

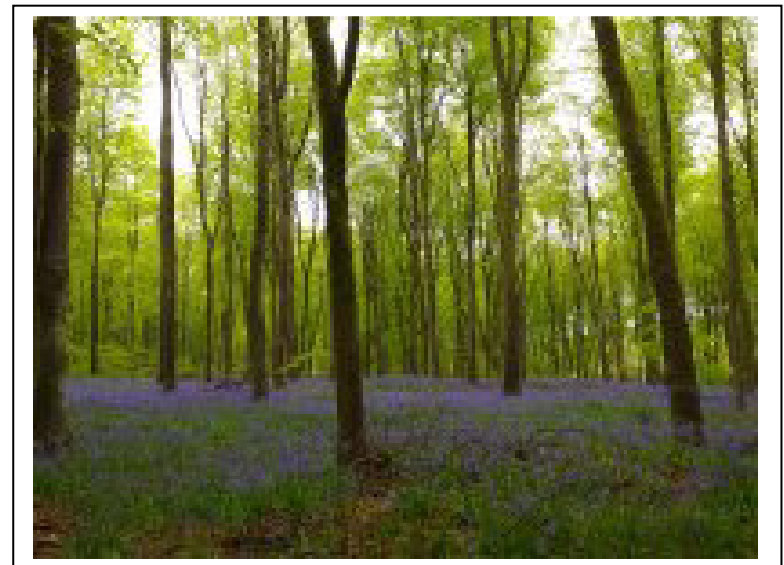


North Wiltshire Group

covering Chippenham, Corsham & Calne area

Learning for Pleasure

Registered Charity number 1048393



Newsletter Issue No. 241

February – April 2022



Some festive bites from Pip at the Book group



Festive door-hanging made in the Common Thread group

Cover: In West Woods, Marlborough, Photo by Sue Taylor

From the **EDITORS ...**

COPY DEADLINE

for the next edition: **1st April 2022**

Please send copy to:

Frances Alexander,

or Sue Taylor

WEBSITE ADDRESS:

www.northwilts-u3a.org.uk

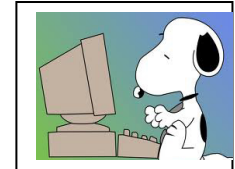
Contact for queries: Pip Higman, pip@higman.eu

FACEBOOK

N. Wilts U3A Facebook page is at **www.facebook.com/NWU3A**.

EDITORIAL

This is a shorter 'business' edition, with information on Groups as they get under way again and also including a separate AGM document and voting form.



**Frances Alexander
Sue Taylor**

We welcome the following new members:

Mrs Wendy Hubbard, Mr Vincent Bryant, Mrs Janet Smith,
Mrs Catherine Beale, Mrs Patricia Wilks, Mrs Wendy Channing,
Mr Eddy Dalton, Mrs Sylvia Faux, Ms Irene Wilkie,
Mr Robert Hughes, Mrs Kathryn Mears, Mr Stephen Draper,
Mrs Christine Fowler, Mr Roy Fowler, Miss Patricia Freestone.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

are held at the Rotary Hall. Station Hill, Chippenham
on the 2nd Wednesday of the month

***** Please notice change in timings! *****

From February, it has been decided to try holding
our Monthly Meetings **in the morning**,
as this may prove more convenient for many members.

**Come early for a chat and tea, coffee etc, from 10.15 am.
Actual meeting / speaker begins at 11 am.**

9 February (Note time, above!) **Kirsty Gray – ‘Family History:
Challenges, Pitfalls and the Downright Ridiculous’**. Tracing the past has
become very popular now and Kirsty gives it a slightly different slant.

9 March (Note time, above!)

Annual General Meeting

Please see enclosed AGM document with nomination form.

13 April (Note time, above)

Speaker to be arranged.

YOUR COMMITTEE

Chairman	Pip Higman
Vice Chairman	Dora Emmett
Treasurer	Sue Taylor
Secretary	Vacancy
Membership Secretary	Anne Ellis
Speakers' Secretary	Cynthis Spragg
Groups Co-ordinator	Dora Emmett
Gift Aid Officer	Sue Taylor
Welfare Officer	Dora Emmett
Newsletter Editor	Frances Alexander
Website	Pip Higman



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

I am writing at the end of a year that has been difficult for us all but I wish you all a happy and healthy 2022. Quite what is happening with Covid as we enter the 3rd year of the pandemic is unknown, but I feel sure that we can get over this and begin to learn to live with it as we do with 'flu and as we did, once upon a time, with a whole row of 'childhood illnesses'.

2021 was not all bad and it was wonderful to be able to meet again from the autumn in the Rotary Hall with 'live' speakers. Doing this, however, we do have a problem – who is going to do the teas? Dora has done a wonderful job for many years coordinating the teas, but this has been very difficult and now become almost impossible because of the lack of cooperation. The committee is thinking about giving our monthly meetings a new structure. If you have any good ideas, please let a committee member know. Meeting together is so much nicer than zoom meetings, but those did keep some of us together during the lockdowns. The regional network will probably continue to meet on zoom because of travel problems.

A very positive end to 2021 was our u3a buying a copse of 100 trees in the u3a 40th Anniversary Wood, details of which you will find elsewhere in the Newsletter. Once the trees have been planted, we will be sent the exact location and then, maybe, we can go on an outing to visit it. 2022 will see further activities regarding the 40th Anniversary of the u3a in the UK and in September there will be 'u3a Day'. There will be further information in TAM and in the monthly letters from National Office which you can sign up for.

Finally, a gentle reminder of our AGM in March; more information is in this Newsletter, and the fact that the committee is very depleted, so do give a thought as to whether you could become a little more involved. Many hands make light work.

Pip Higman, Chairman

*** PS See notice re. different timings for Monthly Meetings (P.4) ***

Information / News from Groups

Now looking firmly ahead !...

Many groups have got under way in the last few months. Some have changed their venue, so ring the Leader if you are unsure ... or new!

Group

Leader / Contact

Archaeology (See History and Archaeology, below)

Art Thur.wkly 10am Rosemary Mace

Board games Currently suspended Sue Taylor

Book group 3rd Fri 2 pm Pip Higman

In January, members make their own choice of book to review. They then revert to all reading the same book, leading to good discussion!

Bridge Tues 10.15am Ann or Wendy

Resuming weekly in Club Room at St Andrew's.

Calligraphy 2nd/4th Tues 10am Tricia Weaving

Enjoying the new venue in room at rear of Neeld Hall.

Canasta (Calne) Currently suspended..

Common Thread 2nd Tues 2pm Lynda Clifford

Planning to resume in January in the Scout hut, Derriards Lane – and hoping someone will have some good ideas for the next project!

Computer Skills Pip Higman

Small group sessions in Pip's house to improve your computer skills, using Microsoft software, mainly 'Word' and 'Explorer'. Explain your needs to Pip and bring your own laptop.

French Conversation 2A Tue 2pm Chris Perkins

Planning to get together again very soon, meeting on Tuesdays, approx. fortnightly.

French 3 Thu. Wkly 10.15am EileenHodges
Having zoomed busily all summer, the group is back meeting in members' houses.

French group (new!) Fri am Lesley Jefferson
As the current French Conversation group has reached full capacity, Lesley is planning to start another group soon, meeting on Friday mornings, time and frequency to be decided. Please ring her for more information!

German Conversation 3rd Thu 2pm Dora Emmett
Continuing to meet in the small hall at St Andrew's Church – We ask you to pay £1.50 towards the cost of the hire.

High Street Project Pip Higman
Working on shared learning project with the Museum and the Civic Society.

History & Archaeology Group 2nd Fri David Shockley
It is often said that 'Hope springs eternal' and it is in this spirit we will recommence group meetings in January. As pre-Covid, we will meet on the second Friday in the month but as the previous venue is now not available, sessions will take place at Chippenham Museum in the Market Place from 10.30.-12.00. First meeting on 14th January, then 11th February.

As the situation is still very uncertain, a generalised topic of 'Empires and Kingdoms' has been chosen. We will also include two sessions on Archaeology within the programme. If additional members would like to join us, you will be most welcome, but please let me know in advance in case restrictions on numbers are brought in.

Luncheon Club 2nd Sun 12.30pm for 1pm Tony Reeves
Tentative thoughts of meeting up again in January have been dashed by the current Covid-19 surge. If things settle down again during 2022, Wendy and I plan to arrange a simplified system of meetings, solely at The North Wilts Bowls Club, on second Sundays (except when bank holidays suggest otherwise) until someone hopefully volunteers to take over from us. (The caterers may again put a cap of 24 on future bookings.)

Mahjong Wed. wkly 2.30pm Celia Hall
We meet in Bowles Court for our weekly sessions.

Music / Opera Appreciation

1st Tues & 2nd Thu at 1.30pm

David Mills 01249 659806 and Ann Seyfang

Music and Opera Appreciation groups are joining into one group. Please phone to learn more. Currently they are exploring the Met. Opera in NY.

Play Reading

1st & 3rd Fri 2pm

Mary Henning

If Covid rules permit, the group hopes to continue their enjoyment in reading plays aloud together.

Upwords

Cynthia Smith

Until the current situation improves, we feel we cannot meet safely.

REMINDER !

If you have not yet paid your subscription,

Membership Fees for 2022 are now overdue!

£12.50 single, £24 for a couple

Our bank is now charging for each cheque we deposit or write out, so please could you either pay **in CASH** or by **BANK TRANSFER**?

The details for a **bank transfer** to HSBC Bank account, are as follows:

North Wilts U3A, Registered Charity number: 1048393, Sort Code 40-17-17, account number 71419927, with your name and membership number as the reference.

(Please keep these details for future reference6!)

If you pay in **cash**, please put in an envelope with your name and membership number for identification and hand it in to Anne Ellis or a committee member at a monthly meeting.

U3a 40th Anniversary Woodland Copse

A new woodland is being created to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the u3a movement and contribute to reducing our carbon footprint.

I have today, the 12th of the 12th month, bought a copse of trees in the u3a Anniversary Wood. See certificate is below. The u3a Anniversary Woodland is located on the England / Wales border in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The aim is to plant 5,000 native trees on 10 hectares of low-grade agricultural land. It is a unique project by the Third Age Trust, but is also seen as contributing to the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to mark her Platinum Jubilee.

The trees – two-year old saplings – will be native, deciduous trees; a mix of native species appropriate to the chosen site, including oak, rowan, hawthorn, hazel and field maple. This purchase includes planting the trees, plus 12 years of maintenance to ensure the trees become established. The planting will also allow for glades to create habitat for butterflies and other invertebrates.

Once the trees have been planted we will receive details of the exact location.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed – I feel very proud that our small u3a has been able to buy a complete copse of 100 trees, which will be named with a plaque.

Pip Higman

(The basic information is taken from recent TAM Magazine)



A Post ‘Freedom Day’ Outing

(a memory from last year!)

“Let’s be daring, let’s put on our masks and go into Bath,” I decided on a nice day in early August 2021. Off we went to the station, only to be told after we had bought our tickets that our train wasn’t likely to leave Reading in the near future and that the following one had been cancelled. Park and Ride then! The queue for the bus at Lansdowne stretched into infinity – no social distancing and not a mask (or a bus) in sight. No, thank you!

Back to the station! We still had our tickets and surely by now something was on the move. “We are sorry to announce...” The dreaded message was repeated over and over, each time adding a few minutes to the expected train arrival time. As we waited, I marvelled once more at the patience and stoicism of the British public. No audible complaints, no fuss. I thought about the time when I was on a ship which had docked in Italy, but for quite some time there were no immediate signs of the gates being opened for the assembled mix of European passengers to disembark – Total mayhem.

At last our train pulled in. No cheers, just gratitude and relief. So two and a half hours after leaving our house for what should have been a 10 minute train ride, we stepped out into the Bath sunshine. My favourite English city and worth the wait ... just.

Anne Ellis

PUNOGRAPHY – A little silliness to fill a space!

- I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- I’m reading a book about anti-gravity. I can’t put it down.
- Jokes about German sausages are the Wurst.
- When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- Broken pencils are pointless.



The Art group hard at work!



Tony Griffith with his most entertaining and puzzling demonstration in January, on 'The Art of the Magician'