

Dates for you DiaryMondays, – **German Language Group**Tuesdays – **Dabbling in Art Group**Tuesday, 28th November – **Reading Group**Wednesday, 29th November – **Luncheon Group**Wednesday, 6th December – **New Horizons**Thursday 7th December – **Writing Group**Monday, 11th December – **Second Monday Book Group**Wednesday, 13th December – **Heritage & Local Studies Group**Wednesday, 13th December – **Walking Group** (Chinnor U3A)Thursday, 14th December – **Theatre Group**

Tuesday, 19th December - **Speaker Meeting & Christmas Party**
Tony Eaton - The Curious Disappearance of Major Glenn Miller 

Contact details for committee members and group leaders are listed on your 2017 Programme / Membership Card.

Subscription Renewal Date = 1st November

If you have not yet renewed your subscription, please do so today or contact the Treasurer, Margaret Wiggall

The Programme for 2019, which is also your membership card, will be available at the December meeting. If you are unable to come, please ask a friend to collect it for you.

New Groups: There may well be a couple of new groups in the pipeline – watch this space. This is a good time of year to start planning, perhaps with the aim of first meetings in the New Year. If you have any ideas, please contact June Waterson, our Groups Co-ordinator. You do not need to be an expert on a subject to start a group. There is a huge amount of material available from U3A Resources and other places. You just need members who are interested.

"My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60. Now she's 97 and we don't know where on earth she is!"

Ridgeway U3A Website <https://u3asites.org.uk/ridgeway>
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NEWSLETTER November 2017

October Speaker Meeting. Hugh Grainger proved that laughter is the best medicine when he came to talk to Ridgeway U3A on Tuesday, 17th October. Entitled “I’m not old it’s these tablets” his ‘talk’ was actually a stand-up comedy routine with many of the jokes featuring the frailties and foibles of old age, such as the one about the hotel owner who had to remove the sign saying “No Glasses in the Pool Area” because too many of his guests fell in! Hugh also recounted that Eleanor Roosevelt, wife of the American President, had been delighted to have a rose named after her but this swiftly turned to outrage when she read the catalogue which described it – “not much good in a bed but does well up against a wall”. He concluded by warning about the numerous side-effects of some medicines. One, which he was currently prescribed by his doctor, warned that it might induce drowsiness, hair loss and a range of other unwanted symptoms so – he was not really old, it was the tablets!

Theatre Group: If you have booked to see “**War Horse**” please be at the New Theatre Oxford, no later than 2.15pm on the 14th December 2.30pm June can distribute the tickets. Also, if you require transport please let her know a.s.a.p. The closest car parks to the venue are Worcester Street and Gloucester Green, or the larger multi-storey car park, which is just a 5-minute walk. If you prefer you can use the brilliant Oxford Park & Ride service.

2018 Dates Tetsworth Village Hall: Comedian Ginny Davis Talks on Crime & Punishment. Friday, 9th February 7.30 for 8pm
 Aylesbury Waterside Theatre: Strangers on a Train, 22nd March 2.30pm.
 New Theatre Oxford: Beautiful - The Carole King Musical, 9th May 2.30pm.

Dabbling in Art Group: has just one more week to run before taking its winter break. Those wishing to join the new group starting in March, should contact Jane Pawlyn for details.

Writing Group: This group has now had its first meeting and members have agreed on what they want to achieve, when and how often they will meet etc. A simple first project has been devised to get everyone going. Owing to other commitments by most members, the next meeting will be on Thursday, 7th December at Carol's house but thereafter it is expected that we will meet at 2pm on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Reading Group: is meeting on Tuesday, 28th November and the current book is "The Sense of an Ending" by Julian Barnes.

Heritage & Local Studies Group. We visited St Mary's Church,



Chalgrove to look at the restoration and study the conserved medieval wall paintings in the chancel. We were very fortunate that Bob Heath-Whyte was able to come and give us an

insight into the history and meaning of the paintings. Bob is the acknowledged expert on the subject and his much-acclaimed book is available to buy in the Church. A detailed plan of the paintings and more information is available on: <http://chalgrovechurch.org/heritage/medieval-wall-paintings-chancel>

Next meeting: will be a planning one for next year as well as a bit of a Christmas celebration and a review of the past year. It will be at Anne's house on 13th December at 2.30.

Luncheon Group: The next meeting is on Wednesday 29th November at 12 for 12.30pm. The venue will be the Golden Ball at Lower Assendon. If you wish to join please make your selection from the menu by the notice board along with your payment. The menu prices include gratuities £17.00 for Two courses; £19.50 for Three courses. Drinks extra.

Organiser: Jacky Wagstaff jackym.wagstaff@gmail.com 01491 613175

Walking Group: We hope to re-establish this Group in the New Year but meanwhile, through our membership of CHaTTR, Chinnor U3A have said they would be happy for us to join their Short Walks Group. (They meet on the third Wednesday of the month.) If you would like to join them, please contact Graham Stone on gdstone@tiscali.co.uk 01844 352178 with your name, phone number and email and he will add you to his mailing list. You can then turn up when you want to, without further notice.

The Second Monday Book Group: The latest book is 'The Book of Dave' by Will Self

New Horizons: In October, retired airline pilot, Captain Kamran Irani, told us all about his volunteer work with SERV OBN: Service by Emergency Rider Volunteers for Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, and Northamptonshire. They are a volunteer rapid response medical transport service, delivering blood, platelets, plasma, samples, vaccines, x-rays, scans, and donor breast milk, out of hours, between 7pm and 6am, free of charge to the NHS. Previously, most of us had no idea this organisation existed. The volunteers receive no payment or government funding for their time or costs. On average, they are called out three times every evening. In 2016 they covered 48,000 combined runs, which would have cost the NHS, roughly £50 per taxi/courier run, thus allowing hospitals to divert funds, to where they are needed most. These volunteers are our heroes, disappearing silently into the night.

Next meeting: On Wednesday 6th December, fittingly the Feast of St Nicholas, the talk: "14 Years in a Grotto, Santa Speaks at Last." will be at 2.30 pm in Watlington Sports Pavilion - Christmas begins now. Guaranteed festive fun. Colin Oakes has been with us before and is a lively and entertaining speaker and this time, he is giving us a talk with a Christmas flavour. Nothing says Christmas quite like children visiting Father Christmas in his twinkling grotto. Colin has been playing Santa since 1996, in garden centres and schools. Hear what it is like to be the beardy man himself, and how fulfilling and how challenging the job is. Eccentric present requests, difficult teenagers, troublesome kids not to mention the adults. Entry into our Group Christmas celebrations is only £7, including mulled wine and homemade mince pies, be sure not to miss out on the fun. A hilarious talk, fabulous raffle prizes including hampers, Christmas cake, puddings and an added sprinkle of glitter.

2018 Dates:

3rd January - Talk on the life of Victorian Women

7th February - Demonstration - House of Colour

The Helpers Group: Sue Speight is retiring as leader at the end of the year and her place will be taken by Margaret Edge. Without this Group we would be in great difficulties and we thank them all for the time and effort they put in to make our meetings successful.