

*A Very Merry Christmas to You All*



*Thank you for all your support during the Year, and my very best wishes for 2023.*

*Terry.*

## December Social Meeting

*Our first ever Christmas Concert starring - our very own members!*

Susan Smith started us off with some festive poems that she had written especially for today. How clever Susan is!

Avril Hermann followed with the brilliant and humorous 'The 12 days of Christmas'. Avril's style of presentation had us all laughing.

Yours truly mesmerised everyone with a magic card trick that had most members thinking "How did he do it?" - "We all choose the same card"!!

Then came Ray Haresign with a poem 'A Visit from St. Nicholas'. Ray recited this poem completely from memory!

Finally, our 'Singing for Fun' group rounded off the concert with some popular and festive songs. The singers were all brilliant, thank you Ruth.



*Ruth & Terry around the tree with Santa*

# January Speaker Meeting

Roy Smart presents: - The Life of Amy Johnson.

Amy "Johnnie" Johnson, nicknamed the Aeroplane Girl, who from modest beginnings as a fishmonger's daughter from Hull, taught herself the basics of aviation and then with little experience, and against all the odds, after an extraordinary feat of solo flying half way round the world in a fragile little bi-plane, emerged to a crescendo of fame, celebrity and heroine worship, and then mysteriously disappeared one bleak winter's day 80 years ago.

This intriguing story can be heard on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 1000hrs .... You really don't want to miss this one!

## Membership

The total attendance for today's speaker meeting 83 -  
(78 existing members, 0 new members, 5 guests)  
Our current overall membership total is now 389

## Brackley usa Christmas Lunch-Silverstone



What a superb setting for our Christmas celebration. Eighty members sat down to a most enjoyable lunch at Silverstone Golf & Country Club on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December. On your behalf I sent a note to Lucy and her staff at Silverstone thanking them all. She replied: -

Thank you so much, I have passed on your lovely comments to our staff. We really enjoyed hosting your Brackley usa event. Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.  
Best Wishes ..... Lucy

## National Trust Visit 16<sup>th</sup> December

Andy Goodchild, our National Trust 'Visits' organiser, reports: -

Some intrepid members of the National Trust Group visited Waddesdon Manor yesterday for the market and Christmas lights. Members braved the cold and had an enjoyable time. The house, suitably decorated, was open again this year. The house was illuminated at dusk accompanied with pleasant music. More visits to other NT properties next year when the weather is warmer.



You're probably thinking that this is a view from my back garden! It is of course Waddesdon Manor in full floodlight, taken by Andy.

## Bridge Group

I've been passed the following from our bridge group aimed at any member who might wish to take up bridge. It is from Steve Carter, the USA National Subject Bridge Advisor.

Since taking on the role of Bridge Subject Adviser, the most common question that I have been asked is "I have never played Bridge before, where can I go to learn Bridge?"

I originally didn't have an answer, but now we have enrolled the assistance of the **English Bridge Union (EBU/EBED)** and their latest teaching tool

- **SmartBridge**.

They are, not only going to "front" all lessons and provide all the teaching materials for us, but are doing a 12-week Beginners course at the reduced price of £60 (normally £100), starting 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

If you have a waiting list of "would-be" Bridge beginners and need help to get started, then please visit our website for further information:

[U3aBridgeGroup, United Kingdom \(bridgewebs.com\)](http://bridgewebs.com)

## An Invite to Banbury USA

*A message from our own 'Speaker Organiser' John Moore.*

Hello Terry

I had a message from Stuart Golding who is Speaker Organiser for Banbury USA.

He writes:

On 8th February 2023 - Mike Wilds, <https://mikewilds.com/> will talk on the Motor Racing World. Mike is a hugely experienced British Racing Driver who started racing in May 1965 and instructing on track in the early 1970's. His racing career spans over 50 years and ranges from Formula Ford 1600, European Formula Three and 5000, Formula One and the World Sports Car Championship. He is still competing and offers tuition in Performance Car Driving.

Our meetings are held at 2.30pm at Longford Park Community Centre, Hobby Road, Banbury, OX15 4GJ

He asked if any of our members might like to attend at 2.30pm.

*Might be nice to visit our fellow Banbury USA, if only to see how they conduct their speaker meetings. Please let me know if you are going.*

## Stephen Pope, our Digital Photography Group Convenor. Year End Report

Anyone interested in Digital Photography?  
Just thought you'd like to see the type of events this group can offer.

### Digital Photography Group

Well, we've had our last meeting of 2022 not sure what happened during this year but it has flown by! We had just a couple of outings, early in the year to the Shuttleworth Collection (which is worth a visit at any time of the year!) and then a walk around Stoke Wood to seek out the Bluebells. That plan didn't work as the Bluebells were early this year, though you did find many other interesting woodland "items" to photograph. Then we had a number of photography challenges across the year. Thanks for the photos you shared with the group. Not forgetting a couple of talks, the art of Cloning from Rosemary and a session on Lighting and Colour from me.

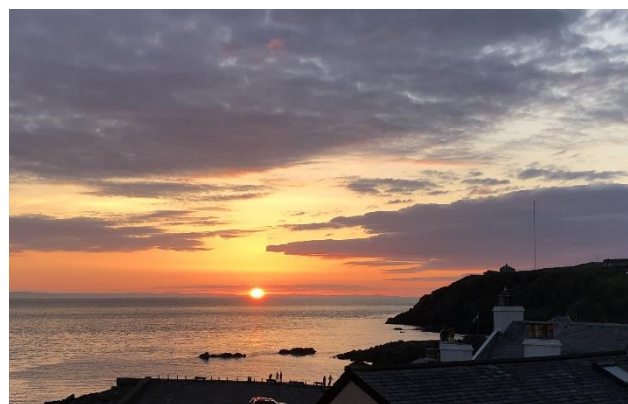
We closed the year with the photo competition, thanks for your contribution, which in a blind vote selected joint winners this year, Rosemary with the rainbow over Niagara Falls and John with a Sunset over Portpatrick. Interestingly both taken on phones, which just goes to show that " the best camera is the one you have on you at the time" These are the winning photo attached to this e-mail.

Plus, we welcomed some new members to the group, let's hope more will join us during 20203.

The first theme for these next few months is Winter. Which should generate a good selection of photos on what winter means to you?

Looking forward to 2023, we will again be meeting on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting on the 17th January at St Peter's Church Hall at 2pm. This will be a couple of talks on subjects we didn't get to this year. Plus filling out the 2023 agenda. February it will be a review of photographs on the Winter theme and for March I've booked Andrew Spackman to take us though " Unsightly Pedestrians and Indecisive Moments"

That's it for now and don't forget to keep taking those photos



# WANTED

## Lunch Groups For 2023.

want to help? We would like some of you to volunteer to organise another few lunch clubs.

Many of you want to participate, in fact there are so many of you that we really need TWO groups.

All you need to do is start a 'group list' of members, choose a venue for around 12 people or so, choose a Sunday date, let the members know when and where and you're all set to go!

I'll help getting the lists together, no problem.

Just a thought - but perhaps we can have a group for members who have joined our u3a in the last 12 months.

There is also an opportunity for another mid-week group. The current group, led by Lesley Whitmore, is very popular but oversubscribed.

So, why not start another one? Just thinking aloud -- it could be a 'curry club' or 'fish and chip' club or a 'pie' club or just a 'pub' lunch.

PLEASE consider volunteering to lead one of the groups as mentioned, it won't take up much of your time and you'll be welcomed by all.

Contact me on **avrilandterryp@btinternet.com** and let me know.

## HELP - Any 'technical' members out there?

We have a 'Beyond Acoustic Wireless Portable PA Speaker System'  
model number 100X BT

We purchased this unit about 6 years ago and, due to covid restrictions, for the last 3 years it has been in storage.

We have found that we now can't use it without mains power, the battery in the main body may be the reason. One of the microphones is also not working.

Anyone out there who might be able to have a look at it please?

It would cost far too much to send it to someone for repair, postage and packing costs alone might run into several ££s.

If you can help, please email me Terry Pigott [avrilandterryp@btinternet.com](mailto:avrilandterryp@btinternet.com)

## Have a chuckle!



Dear Santa,

This year, please give me a big fat bank account and a slim body. And please don't mix those two up like you did last year.

Thanks.

More pics on [www.LeFunny.net](http://www.LeFunny.net)



All of the other reindeer used to laugh and call him names.

I made myself a snowball,  
As perfect as could be,  
I thought I'd keep it as a pet,  
And let it sleep with me.  
I made it some pajamas,  
And a pillow for its head,  
Then last night it ran away  
But first-- it wet the bed.



### *All for now - Terry Pigott - Chairman.*

A note from the Editor/Chairman: This newsletter is published on behalf of Brackley and District U3A. Any opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the committee or group leaders of Brackley and District U3A, or of the U3A Trust.

Would you like to add something about your group? Maybe a line or two of what's happening within the group, what your plans are etc. Add a photo to share with our members.

Please note that items for inclusion in the next newsletter should reach the editor/chairman by the second Thursday in the month.



We have an open invite to join Banbury Rotary Club to celebrate Chinese New Year.

Please see details below.

Note: As this isn't a usa event you should contact Jennette directly for further details.

**We do hope you will be able to join for an evening of fun and entertainment**

**Chinese New Year** by The Rotary Club of Banbury Cherwell

**Please do join us to celebrate the Year of The Rabbit**

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January at Croughton Village Hall Doors open

7.30

Traditional Lion / Dragon Dance 8pm                      3 course Chinese meal

8.30pm

Tickets £20              profits to Rotary Charities              Bar available in hall

Please email [jennette@egyptianexperience.co.uk](mailto:jennette@egyptianexperience.co.uk) or call

07774140370

for tickets and dietary requirements

Dress code smart casual with something Chinese or something red

We do hope you will be able to join us – **friends, families and children welcome**



