

Subscriptions: If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2024 (it was due on 1st November) please see Judith or go to the website for details of how to pay on line.

Next Speaker Meeting: on 20th February will be the very popular **Andy Thomas**, who will be talking on 'Unexplained Mysteries and Cover-Ups'.

Thames Valley Network: Just in case you haven't tried it yet, please can we remind you that there is a good and varied programme of events organized by TVN, usually two each month on Zoom. It is very easy, you just click on a link which will be emailed to you (in the same way that you open a website) and then you are in. Do try it. You don't have to speak or even turn your camera on If you prefer not to but you will hear some great speakers and have a chance to ask questions if you so wish. Details are usually published about a month in advance, so keep an eye on the website so you don't miss anything. www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk



Lunch Group: The next lunch will be on **Tuesday, 23rd January** and we are going to the Red Lion in Chalgrove, where we are always made to feel welcome and it is a safe bet if the weather is bad. Please note that on this occasion we will meet at 12.30 for One o'clock, half an hour later than usual. Please sign up by the notice board if you would like to join us and include your email address so that we can send out a reminder. The organiser is Annette Thompson 01491 614756 / 07771 992724 annette.thompson03@btinternet.com

Art Groups: there are a couple of spaces available in the morning group for this term. It meets in Pyrton Village Hall every Thursday in term-time. Please contact Annette on 01491 614756 if you are interested in joining.

Bridge Group: This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30. If you are interested in joining, please contact the group convenor: Berly Brown at bkb@tinyworld.co.uk or 01491 613251



Change of Editor?? Guess what, I'm back for another month because poor Peter has not been at all well and will need some time to recuperate, so I'm filling in while he does so. We wish him a speedy recovery to his normal energetic self.

Coffee & Chat: this month will be on Friday, 29th at the Spire and Spoke in Hill Road, Watlington at 11.00am. Our usual, table has been reserved for us downstairs and hopefully, the new upstairs area will finally be open by then to lessen the crowd. Fitting in well between the two main celebrations, it will be a good chance to catch up on everything that is going on.



Local History Group: Sadly, due to unforeseen circumstances we have had to cancel our visit to Oxford Museum on Wednesday 17th January. Hopefully we will be able to make a visit to the Museum later in the year. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st February and details will be provided soon, Sue Carlyle, group convenor, tel. no. 01491 614857.

Red Lion Book Group: The Purgatory Poisoning by Rebecca Rogers generated strong feelings, it was either "An utterly gripping and page-turning mystery for fans of Murder Before Evensong and The Appeal from the winner of the Comedy Women in Print Unpublished Prize!" or simply "drivel!" So, a good subject for discussion.

The next Writing Group has a change of date and will be meeting on Wednesday, 7th February. The title this month is 'The Letter was postmarked Bristol' This group still needs a few more members. You don't need to be a distinguished author, just someone who enjoys scribbling occasionally. The group members choose the subjects each month but you don't have to follow them. If you like writing then "let joy be unconfined" and come and give it a go. You will be very welcome. Group convenor, Carol Nall – carolmarynall@gmail.com 01491 612842

Knitting Group: Here is a really nice feel good story to start the year. The group has been hard at work knitting baby clothes and blankets for the neonatal unit at the women's centre at the John Radcliffe hospital. Margaret Okoro was kind enough to send in this lovely photograph of the handover to grateful staff. She tells me that the group never have enough wool for all their projects so please turn out any leftovers or unwanted balls or skeins which may be lurking in the back of your cupboard and let the group have them. You can see what excellent use they will make of anything you can spare.



December speaker: We held our meeting on 19th December surrounded by a wonderful display of Christmas trees with tempting smells of mince pies (June) and mulled wine (Susie) floating out from the kitchen. The speaker was the very talented Janine Kilroe who was presenting her talk 'A Photographer's Tale – 30 years in the business'. Janine is a fine art photographer-videographer who explained that she is inspired by the sheer beauty and variety of the UK, from natural wonders to the seasons and the different lights they bring. She started her career at college when she wrote to John Conte, because she thought he was gorgeous, offering to take his photo. He accepted and this was the start of her efforts to photograph famous people. Her landscapes were often in the Lake District or at the other end of the country on the south coast. She took to hand tinting her own black and



white photographs with water colour on water colour paper. She had some success with this process and was accepted by the Royal Academy who sold her painting of a fairground carousel on a beach, which the purchaser said reminded him of

his childhood. Janine travelled through Nepal, Bangladesh and India taking wonderful photographs, many of which she showed us. She then took a course on how to fly a drone to enable her to take photographs and videos from above. This proved successful and she showed us more lovely photographs and a video of Brighton Pier's beautiful metalwork in the low morning sun, which was also accepted by the Royal Academy.. More recently she spent seven years working in various prisons teaching photography to people who were serving long sentences, which put everything into perspective for her and made her value freedom, especially the wonderful freedom to be found in photography. She says of her pictures that they capture a moment in time, often an ethereal view of the world that is hidden from our eyes, or has an element of a mystery. She does this using long exposure times and infrared film, creating subjects which are intentionally timeless and evocative. Janine is still learning – recently going back to using colour film, which she has taught herself to develop. She feels that film has a soul, it is organic and you can touch it. Who can argue with that, coming from someone so talented?

Annette's full report is on the website and will be in the Link & Watlington Times.