

FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the summer edition of KiT Plus. If you are receiving this communication, your membership details are saved on BEACON and you have paid your membership fee. A special thanks to Maxine Bennell (Membership Secretary) and Peter Lambert (Treasurer) for managing the process. Next year renewals will be on line via the members portal. Assistance will be given to those not familiar with on-line applications, further information to follow.

This is where a range of enticing and enriching events and activities from the last few months and contributions from u3a members are celebrated. Since the last newsletter two new groups have been established - New Age Kurling and Art4All. There have been a variety of outings; a celebratory event was held to mark the coronation and a tea party to thank our many volunteers.

We have welcomed 12 new members and held our AGM. Over the coming months each of the Trustees will introduce themselves here, on KiT Plus, beginning with the new Special Group Secretary, Karin Dawson-Smith and Welfare Officer, Diane Carver. There will also be an opportunity to meet them as they join in the interest group activities.

I have the great pleasure of being voted in again as your chair and I hope, together with the dedicated committee, to continue to ensure that Chinnor u3a remains friendly, fun, functional, flourishing & forward thinking but this also relies on your input and contribution in terms of supporting the various activities on offer.

This seems to be an opportune moment to remember that one of the key guiding principles of the u3a- self-help; interest groups are formed **BY members FOR members** - **there are no teachers as apposed to learners so there is an expectation that all members will be involved in some way**. So if you have an idea for a new group or activity, come forward, especially if you are willing to coordinate or work with a partner, and we will look at the support you would need to set it up. There is a tool kit to help you with all the information needed from booking rooms to planning outings, sessions and speakers.

MEET THE COMMITTEE



**New committee member: Karin Dawson-Smith
(Special Interest Groups Secretary)**

'In August 2021 I moved to Chinnor and, not knowing anyone, I found this quite difficult. With its being later in life, it was less easy to form friendships in the same way as I had when involved with activities with my children. For me it was also a double whammy because, at the same time, I also retired from a full-time career in the NHS so I lost my way a little as I sought to find a purpose to daily life. I knew nothing of the u3a until one day, while taking our dog for a walk, my husband & I bumped into Janet Erskine, the then chair of the u3a. After talking dogs for a while, we got onto the subject of being new to the area, and she

encouraged me to join. In my ignorance I thought the u3a would mean more studying. I told her, at that stage of life it was something, I did not want to do. However she soon put me right!

Joining the u3a has been a very positive experience for me. It has widened my circle of friends with likeminded people by joining several groups such as gardening, art history and Rumikub. I also attend the monthly talks which are always interesting and informative. I want to maintain the active physical and social lifestyle I had while I was working and keep my mental capacity stretched.

The u3a has helped to provide this to the point that I agreed to join the committee because I believe that, to keep this organisation going, it is essential that people do come forward and volunteer and provide new blood to maintain ongoing continuity. The u3a has enriched my life and I am hoping now that I may also be able to help other new people in a similar way. Looking forward to meeting you'.

A long standing committee member: Diane Carver (Welfare Officer)



'I have lived in Chinnor for 44 years. I am an Accountant by profession but initially took a job at St. Andrew's School as a Dinner Lady whilst looking for something more suitable and then took on the role of a Teaching Assistant. When OCC devolved finances directly to schools, I became a Bursar for South Oxfordshire, managing St. Andrew's School finances, and also Thame Partnership linking with all 'feeder schools' to Lord William's. Intending to stay for a few weeks, I stayed 30 years!!

I have been a member of Chinnor u3a since 2002, serving on the Committee for over 11 years, as Interest Group Secretary and the Welfare Officer. I am also a member of Chinnor Community Church.

A few years ago, I suggested sending cards to members who were ill or in need of some TLC and thus the Welfare Role was created. The members of the Craft Group, of which I am a member, were rallied to create the cards. Initially each member was asked for just one card; there were 21 of us and I received 63. Each year the January session is now dedicated to card making. I feel the Welfare Officer is an important role in terms of the pastoral care within the u3a but this would not be possible without the contribution and support of the craft team.

USING PHOTOGRAPHIC IMAGES: A 'picture paints a thousand words' and the Chinnor & District u3a, in common with others, likes to capture special moments from activities and events for use on the website, in newsletters (KiT Plus) and promotional materials. It is anticipated that these will entice new members by showing them images of people engaged in a range of activities and having fun. The photographs and/or video recordings taken at their events are intended for u3a use and are for publicity purposes and for reproduction on the website and social media pages. When you engage in u3a events and activities it is on the understanding that images may be taken.



THE CORONATION

In May u3a members met in the Chinnor Village Centre to celebrate the King's Coronation.

GROUPS IN FOCUS

THE NATURAL HISTORY GROUP - Peter Hetherington



Natural History Group, was formed earlier this year and since then numbers have gradually increased and there have been five visits. So far, **Frances Wells, Nettie Dearmun and Chris Lorch** have led outings to **Cowleaze Wood; South Stoke on the Thames, Oxford Trap; Grounds Nature Reserve, Cuttlebrook (Thame); Ewelme Watercress Beds and Summer Meadow** (managed by The Chiltern Society). There were many sightings of great interest - wood anemones and wood sorrel at Cowleaze; sedge warblers at South Stoke; and a video of Ewelme Watercress Beds showing the harvesting of watercress at its prime in 1960's. The feedback has been very complimentary and enthusiastic.

Some of the visits were open to all u3a members, namely in **June butterflies and reptiles of every colour and creed were in abundance at the Stratford upon Avon Butterfly Farm**, including hatching chrysalis, a colony of leaf eating ants and a Chameleon. There was also time for a river trip down the Avon and a browse of the town.



The next visit is a free event, **11 September**, a bird watching walk round the village **led by Nick Marriner, BBOWT (Expert in Bird Recognition)**.

Meet 0800 at Aston Rowant Churchyard. To book contact Peter Hetherington 07767 647714

NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAM FOR 2023/24

9 October 2023 1030 Fungi Walk at Aston Rowant Nature Reserve led by Judy Webb fungi expert (volunteer at the Reserve)

1 December 2023 1030 Chinnor Village Centre.
Presentation "River Thame, The Forgotten River" John Tyler.
There will be a small charge to cover cost of speaker and hall.

12 January 2024

Coach Outing to Slimbridge, Wildlife and Wetlands Trust, to see White Fronted Geese and Bewick's Swans.
Heated Hides. Good café / restaurant**

5 February 2024 1000

Chinnor Village Centre. Presentation "Birds of the Chilterns" by Nick Marriner (Chiltern Conservation Board and BBOWT).
There will be a small charge to cover cost of hall.

** Booking form Paul de Jongh outingschinnoru3a@gmail.com or Peter Hetherington 01844 353296

ART HISTORY

Rob Holdaway Group Coordinator rob.holdaway@btinternet.com 01844 202027



The first half of 2023 has been fun, starting in January with the annual Group New Year Lunch at the Peacock. Art history postcards on the dinner tables stimulated discussion and questions. In February Christopher Baines, provided some interesting insights into the life and works of Paul Nash, reflecting the themes in his recently published book 'Pyramids in England'. In March Frances Wells guided us through the 1920's and 30's architecture of the Art Deco era in London ... striking designs as a reminder that art is not only about paintings and sculpture. Carol Petipher, in April showed how Monet became as interested in gardening as he was in

painting and how his wonderful water lilies were the result of years of careful cultivation, as art and gardening 'became as one' to him. In May, Andrew Montgomery recounted the life and works of his Uncle Fed Millett the well-known British muralist and poster artist of the 1950's and 60's ... here are a couple of examples of his amazing work. To mark the half-year point in June, special guest, Chair



Nettie Dearmun, provided fascinating presentation on the proud Catalan architect Antoni Gaudi. Given that he creatively pushed the boundaries of traditional European architecture from the late 19th century, Nettie challenged us to consider whether Gaudi was really 'architect' or 'artist'

Finally, in late July we toured the Queen's House and National Maritime Museum in Greenwich ... a World Heritage site full of amazing art.





HISTORY

What is History? This is what we meet to consider every third Friday of the month....The starting point is a simple brief: Whatever the subject (and history is broad enough to allow us to accommodate "whatever..." it should have been influenced by what went before, or have an effect on what is to follow. - That's History. So, no "Kings and Queens" by rote, but people and times to stimulate the grey cells - and some lively, and worthwhile discussion. If you are keen to join with like-minded friends, starting with a tea or coffee, and finishing with much to consider, then spending time in the Reading Room at 1420-1600 is a good way to spend your afternoon. It's okay to simply listen. It's even better if you share your opinions - and, if you have something that intrigues you that you would like to tell us History groupies about, you will be given a very warm welcome. Remember - **third Friday of the month.**

If you would like further information, refer to the website or contact annmhedges@gmail.com 07936 875248 or Brian Fowler brianfowler130@gmail.com 07815 784708

GARDENING

With the winter meetings over, it was a real treat to get out and about visiting gardens. The first was to **Orchard House in Coleshill, (near Amersham)**. A very stylish five-acre country estate with hundreds of trees. Entry to the garden was through a gate which revealed a vista of wonderful white daffodils planted beneath the white trunks of wide avenues of slender birch trees. There was also a bog garden and board walk and the bulbs were about to flower. The overall impression of the garden was stunning. The new spring foliage on the acer trees showed many different colours. Fritillaries, growing in amongst the grass looked delicate and gorgeous. There were a number of eco- bug-hotels, most with carved lettering on the front with bug-related names. Another highlight of the visit was the coffee and cake which was delicious. Those who indulged in the gluten-free cake enthused about the lemon sponge.



In May there were two visits. The first, a coach outing to the **Malvern Spring Festival**, a floral spring festival and 'wonderful celebration of plants and gardening'. There was much to see, including opportunities to seek advice from experts - 'know and grow' and many varied exhibitions - 'grow and show'. The weather was dry and there was sufficient time to take in the beautiful displays, including a giant crown to celebrate the Coronation, using flowers donated by nurseries. There was also so much to buy that on the return journey the coach was crammed with the purchases made. The second was a visit to **Home Close in Garsington**, a grade II listed building with a two-acre garden, and an expanse of trees planted to the rear. As the whole garden was on a slope, the lawns were on different levels and there was a well in the centre of a cobbled patio. The plants were lovely, including unusual magnolias, peonies with beautiful huge flowers, and a wisteria along the front of the house which looked stunning in the sunshine. As usual there were copious refreshments. The **July** outing



was to the flagship garden of the **RHS at Wisley** where the World Food and Wildlife Garden was at its peak. Keep on dead-heading!

For more information contact **Ann Hine**
01844 351154

chinnorgardens@gmail.com



OUT & ABOUT with Chinnor u3a

The u3a holiday in March was to the **Isle of Wight**, including a tour of the Island, a railway journey, a guided tour of Osbourne House and a falconry display.

The **red-letter day outing** was clay pigeon shooting. As a departure from the usual outings on offer, this one attracted those who wanted try their hand at something a bit different.

The **quiz and fish & chip supper on the Watlington Fryer**, in

May, appealed to those who liked to think on the move with a competitive leaning.

Varied outings are being planned for the remainder of the year, including to the Poppy Factory and boat ride; a "Viking" river cruise in Northern France; the Air Museum at Duxford.



PERSPECTIVES on the 3rd AGE

Brian Fowler (u3a member)

"A condition of growing old is... .. the loss of our authority"

To be clear: not the dictatorial form of authority - that, to almost all, is anathema; usually adopted to disguise some form of inferiority complex.

So, authority; with a lower case 'a'. That which is given, or inherited, as part of the natural evolution of our life.

Garnering knowledge as we mature; that in itself lends us authority. Learning, hopefully, to disseminate without ego. In our work, skills passed on to or acquired by us are, in turn, shared with those newer to our organisation; passed, with authority, to give the confidence our students need to succeed.

Authority surely is conveyed to us if we marry. Different from responsibility, authority allows us to "sign on behalf of"; to authorise actions from the binding law of contracts, to carry out our respective responsibilities to the best of our ability. It is with the passing of skills to our children that authority is most reasonably expected. Not considered in those terms perhaps, but our children will learn from us; language, social norms, laws of the land.

Much of what is passed from parent to child will be accepted by custom and practise, but there will be rules; determined by the majority, intended for the benefit of all, that must be initially conveyed with the authority vested in the role of parent and guardian of the child. Authority, with a small "a" then, is likely to be assumed exponentially with our ageing, and our experience of life.

And then we retire. Our children will have assumed their authority, now, by their experience, of their lives. They, rightly, no longer have need of ours.

In partnership, or with our spouse will we still maintain some of the authority that we have quietly nurtured, and enjoyed? Though what if we no longer have somebody at home, to share our life with?

What need, or use, might we have of authority then?

If not immediately, then over time, the responsibility and the authority that we have had over others will diminish, even disappear. In our advancing years others assume those responsibilities, and the associated authority for us, and over us.

"You don't need to worry about that anymore". "Leave that, somebody else will do that for you". Too often heard, and meant for the best of reasons, seems to question the very reason for our being.

To be denied the need to worry; to be expected to accept that somebody else is more capable - however well-intended, is not compassionate. It is to take away our self-reliance. To seek to remove the authority we have to do what, and when, we deem something to be necessary, or desirable, lessens us. To tease from us of that which has taken a lifetime to accomplish, diminishes our feeling of self-worth. If nothing is to be asked, or expected, of us - do we still matter? Is this the second-childhood of which we have been warned; again, to be seen, but not heard? Is this a state of living, or existence, that should be welcomed? I don't believe so.

If this consideration appears ungrateful, that is not the intention. Consider it though; carefully, before judgement. It is a consideration with which we might all be confronted eventually. Perhaps there are those for whom such a situation is welcome, but that should not be assumed of us all.

If we were once capable, and kindly, in our use of authority - then, please, relieve us of the need of it with understanding, and care.



THE CHINNOR USA WEBSITE
COMING SOON - MEMBERS PORTAL.

All the events, activities, interest group meetings and outings all in date order. Complete listing of special interest groups showing the ones you belong to, opportunity to join new ones on line, update your details and in time for 2024 renew your membership on line!

SPEAKER MEETINGS

The 3rd Thursday 1430-1600 is the opportunity to come together to listen to speakers on a range of interesting topics and enjoy the company of other u3a members. Here is the program for the remainder of 2023

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
Sept 21	Paul Barwick	'Alexander Litvinenko – Polonium Murder'
Oct 19	Dr Mike Pienkowski	'Red Kites'
Nov 16	Dr Jane Sellwood	'Water Quality and the climate emergency'
Dec 21	Tony Earle	'The Silver Screen'

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS.

Here is the list of groups (in addition to visits to the local care home (Hempton Fields) and singles dining) .

Further information is available on the website
or from Karin Dawson-Smith groupschinnoru3a@gmail.com 07702800240
or Nettie, chair1chinnoru3a@gmail.com mobile, 07711337243

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS by CATEGORY

GAMES	Canasta	Cards	Cribbage	Bridge	Rummikub
	2 nd /4 th Tuesday pm	1 st /3 rd Wednesday pm	2 nd /4 th Wednesday pm	2 nd /4 th Thursday pm	1 st Thursday pm - not August

LANGUAGE	French Beginners	French Improvers	French Conversation
	4 th Monday am	3 rd Monday pm	Varies

SOCIALISE TO ENERGISE	New Age Kurling	Strollers	Short Walks	Leisurely Walks	Medium Walks	Long Walks
	3 rd Tuesday pm	2 nd Tuesday am	2 nd Wednesday pm except December	4 th Tuesday am	3 rd Tuesday am	1 st Tuesday am

ARTS & CRAFTS/ MUSIC & LEISURE	Handicrafts	Music Appreciation 3	Music Appreciation 6	Gardening
	2 nd /3 rd Wednesdays pm	Last Friday pm	2 nd Monday pm	3 rd Wednesday am/pm
	Writing for Fun	Reading - Book Club	Play Reading	Art4All
	2 nd Monday am	4 th Thursday	2 nd Friday pm	2 nd Friday am

ART/SCIENCE	Archaeology & Geology 4 th Monday am Except August/ December	Churches (architecture) 4 th Friday am	Family History 1 st Thursday am – not January	Computers 1 st Friday pm
	Natural History Outings various days Some meetings in a hall during winter tbc	History 3 rd Friday pm	Art History 3 rd Friday am – 2 nd Friday October	

COMMITTEE CONTACT DETAILS

OFFICE	NAME	EMAIL		MOBILE
CHAIR	Annette Dearmun	chair1chinnoru3a@gmail.com		07711 337243
TREASURER	Peter Lambert	trchinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 352617	07866 265978
BUSINESS SECRETARY	Margaret Lambert	buschinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 354271	07831 406877
MEMBERS SECRETARY	Maxine Bennell	memchinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 343774	07902 832344
GROUPS COORDINATOR	Karin Dawson Smith	groupschinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 885074	07702 800240
HOLIDAYS & OUTINGS	Paul de Jongh	outchinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 354203	07885 270390
SPEAKERS SECRETARY	Dorothea Dunn	spkchinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 355251	07741 472803
IT	Pete Way	sysadchinnoru3a@gmail.com	01844 353902	07450 171964
MINUTES SECRETARY				
CO-OPTED MEMBER	Marion Turfrey	marionturfrey@gmail.com	01844 761282	07887 561869
WELFARE SECRETARY	Diane Carver	diane.carver@btinternet.com	01844 352909	



HOLD THE DATE**u3a CHRISTMAS FESTIVE CONCERT**

After the success of last year, Christine Prior has kindly agreed to coordinate this event again

Date: Tuesday 10 December 2023 at 1030-1200 St Andrews Church
(Refreshments will be available)

This is your chance to showcase a hidden talent, so if you have a reading, prose, poem, song, can play a musical instrument or would like help with the running of this.

Please contact Christine 07947117467 christineprior48@gmail.com

HOT OFF THE PRESS

The grant application to South Oxfordshire District Council for Nordic Walking was successful and it is anticipated that this will start in the next few months. Further information to follow.



Thanks to Janet Erskine (Editor) for producing this newsletter.

We hope you have enjoyed reading it and will consider contributing to future editions.
The **AUTUMN KiT PLUS** will be distributed late November/ early December.

Submissions to Chair1chinnoru3a@gmail.com by 1 November 2023