January by organising a six week beginners session whilst integrating the new dancers into the main group.

*Keep
Dancing!*

Beginners Bridge Course & new Bridge for Fun Group

Clive Grinyer: The recent course in 'Basic Beginners Bridge' was the latest in a series of somewhat experimental 'condensed' courses. After just 10 weeks at two sessions per week, raw beginners are able to play Bridge at "Improver" level in any friendly Bridge Club. During the Covid period, courses had to be conducted on-line, so it was a pleasure to be able to meet in person at the new 'West Wing' of Donnington Parish Hall.

Through a variation of the game called "MiniBridge", the mechanics of the game and basic card playing techniques were mastered before



introducing the more complex matter of "bidding". At each stage, Power Point presentations were kept to a

minimum in favour of supervised playing practice.

The most pleasing outcome of this year's course is that all the students really want to continue playing at Donnington on Monday afternoons to reinforce and practice what they have learned. In true u3a spirit, this is intended to become a new relaxed Group open to other Chichester members wishing to improve their Bridge at "intermediate" level, and play for fun.

Crosswords for Fun

Graham Currell: The Crosswords for Fun group originated from a small number of people who had started learning cryptic crosswords before the Covid shutdown, and then wanted to meet again afterwards as a 'face-to-face' self-help group to further develop their skills. Our aim is not to win the race in being first to answer to a particular clue, but rather to help each other understand the variety of ways of approaching similar clues in the future. As such we use the Times Quick Cryptic book of crosswords as our main 'text',

and have welcomed newcomers for which this presents a challenging but achievable level of difficulty.

We meet in St Paul's church hall on alternate Wednesday mornings for a very social and light-hearted analysis of several crosswords. We currently have just one vacancy for someone who might be struggling to get to grips with solving cryptic clues, but who would welcome developing these skills through the support and encouragement of others on a similar path of discovery!

Mahjongg

Jaquelin Fisher: We started Mahjongg for Beginners in March of this year, with assistance from the Portsmouth Branch of u3a. It proved very popular from the outset, and we have at least two tables of players at every session, sometimes as many as four tables.

We are an open group, so there is no waiting list, and you can join as a complete beginner or have some skills. Like many of the group I was very rusty at first but am starting to become more confident. It is very enjoyable to concentrate on such an ancient game for a couple of hours,

and develop strategy and memory skills. We meet the first



and third Wednesdays of every month at St Paul's Church, 2:30-4:30 pm. The cost is £3.00 a session. We are taking a bit of time off over Christmas but our next session will be on Wednesday 4th January.

Languages

German Conversation Group

Jeanne Cleghorn: The German Conversation Group had its first meeting on 9th November and we decided to meet weekly on a Thursday morning.

All twelve members are invited to attend weekly but it is understood

that not everyone is able to come on a weekly basis with quite a few of us being members of other u3a interest groups. So far we have had several very interesting sessions with this very friendly group. Our current policy is to each week read and listen to a given article online and then carry on with further discussions at the meeting. A good understanding of the German language is required but new members will be very welcome to come along and find out if they wish to continue.

Literature

Book Groups 14 & 15

Felicity Heath: Book groups 14 & 15 started in May this year. We now have 25 members across the two mixed gender groups - some quiet, some vociferous but all welcoming and friendly. Each group meets once a month at St Paul's church. Both groups read the same books and each group takes it in turn to choose a book from the Sunday Times best seller list or the Richard & Judy back list. The groups are very different in character, but I'd like to think both include lively

debate, good conversation and intellectual curiosity based specifically on the book of the month alongside tea, more general book chat and chocolate biscuits! One group definitely eats a lot more biscuits than the other...

The books have ranged from the popular *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christi Lefteri to the more controversial *Never* by Ken Follett (800 pages!). We've all had book choices that fell outside our comfort zones, but lesson learnt - it's important that the book not be too long, so people have enough time to finish. It's also been important that the book gives us something meaty to discuss: a thorny social issue, a divisive main character, a complicated motivation. Our best discussions have been about the books that left room for us to disagree. We've all had to become more intentional readers and diversify our reading so we could cover a mix of authors, genres and subject matters. Every book group meeting, I hear one of two things: "I never would have picked up this book on my own

but I'm glad I read it," or "I walked into this meeting hating the book, but I might be rethinking how I feel."

Hopefully, in 2023, both book groups will continue the friendly discussion about authors, genres, characters, plot twists and turns.

Book Group 8

Maureen Frost: Our group has been going for a long time and we have read many books together. I think the nature of the group is best captured in this short poem by Keith Massey, a member of the group (and group resident poet!).

PROOF READERS

**Our novel reading has a national theme,
presenting life as a nightmare
or a dream.**

**Each has a different
atmosphere and style
with power to bewilder or
beguile.**

**Dissent and disagreement
don't annoy;
sharing unique responses is
our joy.**

Book Group 12

Maggie Brisbane: This year has seen our group read a mixture of both fiction and non-fiction books. The variety was excellent with members thanking other members for introductions to authors they had not read before but would read again. This is one of the main advantages of belonging to a book club.

Of the eleven books read this year the outstanding winner in terms of best book was *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*, which members felt highlighted, in a sympathetic manner, the plight of refugees seeking sanction. It covered the dangers they

experienced to reach these shores - not only the perilous sea crossing but also what they faced when they finally arrived on European soil. It was felt that Christy Lefteri told this story in a style that kept the reader thoroughly engrossed throughout the book.

In second place were the following three books:

A Long Petal of the Sea by Isabel Allende

Bel Canto by Ann Patchett

The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett

Poetry Group

Stephanie Carn: We started the group on Zoom, during the Covid times, but now enjoy meeting in person once a month. We've followed a traditional approach, reading work by British



You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing!

-George Bernard Shaw

poets, in chronological order, from Wordsworth. Opinion has been divided on the merits and meanings of some work we've read, but we all agreed recently that Yeats' poem below is a favourite. We'd like to share it with readers:

He Wishes for the Cloths of Heaven

**Had I the heavens'
embroidered cloths
Enwrought with golden and
silver light,
The blue and the dim and the
dark cloths
Of night and light and the
half light,
I would spread the cloths
under your feet:
But I, being poor, have only
my dreams;
I have spread my dreams
under your feet;
Tread softly because you
tread on my dreams.**

William Butler Yeats

Maths, Science & Technology

Apple Group

Susan LeTouze: Over the past year the Apple Group has been reestablished and now has a comfortable home for in-person monthly meetings in central Chichester. There are also occasional Zoom sessions for those with Mac computers. All sessions are based on members' questions and problems. To answer these, and present information on useful topics, we benefit from knowledgeable guidance from 2 or 3 of our members. Altogether we have about 60 members, but generally about a dozen people attend in person meetings, so everyone has a chance to participate.

Practical Science Group

Nick Doll: The improving weather of the summer months prompted the biologists of the group to emerge with field sessions in botany and plant identification. This was followed by some very productive evenings with moth traps yielding over 50 species. Later on Chichester College provided an exciting session on the



microscopy of protozoa, followed by a further morning examining the anatomy of spinach leaves after centrifugation. The main event in September was an enthusiastic presentation by Matthew on his year's research. He covered the early history and milestones of optics and physics before an interesting

discourse on the application of spectrometry in astrophysics.

He showed us the novel iridium complex ions he created by shining a powerful neodymium laser on the atoms of iridium and then combining them with nitric oxide in a carrier gas of helium to analyse their spectrometry. There was plenty of discussion and questions on the particulate vs wave theories of light which made it an informative and entertaining session.

Our last practical was run by Hannah Strange on the subject of osmosis and the effect of immersing plant cells in different strengths of solution. After Christmas, Rod Wing will take us into the world of material science by examining metals with a digital microscope.

In the Spring we hope to return to Chichester college to learn how to build electric motors



Music

Recorder Group

Jean Campbell: It's been a busy year for the Recorder Group! We began by rehearsing our entry for the 2022 Chichester Festival of Drama, Music and Speech, for which Ann Marshall wrote us a piece called The Chichester Miniatures, comprising six short movements : 1. March to the Roman Palace 2. A Quick Walk along the South Downs 3. A Stroll by the Lavant 4. Chichester Cathedral 5. Sunset over Bosham 6. A Busy Day at the Market Cross. (This has since been published by Peacock Press and performed by branches of the Society of Recorder Players.) Although the Festival is mainly for schools and colleges, there is an open category we could enter as an adult group. We were delighted to be awarded the highest mark of 90+ and win First Prize in the section. Sadly, we couldn't muster enough players to join in the Winners' Concert at the Minerva Theatre, simply because it hadn't entered our heads we might win and get the invitation! We've already entered for the 2023 Festival and will be playing a

short Sinfonietta written for groups like ours by Ann Marshall's husband Steve, also a highly rated composer for recorders. To help prepare for public events like this, we have the inestimable help of Sophie Middleditch, professional player with the Parnassian Ensemble and The Consort of Twelve, who also teaches at The Prebendal School and elsewhere and is a Visiting Conductor for the Society of Recorder Players. With Sophie's help, the group is able to set its sights high and offer players an invaluable opportunity to improve, which gives a great sense of achievement, progress and personal satisfaction. Playing the recorder is an excellent hobby to have - lots of lovely, different music to play in groups of all sizes and on a choice of eight instruments. It can last you right through your life or be taken up late on, providing you start with a good teacher! It's easy to play the recorder badly! Always go to a teacher like Sophie, who will show you all the important basics to help you enjoy your music. If you once played at school, it's still a good idea to refresh your memory of how to breathe and finger notes

properly! Playing an instrument is, of course, one of the best ways of keeping the brain active because it triggers all brain regions and keeps a myriad of brain pathways and networks strong, including



those involved in well-being, learning, cognitive function, quality of life, and happiness.

I started the recorder group in 2007 and we gain and lose players all the time. But this past year or so has been exceptional with several new members joining to the point where the group is now at its maximum of 12. Recently joined members include new residents to Chichester (or environs) and ones who have just been seeking out a local recorder group within reach and joined Chi u3a in order to play with us. Most players offer descant, treble, tenor or bass instruments, but we also have sopranino, great bass and

contrabass available, giving us a wide choice of music. There's a broad spectrum of music available for recorder ensembles these days, so we're never short of something to play!

We play every Tuesday afternoon for two hours where I live and explore music from early times to modern day. It isn't a group for beginners, though, and a fair amount of commitment goes without saying. It's mostly sight-reading because it's accepted that not everyone can come every week - life has a way of intervening in the best-run households! Opportunities to extend experience even further are made known to players so that they can take their playing as far as they want. (I myself play regularly with the Wessex branch of the Society of Recorder Players, Hampshire Recorder Sinfonia and do various courses.)

On December 13th we'll be entertaining neighbours with a programme of Christmas music and carols. And we may well look at playing at other venues in 2023 - taking our music out and about to benefit those whose lives have become limited in scope.

Outdoor Recreation

Croquet

Janet Mellor: The Croquet Group had a very successful 2021 Season helped, no doubt, by the fabulous weather this summer. We kicked off the Season on 20 April, finishing on 5 October without having to cancel any sessions 'due to bad weather'. We welcomed several new members this year as well as a number of returnees from previous years.

Croquet is a fun, outdoors pursuit....it's very tactical and, on occasion, highly competitive. We meet at the Fishbourne Centre, Fishbourne, on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 10am till noon, usually from April through to October (depending on the weather). All equipment is provided, together with tuition from members of the Chichester Croquet Club. Beginners are very welcome.

Unfortunately, as we only have 2 lawns, we have to restrict the numbers of players to 20 members. Priority is given to existing members as well as a few who are currently on the waitlist.

However, if you are interested in joining us next Season, please do put your names forward as we currently have a small number of vacancies.

Dog Walking Group

Val Johnston: This is a new group for people with or without a dog. It's a great way to meet people and get in some fresh air and exercise. We met for our inaugural walk at the end of November and enjoyed a walk around Emsworth beach. We are looking forward to getting in lots of walks in the new year so get in touch via the website if you'd like to join us.



Rambling Group (3rd Monday)

Katrina Huertas: Although there are over 30 of us on the mailing list our core walking group is usually around 10 - 12, plus a few well-behaved dogs. We average around 8 miles, taking time to look around us and enjoy the views and breaking for a sandwich lunch along the way.

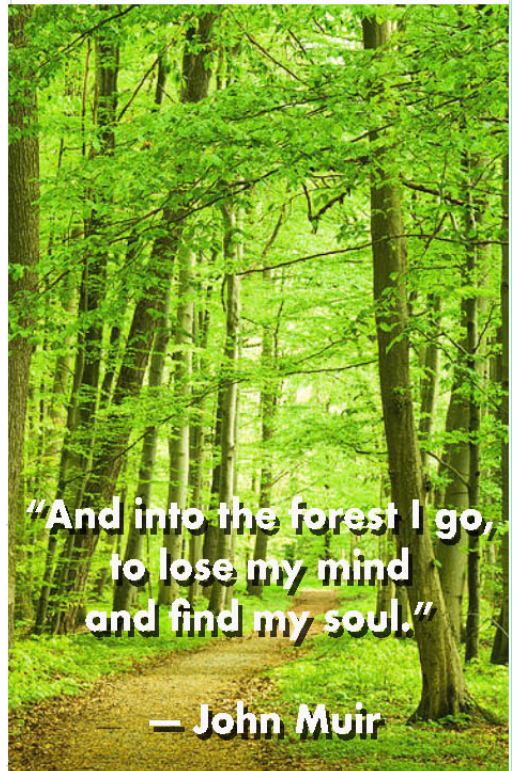
We take turns to plan and lead the walks, but there is no obligation to do so, and we are always happy to welcome new ramblers. The schedule of walks for the coming year is on the u3a website.

2022 brought some challenging weather and two of our walks had to be cancelled: February due to the high winds and stormy conditions and July due to the extreme heat. However, most of our outings were successful and we made the most of the beautiful Sussex countryside.

Shorter Rambles Group

Derek Wales: Monday morning? No wish to get up? Nothing to get up for? Well, on the first Monday of the month there's always the

U3A Shorter Ramble (weather permitting!) - 4 or 5 miles exploring the lovely Sussex countryside, on the Downs or by the sea, chatting with a welcoming group of friends or in quiet contemplation. Yes, dogs too, so long as they respect the rules. Friends lead us along their favourite routes, starting and returning to a variety of points, none too far from the city. The changing landscapes, views, colours, birds... yes, definitely worth getting up for.



**"And into the forest I go,
to lose my mind
and find my soul."**

— John Muir

Bus Walk Group

Jenny & Simon Price: The Bus Walk group restarted after the pandemic lockdown with a walk around Pagham Harbour finishing at the RSPB centre.



There have been various leaders and walks since meeting on the second Wednesday of the month. Walks have included Brandy Copse / Centurion Way,



Nutbourne Circular, Boxgrove Priory/ Halnaker Windmill, West Dean / Lavant, Emsworth / Prinsted and Coking / Heyshott. There is usually the option for a pub or cafe lunch if wanted. We have a maximum of 25 members and are currently full with a short waiting list.

Garden and Allotments Group



Jenny & Simon Price: We have had a varied programme since restarting this group in April this year. We started with our garden and allotment. Then a visit to Hillside Cottage in West Stoke in July, a small private garden overflowing with flowering plants

Social

Quiz Evenings

The Chichester u3a organises social Quiz evenings from time to time. See the events calendar and listing on the u3a website or the weekly bulletin.

MOTO (Members On Their Own)

Fenella Godber: It was February 2022 when the first MOTO meeting



was held and 14 people, keen to support the idea of making opportunities for Members On Their Own to get together and enjoy a whole range of activities, first met and formed a very sociable group. At

the time of writing there are 38 MOTO members and it is usual for there to be 4 or 5 new members each month.

There is a regular table at the Chichester u3a Coffee Morning which has been very well used and we also have a mid-month meet-up either for tea or coffee in the café at Chichester Festival Theatre. In the last ten months, between us, we have seen a wide variety of films at the New Park Cinema, most recently Bill Nighy's *Living*, been to the theatre, visited Winchester for an art exhibition, done a small bit of the Chichester Art Trail, explored West Dean and Denmans Gardens and enjoyed a variety of meals together around Chichester. A MOTO book group has also been set up by one of our members and some of us have done coach trips to the Harold Hillier Gardens and Bletchley Park. The most frequently heard comment is "I'm so glad I came – I'd never have done that on my own!"

We don't have a central organiser – any member can suggest an activity he/she wants

to do and, using email and WhatsApp, a plan is formed. This format has worked really well.

There is quite a long and varied list of ideas for the coming year, so we are looking forward to a lively 2023!

Social Imperatives

Climate Change Group

Mike Cockerell: Following its formation in July, the founding members of the Climate Change Group have held ten meetings to review the field and explore options for focus. The group held its first open meeting on 7th December for u3a members at large. At it we presented a review of the group's purpose and the basic science and history of climate change, followed by a

summary of current initiatives at global, national and district levels. The main emphasis was on cutting emissions while we still have time, but preparation for what is coming, such as drought, sea level rise, extreme weather events, and agricultural implications, was also briefly covered. We then split into breakout groups for discussions and came together for final summing up.

The meeting gave us a chance to discuss our programme with u3a members and to welcome new members into the group. We anticipate a busy year ahead of us, with meetings on a wide range of topics and occasional visits to sites of interest. For further information on the group, please contact Mike at climatechange@mail.chichesteru3a.org.uk

"For the unlearned, old age is winter;

for the learned, it is the season of the harvest."

- Hasidic saying

Poetry & Prose

The Soldier Stood on the Hill

by Penny Nicols

The Soldier stood on the Hill
In his hand a single daffodil.
The scene unfolds before his eyes
Of battle, as he looks up to the
skies
Where so much blood was shed.
What did we all gain from this
turmoil?
Did we really sign up to embroil
This carnage, such devastation
Embedded in the very foundation
of
These silent walls? As he falls to
the ground
He offers a prayer and feels the
breeze
Caress his face of a thousand
souls gathering above
To witness this solitary act of love.
May you move to a better place
He whispered, and, as if in reply
The Sun beamed down and filled
the sky.

Time passing (written after the Queen's death)

by Ann Storey

In Antarctica the winds sighs as it
whistles by
Like a speeding vehicle passing
Time warps and the sound dies

Waiting takes forever, yet
Our intricate file of memories
overflows.
How can time pass yet be so full?

I ran races as a child when the
Queen was crowned.
But time itself raced faster since
that day
Like a whistling wind blowing over
the decades.
Geologists called it the Great
Acceleration.

And now our Queen is dead. An
era has passed away
Will time warp and the sound die?

Bowls

by
Marilyn Burwell

Lets try playing bowls Hubby said
So to the bowls club we went, my
heart filling with dread
Of so many people not my kind at all
Souls with bad knees, dodgy tickers
and high cholesterol.
I was surprised to see there were
people there just like us
So we joined the club without
making a fuss.
They seemed a good crowd those
bowlers we found
And the bowls green became our
new playground
With shouts of anywhere you like.
that'll do and best back,
Wrong bias, try this way and just
draw to the jack.
It's fun with skill and luck thrown in
And ever better when you finally win.

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## **The Dear Old Friend**

by Maureen Doyle

It really is the most wonderful time of  
year, sighed Milly. She was tucked  
up in the corner by the large and

amazingly decorated tree, which  
always took pride of place in the  
hallway. Who was it who sang  
that song... She couldn't  
remember and to be honest  
naming songs and singers  
wasn't really her forte; but she  
enjoyed the rhythm and  
atmosphere that some music  
created. These Christmas songs  
always cheered her up as she  
felt the level of excitement and  
anticipation grow within the  
house. She was privy to all the  
family secrets, hopes and  
wishes but kept them to herself,  
while hoping for them to come  
true. This family deserved it, and  
if she could wave a magic wand  
so everything they wanted  
appeared on Christmas morning,  
she would do so as a thank you  
for all the love and kindness they  
had shown her over the years.  
Sitting out here one might think  
she didn't really enjoy the annual  
festivities and the party for all  
the neighbours, but she  
preferred to be quiet and enjoy  
everything from afar. She never  
felt left out, however; people  
came frequently to speak to her  
and make sure she wasn't  
hungry. Probably they also came

to escape from the mayhem of the party, often a little wobbly and worse for wear, but this always amused Milly.

This favourite spot suited her just fine and she looked forward to the party every year whilst at the same time knowing this year it could well be the last one.

There did seem to be an air of sadness in the party this evening though, and when guests came out to the quiet spot where Milly always sat, they were quiet, and reluctant to leave, telling her how much they loved her and reflecting on how she was the best keeper of secrets they had ever known.

Caro who was the youngest child in the family had been particularly close to her and came often to sit quietly. Milly could see a tear in the corner of this sweet, gentle child's eye and knew that there wasn't much she could do to cheer her up and make the sadness go away.

Sarah, Caro's mother could be overheard whispering to her neighbour about what to do for the best about Milly. Jackie replied that she really didn't know as Milly had spent just as much

time visiting with her family as theirs and they really ought to ask all the neighbours in the street, who were all equally fond of her.

From her vantage point in the corner by the tree, this made Milly feel sad herself. To be the topic of conversation with everyone looking grave and worried was not how she normally liked to feature. She took pride in being the one constant in all their lives, bringing happiness, contentment and a sense of peace whenever she visited these wonderful neighbours in her street. They were her extended family and she didn't want them to be so unhappy, talking about her in whispers when they should be celebrating and having fun.

It was Caro bursting into tears when she came to Milly's spot that was the reason the music was turned off; and everyone trooped out to stand around the tree, looking at the empty place where Milly should be.

Sarah put her arm round Caro's shoulder and gave her a hug. "It will be all right my darling. It was for the best when the vet said there was no more they could do for Milly and he put her to sleep. She was in your arms, her favourite place to be and

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she is at peace now. We all loved her very much as she visited all our homes, thinking we believed her to be our very own beautiful Milly.” “She was a cheeky minx,” said Jackie, “eating so many dinners and snacks; but that was fine, we all knew and now we just want to make sure we let her rest in peace, somewhere we can all sit and remember her.”

It was time for Milly to finally fade away and leave the party, but having been a stray, finding this street of wonderful neighbours and knowing how much she was loved, she knew this really had been the happiest place to live. She would not be forgotten and hoped she would be remembered with

happiness for the life lived and not with sadness for the life lost. There was a little cheer in her heart though, as lately she had seen a tiny bedraggled, black and white kitten hiding in the gardens and she knew that this little ball of fluff would soon take her place here, and the families would learn to love it as they had loved her. She could go now knowing they would all be ok and taken care of by the next lost kitten. She would live in all their homes, just as she had, and become much loved by them all as she had been; and new memories would be created to accompany the old ones.



# Trips & Outings

## Review of 2022

**Margaret Le-Good:** Having just returned home from seeing the wonderful Royal Marines Band along with the Chichester Cathedral Choir performing a superb musical concert, I thought to myself - what better time to reflect on this year's trips and outings enjoyed by many in our u3a community?

Twenty members of our group attended, including myself – all of whom thoroughly enjoyed the evening's programme of festive music. As always, The Cathedral Choir were in fine voice, and they included young girls for the first time in 900 years! Close Company, a group of four of the Lay Vicars, provided a gentle reminder of the true meaning of Christmas.

Earlier in the year, we enjoyed Cole Porter's classic musical, "Crazy For You", also at the Festival Theatre. This wonderful production was made even better with the discount from our group ticket booking. This is something we will look to benefit from again with future bookings.

In July, we had a trip to Romsey to visit the Sir Harold Hillier Gardens. Despite the incredibly hot weather, the gardens were beautifully well kept. We were most grateful to sit in the shade and enjoy the afternoon tea

included in the trip.

This year's social events highlight has to be the Goodwood House Tour & Afternoon Tea. The only disappointment was that our numbers were limited to 30! We will certainly be looking to repeat this outing next summer so that those who missed out this year will have another chance. The areas of the house which were included in the tour were simply stunning. The art pieces alone were breath-taking, and I couldn't help but just ponder a little at their value. But, as we know, money-talk is a vulgar subject, however, I do enjoy a good afternoon tea!!

Any suggestions as what to consider booking next are always welcome, since, the Trips & Outings Team is now looking ahead to the New Year and further into 2023. I personally look forward to many more successful events taking place as our group becomes increasingly confident at venturing out of our homes to explore, post-lockdown. Already planned for January is a visit to the Festival Theatre to enjoy a concert of Gilbert & Sullivan which, for anyone who knows their work, I'm sure will be a charming and delightful excursion.

On behalf of the Trips & Outings Teams, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you all in the New Year.

# Quiz

## ADDRESSES ASSOCIATED WITH BRITISH WRITERS, POETS AND COMPOSERS

Who lived at these following properties?

- 1 Menabilly, Nr. Fowey Cornwall.
- 2 Bateman's, Burwash. East Sussex
- 3 The Red House, Aldeburgh, Suffolk
- 4 Hill Top Farm, Sawrey, Cumbria
- 5 Strawberry Hill House, Twickenham, Middlesex
- 6 Abbotsford, Nr. Melrose, Borders
- 7 Monk's House, Rodmell, East Sussex.
- 8 New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire
- 9 Brinkwell's, Nr. Fittleworth, West Sussex
- 10 Cloud's Hill, Bovington, Dorset
- 11 Field Place, Warnham, West Sussex
- 12 Bush Villas, Elm Grove, Southsea, Hampshire
- 13 Monk's Gate, Nr. Dorchester, Dorset.
- 14 Leith Hill Place, Leith Hill, Surrey
- 15 Rydal Mount, Rydal, Nr. Ambleside, Cumbria
- 16 1, Aspinall Street, Myholmsroyd, West Yorkshire
- 17 The Boathouse, Laugharne, Carmarthanshire
- 18 Knight's Croft, Sea Lane, Rustington, West Sussex
- 19 Greenway, Nr. Glampton, Devon
- 20 Gad's Hill Place, Gravesend, Kent

*Solution on page 33*

# Message from the Chair

Greetings!

First of all, I'd like to say that I'm really enjoying my first year as your Chair. I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to discover how our recently-joined members would like to participate through our New Members' Meetings, and to get to know our current members better at our events. We've seen some significant changes over the last couple of years: we have more gentlemen joining and participating in our activities; we have younger members joining who are full of enthusiasm and good ideas for the formation of new Groups, and we seem to be getting across the message that Chi u3a is run BY its members FOR its members, and we are receiving more offers of assistance!

This is a good opportunity for us all to think of and to thank various members who volunteer their time and energy: our Group Leaders who keep us interested and on track; those involved with our Monthly Meetings at the Assembly Room, including the Speakers'

team who continue to produce entertaining and enlivening lecturers, as well as our volunteers who create alchemy to ensure that they can be heard and seen from the back of the Hall, and our newly-formed tea teams. The number of volunteers in the Groups' team has expanded and they are continuously busy forming new Groups to keep us engaged. We are delighted that we are now able to welcome members to more social events, and next year's calendar is beginning to fill up, thanks to the few (as yet – you'd be very welcome!)





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members of our Social Events team.

I expect you would also like to join me in thanking our hard-working Committee members – a creative, conscientious and bright team who bounce ideas around and with whom I have great pleasure working. I know you all enjoy keeping up to date with our Bulletin and would like to thank Miriam and David for their informative contributions. Behind the scenes we have several chaps (why is it always chaps??) sorting our IT and databases and websites – more alchemy, and my thanks to them.

You all know that the ethos of the u3a is “Learn, Laugh, Live”. Have we in Chichester u3a got the balance right? I look around at the cheerful faces at the Coffee Morning, at the Monthly Meetings and in our Group activities and outings, and I think we are following those guidelines. We are opening up, joining in, meeting, pursuing our interests with renewed enthusiasm, and above all, we’re having fun and enjoying the company of friends.

Have a lovely Christmas and I look forward to seeing you all again in 2023.

Jill

## QUIZ SOLUTION

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Daphne du Maurier     | 12 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle |
| 2 Rudyard Kipling       | 13 Thomas Hardy           |
| 3 Benjamin Britten      | 14 Ralph Vaughan Williams |
| 4 Beatrix Potter        | 15 William Wordsworth     |
| 5 Horace Walpole        | 16 Ted Hughes             |
| 6 Sir Walter Scott      | 17 Dylan Thomas           |
| 7 Virginia Woolf        | 18 Hubert Parry           |
| 8 William Shakespeare   | 19 Agatha Christie        |
| 9 Edward Elgar          | 20 Charles Dickens        |
| 10 T E Lawrence         |                           |
| 11 Percy Bysshe Shelley |                           |



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