

OUNBLE & DISTRICT



CURRENT GROUPS

If a Group you are interested in is full, please
contact the Groups Co-ordinator,

Lidia Douglas

oundleu3agroupscoord@gmail.com

If you don't see a subject in which you are interested,
again contact Lidia Douglas who will see if it is possible
to set up a new Group.

This list is up to date at: 11th June 2021

A STITCH IN TIME

Our meetings are held twice monthly, on the first and third Mondays of each month, from 10.30am to 12 noon, at the leader's home close to the town centre car parks. The Group comprises both knitters and crocheters. We tackle individual projects but aim to share our knowledge and experience as and when necessary. Some members knit/crochet for charity, others competitively; mostly though we knit/crochet for own family and friends. Sometimes we peruse knitting and crochet magazines if we have no current project to bring, but whatever we do, it is always over coffee. Interested potential members are welcome to make contact for a "taster" session.

Contact: Estella Archibald

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

We meet on the second Thursday of the month (currently excluding January and August) in the Methodist Hall, Drumming Well Lane, Oundle. We start with coffee from 9.30am with talks or meetings commencing at 10.00am. We charge £1 and the meetings last approximately one hour. We have some spaces for new members. We share an interest in antiques in general, but topics vary and include some loosely linked to antiques. None of us claim any specialist knowledge and hopefully everyone feels able to contribute within a very friendly atmosphere.

Contact: Janice West

ART

The Art Group meets on the fourth Monday of the month between 1.00pm and 3.00pm in the Glaphorn Room at Fletton House. We enjoy a variety of interests from landscapes to animal painting, in all different media. Usually we bring our own subject matter, but on occasion we have had a visiting artist to demonstrate or we have painted in a member's garden.

We are, at present, looking for new members. If you enjoy painting or drawing whatever your ability, do come and join us.

Contact: Judy Pike

ART APPRECIATION 1

The Group meets on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month at 2.15pm in members' homes. We look at the lives and works of artists, be it a single individual or a group, or we look at a specific theme. This gives most of us a chance to research and present a talk on a favourite artist. We always have a fun and lively discussion where all participate. Occasionally we will have what we call a "shared session" where everybody talks about two pieces of art, either favourite or the opposite. Since the start of the Group, we have covered many famous European artists in chronological order. We have now reached the stage where some of us look at less main-stream artists. Occasionally we go on an outing to art galleries around the country. Our aim is to try to learn something new and to have fun at the same time.

Contact: Kirsten and Barrie Harbott.

ART APPRECIATION 2

We meet in my home on the third Tuesday of each month at 2.00pm. We look at the life, aspirations and works of an individual artist, or a group of artists or sometimes we consider a specific theme. Artists and topics are chosen by Group members and may also be suggested by forthcoming major exhibitions. We usually watch a brief film clip on our chosen subject and later view and discuss relevant works. We enjoy sharing our views and insights and aim to enhance our appreciation of both familiar and less familiar art.

Contact : Sylvia Woodhead

ART APPRECIATION 3

We continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at either the Coopers' or the Morris's house. Sessions are led not just by Ann, John and Jane, but also by several of our Group members who share their interest in or knowledge of a particular artist. This has continued to be a successful formula as our programme last year was entertaining and diverse and this year's programme promises to be equally so. Each session is unique in its structure with narrative, timelines, short pieces of video and images of the works under discussion and invariably results in lively discussion about the artist's life and works. Our aim is to extend Group members' experience, understanding and enjoyment of art in all its genres.

Contact: Ann and John Cooper or Jane Morris

ART APPRECIATION 4

We see ourselves as a theme-based discussion Group, somewhat akin to a reading group. We hold an annual planning meeting when all our members come along with their enthusiasms and suggestions as to potential themes for future meetings. Votes are taken, and a programme put in place. Themes have included individual artists, art movements and genres. We meet on the afternoon of the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in each other's homes. One person chairs the meeting and each person presents their contribution on any aspect of the month's theme which they find particularly interesting and would like to share with the group. Discussion follows.

Contact: Susan Hold or Diana Redward

BIRDING

The objectives of the Group are to visit local areas for birding. We usually see about 90 bird species during the year, including wintering species, local breeding summer visitors and migrants passing through. Members of the Group share identification tips, learn to identify birds by song and discuss the observed bird behaviour. The objective is to help members improve their birding skills, whether in the garden or, for example, on holiday.

Please contact either of the Leaders if you wish to join the Group. The Group meets 11 times a year in the morning on the first Thursday of the month. The meetings are outdoors, at locations generally close to Oundle. The visits usually involve a walk of about two miles, on level ground, though it may sometimes be muddy! Members are expected to have binoculars.

Leaders: Richard Chandler and John Hunt

BOOK GROUP 1

We meet on the first Monday of the month at 10.00am in members' houses. We are a Group of 10 members, each choosing one book a month and leading the discussion. Once a year we select an author to study and one member reads a biography whilst the others read a different work by our chosen author. Our December meeting varies from year to year. We have used that session to consider Murder Mysteries or to look at Christmas themed books.

Contact: Hilary Delany

BOOK GROUP 2

We meet at The Talbot on the third Monday of each month at 2.45pm and discuss the previously chosen book at leisure. The book choices are made by members and are very varied. To date all members have found this format to be quite pleasing and we shall continue as we are for the foreseeable future.

Contact: Tess Reardon

BOOK GROUP 3

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm, taking it in turns to host in our homes. We select books 10-12 months ahead so that they can be shared between members, if need be. A range of literary genres, including classics, historical novels, modern fiction, spy thrillers, detective novels, biographies and short stories, have been read, sometimes taking us out of our reading comfort zones. We have lively discussions reflecting a wide range of opinions and preferences, with each session starting with a brief synopsis of the chosen author's background.

Contact: Carew Treffgarne

BOWLING FOR BEGINNERS

If you have never tried Lawn Bowls or indoor Short Mat Bowls before, now is your chance to have a go. The Oundle U3A Beginners Bowling Group offers the opportunity to try this popular sport. All equipment is provided but you will need flat soled shoes. Basic instruction will be given by Bowls England qualified instructors. The Group will meet at Oundle Bowling Club for 6 weekly lessons commencing mid-August. For more information visit www.oundlebowlingclub.org

Contact: David Walker

BRIDGE – CONTINUE TO LEARN

We meet in the homes of members every Monday at 10.00am. Our aim is to consolidate learning and improve our bridge bidding and playing so we build confidence to play more widely. Each session starts with a short lesson, followed by playing some hands, where we look for the opportunity to learn and reflect on the bidding and playing.

Contact: Mark Felton

BRIDGE - THE SOCIAL BRIDGE GROUP

The clue is in the name - we meet each week for two hours of social bridge, from September through to May. Mostly members just turn up and play, although from time to time we organise an afternoon of 'duplicate bridge' or hold our own social 'Bridge Drive'. Having a regular partner is not essential, but preferred. A charge is made for the season (to cover the cost of hiring a room and for the loan of tables and bidding boxes from Oundle Bridge Club). This is a very popular group with over 50 members. If you are interested in joining the Group, please contact me with your email address, and tell me a bit about yourself and your bridge. We meet on a Thursday afternoon in Fletton House, Glapthorn Road, at 2.00pm.

Contact: Gloria Pearson

BUSINESS DISCUSSION

The Business Discussion Group continues to look at a number of topical business areas including pensions, retailing, internet, tourism and banking. We track the market sectors through a "mock" portfolio of shares across a diverse range of sectors which helps us understand market changes. Last year we looked at the complexity of business issues, given the impact of the political dimension of BREXIT and the US elections and this has led us to spend substantial time understanding the changing nature of the business and financial market place.

The Group continually renews itself as new members come and others leave. It keeps things fresh and we find that there is always plenty to talk about as the business world appears to occupy the front page of the newspapers these days. New members are always welcome to our meetings on the first Monday of the month at 3.00pm.

NO FINANCIAL ADVICE WILL BE GIVEN AT OUR MEETINGS.

Contact: Blyth Morris

CAMERA AND COMPOSITION

The aim of the Group is to share the enjoyment of photography and improve the skills of its members by sharing knowledge and technique. The emphasis is on trips out to various locations around Oundle to capture seasonal events in nature as well as portrait and street photography. In the past we have had trips to Anglesey Abbey for the Snowdrops, Short Wood for the Bluebells, Old Sulehay for Butterflies and Hamerton Zoo. Recently we experimented with painting with light. Trips out are interspersed with meetings to compare pictures and print some of the best. The Group meets once a month on the fourth Monday afternoon at 2.30pm.

Contact: Stefan Pijanowski

CARDMAKING

We are a Group who enjoy making cards for all the different occasions that occur during the year, including the Craft Competition run by the Oundle and District U3A. The aim of the Group is to keep up with the changing techniques in card making such as stamping and die cutting. We meet in the Methodist Church Hall, Drumming Well Lane on the first Monday of each month at 2.00pm, except August.

Contact: Therese Foster

CHINWAGGERS

This is not a formal Group but a "dip in and dip out" Group for those who want a chinwag or those who don't want commit to attending a group at a set time every month, but still want to know what's going on and feel part of our U3A. In other words, just come if and when you want to. We have a discussion over a cup of coffee, covering a wide variety of topics and all members are invited. We take the opportunity to invite new members who have joined between meeting dates so that they can meet those who have been members for a while, as well as one or two of the committee.

We meet every fourth Thursday at 10.00am in the Snug at the Talbot Hotel, Oundle. Free parking is available in their car park, but you must get a ticket from the hotel reception, otherwise you'll get a very expensive fine.

Contact: Stephne Tewson

CREATIVE WRITING

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 2.00pm in the 'Snug' at the Talbot Hotel in Oundle. A list of topics is drawn up at the beginning of the year and members bring their contributions to the meetings. There is usually also time for some spontaneous writing. We aim to have a pleasant social gathering with a chance to develop our writing skills.

Contact: Jill Rundle

CREATIVE WRITING CRITIQUE

The Group meets on the fourth Tuesday morning of the month at 10.00am in the centre of Oundle. We explore characters, motives, emotions and a wide variety of plot lines. Members' stories have been amusing, uplifting, surprising – and prize-winning.

Contact: Anne Brown

CYCLING GROUP

We're a friendly group of social cyclists. We meet every other week to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful local countryside. We normally cycle between 10 and 20 miles. The choice of route and speed of travel is determined by the Group on the day. We welcome new members.

Contact: Mike Taylor

EXPLORING CLASSICAL MUSIC

The Group meets on the third Tuesday morning of the month from 10a.m. at the Group contact's Oundle home (when we are able to meet in person) or 10.30 a.m. for Zoom meetings.

We have recently changed our name to reflect that we are now a more dynamic and active group of classical musical lovers, eager to share our musical knowledge and tastes. A lot of active listening and discussion (and laughter) takes place at our meetings as we learn individually and from each other.

Before each meeting a playlist of YouTube clips is circulated so that members can listen in advance and then come together ready for discussion. Currently we are working on a theme of 'Composers in Exile' which is proving a fertile source for research. At the moment each member is contributing a piece for the playlist with some researched background shared within the meetings. This works well for Zoom meetings, but face-to-face meetings may have one or several presenters – on a strictly voluntary basis – depending on the theme.

Contact: Dorothy Powell.

FLOWER ARRANGING

The Flower Arranging group meets on the third Tuesday of the month, except August and December, at the Joan Strong Centre in Oundle from 1.45pm to 3.45pm. The aim of the Group is to teach and share new flower arranging techniques in a relaxed, fun, friendly way and we do this in our monthly workshop. The workshops are led by volunteers, to whom we are very grateful, and who are happy to return and share their knowledge and skills with such a friendly, positive and enthusiastic group. If you are interested and would like more information, please use contact below.

Contact: Sheila Henderson and Linda Pugh

FRENCH CONVERSATION

The French Conversation Group meets on the third Thursday of the month at 10.00am. We meet in members' houses and chat informally in French for about one and a half hours. There is no set agenda, meaning there is no preparation or "homework" to be done. We tend to talk about what we have done the previous month, what is happening in the rest of the world (especially France) and a whole range of other topics, including local issues and even the weather. We all share a love of France and the French language and this Group gives us the opportunity to keep up and practise our spoken French.

Contact: June Moore

GARDENING 1

Group members discuss and between them decide the programme for the coming year. We hold the meetings at the members' homes. Our garden trips have proved successful as we try to visit new venues each year. We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00pm.

Contact: April Fleming or Joyce Thorpe

GARDENING 3

We plan our year's activities in January and the whole Group has input as to what we do. This includes visits to country houses whose gardens are particularly known for their seasonal interest, interspersed with a couple of visits to one of our members' gardens for a nose and to gather any useful tips. While we have able drivers, we choose at least one venue that is some distance away and make a day of it. Our aim is to broaden our knowledge of what to plant when, where and how to make the best display. Although our main meeting afternoon is the third Wednesday of the month we sometimes have to change the day if our garden of choice is not open on Wednesdays. We also try to support the National Garden Scheme and Open Gardens in nearby villages.

Contact: Stephne Tewson

GARDENING 4

The Group normally meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm. The year's programme is discussed in January when various topics are chosen for winter meetings, which we hold in members' houses. We take turns in leading group discussions which have covered subjects such as Famous Gardeners, Landscape Designers, Horticultural Innovations and Plant Families etc. In addition, we make sure there is time to talk about topical matters, seasonal plans and to share experiences in solving garden problems. In the summer we get outside as much as possible to visit some of the many interesting gardens and historic houses in Northamptonshire and neighbouring counties.

Contact: Lawrence Hodgson-Jones

GENEALOGY – ADVANCED

We normally meet twice a month in each other's homes but we are currently meeting via Zoom. We meet on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 10.00am from September to May inclusive. Group members follow their own lines of research and we have practical sessions researching different topics or individual ancestors. We try to help each other and pass on useful tips. The joy of the Group is in sharing the triumphs and having encouragement when all lines seem to come to a "brick wall". We have enjoyed travelling together to family history fairs, lectures and sites of mutual interest. We are 'advanced' only in the sense that we've been meeting for several years and have a wealth of family history research experience between us. There is always more to learn about our ancestors, including the places and societies in which they lived and worked.

Contact: Barbara Ding

GENEALOGY – INTERMEDIATE

This Group is aimed at people who have been researching their family history for a number of years and who want to work in a collaborative way. We sometimes have a theme, e.g. our favourite ancestor or a member may update the group on their latest finds. There is no fixed format for the meetings. The Group normally meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 9.30am. We are currently meeting on Zoom at 10a.m. on the same day each month but will return to face-to-face when Covid restrictions allow.

Contact: Anne Garraway

GERMAN - DISCUSSION

The German Discussion Group meets from 10.00am to 12 noon on the second and fourth Friday of the month. As we are a small Group, everyone has plenty of opportunity to join in wide-ranging discussions on a multitude of topics - from the latest books, films and TV, holidays, the EU and Brexit, to current world affairs and diverse matters of the moment. We always have a lively exchange of opinions - and all of it in German, of course. We all help each other and much enjoy looking things up - laughter is always included! Knowledge of German a precondition, however 'rusty'!

Contact: Christiane Freebairn

GOLF FOR FUN

The Group meets weekly on a Wednesday afternoon, 12 noon start in Winter and 1.00pm from Spring onwards, weather permitting. The group plays 9 holes at Oundle Golf Club. The cost is £10 per person per session and there is no need to be a member of the Golf Club. It is golf for fun. You do not need a handicap, just a set of clubs. Some members score for themselves, others just enjoy the fun of playing. There are both men and women players of different levels of skill. After the 9 holes we have a cup of coffee or tea and a chat in the Club House.

Contact: Brian Pearson

HISTORY MATTERS

We are a group of like-minded people with a passion for history, especially British and European history. From time to time, we all have a say in selecting a period of history to research and discuss over the following months. We have previously covered the Victorian and Georgian periods and the current themes are Royal mistresses and significant dates. Our members are each asked to suggest a topic within the current theme; they will then research this topic and give a 30-40 minute talk to the group. Animated discussion and coffee follow. We meet, usually on the last Monday of each month from 2.30pm until approximately 4.30pm, in Fletton House. Members pay (usually) £2 at each meeting to cover the hire cost of the room. New members are always very welcome.

Contact: Judith Stronach

HOMES THROUGH THE AGES

This is a small informal Group who visit houses, mainly National Trust and English Heritage with a few private owners. There is usually one all day trip each month, May to September (inclusive). We travel in members' cars sharing the fuel costs for the journey. Whilst this year's programme has not yet been determined, the following are possible candidates for a visit:

Boothby Pagnell 12C Hall House; Grimsthorpe Castle; Kings Lynn Fisherman's rows and Smoke House; Castle Rising Castle; Melford Hall; Long Melford Church; Lavenham Guildhall; Sheringham Park (when the rhododendrons are blooming); Felbrigg Hall; Stoney Well; Sudbury Hall and Museum of Childhood; Walsingham Castle and Saxtead Green Post Mill.

Contact: David Edsall

ITALIAN - CONVERSATION

The Italian Conversation Group meets at 2.00pm every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, at the home of Sally Backhurst. We are a group of enthusiastic Italian speakers of varying ability. We enjoy exchanging news and views, reading newspaper and magazine articles from Italy, studying a little bit of grammar occasionally – relating to any language problems that have cropped up - and at Christmas getting together for a 'fiesta' with Italian bring-and-share dishes and a glass or two of Prosecco.

Contact: Sally Backhurst

LATIN

We meet every other Monday at 1.45pm in the Oundle Hub in Fletton House for one hour, to read, translate and discuss an extract from the full range of Latin prose and verse literature, selected for its interest/historical significance/literary qualities (anything from Martial's epigrams to the Magna Carta to *Winnie ille Pu!*). The purpose is simply to provide an opportunity for people to recall, resuscitate and enjoy their Latin in a very non-challenging arena. During the hour, by supplementing dimly-remembered school Latin with 'informed' guesswork and with a little guidance, members jointly arrive at a translation of the extract, the value and effect of which we then discuss as time allows. No-one is obliged to prepare beforehand, though everyone receives a copy of the selected passage, with vocabulary, prior to the meeting. New members very welcome. It helps to have studied the language to 'O' level.

Contact: Vic Northwood

LINE DANCING

The Line Dancing Group currently has a membership of 24, with around 12-14 attending sessions each month at the Victoria Hall. The sessions are from 11.00am until 12 noon on the second Thursday of the month. We have around 26 dances in our repertoire (including salsa, cha-cha, the Charleston and, of course, country and western) and average around 7-8 dances a session. The Group encourages all levels – whether complete newcomers to line dancing, or those who have had a go before.

Contact: Maureen Weston

LOCAL HISTORY

The Group has ten members and we meet monthly over tea and biscuits in one of the member's homes for discussion about various aspects of local history. Some members of the Group have studied particular topics such as ancient routes, overseer's accounts, mineral extraction, public transport, North Street buildings and occupations. On an occasional basis we produce a booklet which we offer for sale to U3A members. More recently we have considered the history of local Alms-houses, charities and libraries. We meet on the third Thursday of the month at 9.30am.

Leader: John Cooper

LUNCH GROUP

The Lunch Group is open to all U3A members every third Tuesday of the month and we like to try and keep you informed of the latest venue and menu a month in advance and set a fixed timeline for people to contact us. Note: we only have 2 courses and try to keep the cost reasonable. We visit different pubs for lunch and have been known to stray as far as Rutland Water. However, having covered most places far and near, this year we are re-visiting some of our favourites from the past. Please note we do not go out in July – small numbers – or November - saving up for our three course Christmas lunch, which is always earlier in the month than the usual. We don't have a speaker or any entertainment: we just enjoy having a meal together and socialising.

Contact: Liz Allen

MASTERING ADOBE LIGHTROOM

The aim of the Group is to enable photographers to get the best out of their photography by using Adobe Lightroom to organise and back-up their photographs in a consistent manner and to optimise the image either as a photograph or an artistic creation. At each meeting we look at the various features of Lightroom and members give demonstrations of their use. Members often bring photographs for the Group to edit and then compare before and after to show how different techniques can bring out the best in an image. The Group meets once a month on the third Monday afternoon from 2.30pm to 4.30pm at the Leader's home.

Contact: Stefan Pijanowski

MEDITATION AND MINDFULNESS

The Group is learning about, and trying to practise, living mindfully – in the moment. As part of this, we practise a range of meditation techniques with the help of CDs and other resources suggested by Group members. Each session begins with a short, settling, meditation followed by a longer practise on a chosen theme with time for tea, cake and talk afterwards! We meet (times vary) at 9.30am and 10.30am on the second and fourth Friday of the month in each other's homes. New members are very welcome.

u3a are hosting my short audio mindfulness sessions on their You Tube channel. To have a listen for a 'taster', type into your browser Mindfulness u3a youtube.

Contact: Nancy Taylor

MILITARY HISTORY 1

The Group members share an interest in exploring and researching all aspects of military history, with the objectives of educating ourselves and stimulating discussion. We meet at 10.30am on the third Wednesday of each month at members' houses, taking turns to host the meeting, and present for about 90 minutes on a personally chosen subject. We all have our preferred era, and subjects have ranged from the Rise of Prussia to the Air Battle of Berlin and Edward 1's Wars with the Welsh. In Spring, we make a 5-day trip, often overseas, visiting historic sites such as Waterloo, Normandy, Verdun and Jersey. We also make day trips to UK museums and sites and give presentations to the U3A and public from time to time in Oundle.

Contact: Graham Evans

MILITARY HISTORY 2

Every year we enjoy a full range of talks and outings. As an example, in the past we have had a talk on the experience of being an evacuee at the beginning of WWII. This year we are intending to visit Chatham Dockyard and also Dover Castle. In the Autumn we may well return to Europe to visit Waterloo and other battle sites. We have had joint ventures with the other Military History Groups, for example, to hear about the causes of Pearl Harbour. We meet on the third Wednesday every month morning at 10.30am.

Contact: Mike Taylor

MILITARY HISTORY 3

We had our first meeting in February 2019 and will be developing the topics to be covered over the next few months. We may watch a short DVD and then have a general discussion about its contents or a member of the Group may give a talk on a particular aspect of military history, followed by discussion. We are not limited to any particular time in history and will look at battles both land, sea and air and what leads up to the war and what is happening on the home front. We welcome new members to help the group develop.

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 10.00am.

Contact: Dave Bradley

OPERA LOVERS GROUP

The new Opera Lovers Group is now up and running and will meet on the fourth Tuesday morning of each month at 10.00am in a group member's home, although with the Groups' agreement, this could be subject to change. The meetings will concentrate on opera from its beginnings up to the present day so that we can achieve an overview and insight into its development. It is envisaged that members will take it in turn, on a voluntary basis, to host and lead the sessions.

Contact: Dorothy Powell.

PÉTANQUE (formerly known as Boules)

The Pétanque Group meets between 10.30am and 12 noon on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at Barnwell Country Park. Group meetings take place between April and October. Aside from a one off joining fee of £2.00 there is no fee for playing. However, you will need to pay for car parking at Barnwell Country Park. We can loan prospective members a set of boules, but you will need to purchase your own set of three boules if you decide to join our group.

Contact: John Weston.

PLAYREADING 1

As the name suggests, we read plays! We take turns to read the parts in whichever play we have borrowed from the library – usually a comedy. It is all very casual and there is certainly no pressure, we just enjoy the play and each other's company. We have refreshments and a chat afterwards. So, if you would like to join a vibrant and fun group reading plays – no rehearsal needed - look no further. We meet on the first Thursday of every month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in the Methodist Hall. There is a small charge to cover the cost of hiring the room and for tea and coffee.

Contact: Ed Elliott.

PLAYREADING 2

We meet in each other's homes on the first Thursday of the month at 2.00pm for a couple of hours or so. We aim to read a variety of playwrights and currently we are working through the alphabet and have fun whilst doing so. We also enjoy an occasional trip to the theatre and an annual Christmas afternoon tea or lunch in January! The plays we read are chosen from the large selection available at Peterborough Central Library; they are free and available for three-months at a time if necessary.

Contact: Stephne Tewson.

POETRY APPRECIATION

Our aim is to share our favourite poems, study poets, ancient and modern and perhaps be inspired to pen our own contributions. The Poetry Appreciation Group meets on the second Thursday of the month from 10.00am until 12 noon at the Leader's home.

Contact: Jill Rundle.

QUILTING

Our Group continues to enjoy quilting sessions on the first and third Wednesday of the month at 2.00pm at the Methodist Church Hall. In the past we have made quilts for the children who spent time in Oundle on a Children's Country Holiday Scheme. The children took their quilts home with them at the end of the holiday. Previously, we displayed our work in conjunction with The Polebrook Quilters at their exhibition in the Yarrow Gallery.

Contact: Irene Ellard or Andy Crouch.

QUIZZES 'N' PUZZLES

We meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2.00pm in members' houses and enjoy a variety of quiz or games sessions.

Contact: Jane Morris or Stephne Tewson.

ROWING

We row on Tuesday mornings 10.00am – 12 noon at Oundle Town Rowing Club – location in link: (<http://www.oundletownrc.org.uk/index.php/find-us>). The Club runs adult 'learn to row' courses for beginners – so you can start from scratch. If you have rowed before and want to continue or start again, please get in touch. We are associated with OTRC and pay the equivalent of their Silver membership, currently £14 per month.

Contact: Mark Felton.

SCRABBLE

This is an informal Group; we meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 2.00pm at the Leader's house. All levels are welcome - the more experienced players help the beginners - and the idea is to have fun. We usually play two games per session, with tea and biscuits in between. We have no aims or targets, just to enjoy the game and the company.

Contact: Sylvia Scotney.

SHAKESPEARE 1 – SHAKESPEARE STUDY GROUP

Our Group meets weekly on Mondays at 10.00am in my home to look at a particular play in depth over a number of weeks, even months, but in a relaxed way with no homework or pressure. Our aim is to understand, learn and appreciate Shakespeare's works and the period during which he lived. We use DVDs and text for our study that have proved most effective and generated interesting discussions.

Contact: Jen Brice.

SHAKESPEARE 2

We are now meeting on the third Wednesday of each month from 2.00pm to 3.30pm on Zoom. We are intending to discuss the plays, do some play reading, maybe go down some interesting diversions and generally work together to see how we can continue our interest in Shakespeare virtually! We all love Shakespeare and meet as friends with a common interest. Once we can meet in our homes, we will once again enjoy watching different versions of the plays on DVD, arguing about which actors are the most compelling and we will organise our annual trip to Tolethorpe.

Contact: Carol Sandall.

SHAKESPEARE 3

We meet monthly on the second Wednesday at 10.00am to read and discuss plays by Shakespeare. We also watch DVDs of plays and have had one session on his sonnets this year. We choose plays by discussion, which can be influenced by what may be seen in theatres and on 'live events' at cinemas at the time. We all take turns in hosting meetings. We all seem to enjoy our sessions; we meet as friends, so meetings often start with conversations about a wide range of topics that are nothing to do with Shakespeare. Our aim is simply to enjoy the plays, to learn more about them by sharing our experiences and research and to enjoy taking parts when reading the texts.

Contact: Keith Diggle.

SHAKESPEARE 4

Normally, our Group meets in each other's homes or gardens on the second and fourth Thursday afternoon of each month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, but during the pandemic we have been meeting on zoom every Thursday (apart from the 3rd Thursday of the month). We read our chosen play and we enjoy discussing plot, characters, language, historical setting and how the play often resonates with modern life. We have enjoyed theatre trips to both professional and amateur productions and to live screenings at local cinemas. Just before the first lockdown, we enjoyed a trip to London to see Ben Elton's comedy 'Upstart Crow', starring David Mitchell as Shakespeare. None of us claims to be an expert on Shakespeare – we are simply keen to develop our appreciation and understanding of the Bard and to share our views and observations in a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

Contact: Marilyn Oliver or Gill Potts

STRETCH AND RELAX

The aims of the classes are to increase body awareness and flexibility, also to reduce stress levels and improve breathing. This in turn increases energy levels and range of movement. We are a diverse group with a range of abilities, but the emphasis is on each individual working to their own capabilities and avoiding any sense of competition. We enjoy each other's company and hopefully have some fun together. The group has two Leaders: Chris Fitzpatrick and Nancy Taylor. We both come from a Yoga background. We meet every second and fourth Wednesday of the month in the Glaphorn Room at Fletton House from 2.45pm to 4.00pm. A small charge is made to cover the cost of the hall. New members welcome.

Contact: Chris Fitzpatrick and Nancy Taylor.

THE SUNDAY LUNCH BUNCH

The Sunday Lunch Bunch is run specifically for U3A members who live alone. The Group runs primarily to enable members to socialise over a Sunday lunch, usually a roast meal which they probably wouldn't otherwise cook for themselves. We meet on the first Sunday in the month and visit various restaurants and ,pub restaurants in the local area. Due to the large number of members in the Group all communication is carried out by email.

Contact: Chris Wilkin.

SUNDAY SINGLES

The Group is another group for those of us who live alone and would like to do something on a Sunday instead of sitting around wondering what to do. We take it in turns to choose what we would like to do. It could be a pub for Sunday lunch or somewhere for afternoon tea. It could be a walk, with lunch afterwards and if the pub that is chosen welcomes dogs, those of us with Man's best friend might bring them along. The idea is not just to go to a pub every month, but to do different things. We meet on the third Sunday of the month.

Contact: Stephne Tewson.

THEATRE AND OUTINGS

The aim of our Group is to organise a wide variety of outings which are open to all U3A Members. These include concerts, ballet, musicals, opera, plays and visits to places of interest. We meet every few months to plan our programme and decide who will organise tickets, coach, costings and advertising. Outings are then advertised in the Newsletter, on the website, on the Noticeboard and at our desk at the Monthly Meetings, where bookings and payments are taken. U3A Members can also contact the organiser by phone or email. Payment can be cash or cheque to secure a place. We advise early booking as many outings sell out quickly and Box Offices often require payment many months in advance. *Another organiser to assist this Group would be very welcome.*

Contact: Gill Potts

WALKING - FALCONS

Medical reports indicate that one of the most beneficial types of exercise (especially for those of a certain age) is a good walk. The Group meets every Friday at 10.00am and walks about 7 miles. However, The Falcons' objectives are not solely related to improving your fitness levels. Conversation, whilst not mandatory, is encouraged; appreciation of the countryside is on hand; starting and finishing at a pub presents the opportunity for lunch. All members are expected to lead walks at some time over the year and assistance with this is available. The Falcons is a very sociable group; so, if you enjoy the countryside, feel in need of some exercise and want to please your doctor, why not give us a try? You know it makes sense.

Contact: Mel Brice.

WALKING - KINGFISHERS

Kingfishers Walking Group goes out on the first and third Wednesday mornings of each month. Walks are 5 to 6 miles maximum, starting from a village or agreed meeting point. We start the walks at 10.00am, finishing about 12.30pm, with no commitment for lunch, although we sometimes go to a nearby pub for a drink afterwards. The pace is moderate, giving us time to take in any interesting sights along the way. We ask each member to lead one or possibly two walks a year, depending on number of members - we have around 30 at present. Jane and Gill will support new people with help in planning and leading their walks, so don't let this put you off.

Contact: Gill Coffey or Jane Blackford.

WALKING - WIGs

The Wigs are a very sociable walking group whose main aims are to enjoy the countryside, enjoy the company and enjoy the exercise. We meet every two weeks on a Friday at 10.30am and walk between 4 and 5.5 miles. We always start and finish at a pub, giving everyone the option of a drink and something to eat around lunchtime. Details of all walks are circulated beforehand. Everyone has the opportunity to lead a walk and there is plenty of help on hand for anyone who needs it.

So if you like the countryside and fancy walking with a friendly group, why not come along and join us – you definitely won't regret it.

Contact: David West

WRITING POETRY

As the group name suggests, this is a small collaborative and supportive group of writers who share their poetry with the hope of learning from one another and so improving what they do. We meet monthly in one of our homes (currently first Wednesday of the month at 10.00am), taking it in turns to lead on working with some form or aspect of poetry writing that interests us. We then bring and share our efforts to the next meeting, before developing a fresh aspect.

Contact: Robin Yeomans.