

newsletter

SOUTH BUCKS U3A | FEB | MAR | APRIL | MAY | 2024

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u3a

www.sbu3a.org.uk

your committee

*The Branch is run by a voluntary committee
See who does what below...*

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IMPORTANT: As a member of SBU3a, if you change your address or email, please remember to notify the Membership Secretary Kay Harrison, email: memsec@sbu3a.org.uk

Dear All

I hope all those who attended enjoyed our Dickensian festive general meeting, where Sandra Hurst won the fancy dress (no – it wasn't a fix, just a well-deserved reward for all her hard work in arranging speakers and the festivities), with Christine Phillips and Pat Seddon as runners up.

Our committee and conveners do a wonderful job providing the activities for all our members and keeping our u3a going. We are still looking for somebody/bodies to step forward to allow the Gardening interest group to start up again, and now Judith Collier will be hanging up her Explore London convenor hat. We have a consortium covering the Technology group due to Alan Cairn's ill health, and I am currently acting as Walks convenor. Please, please, please do stick your hands up and assist where you can – many hands make light work, and getting involved is all part of the u3a ethos.

To improve our pool of willing (and partially coerced!) volunteers we really do need some fresh blood and enthusiasm as those who have put so much in are allowed to rest on their well-deserved laurels. If anyone has any ideas as to how we can attract some of the more recently retired or 'resting' to come, enjoy and contribute to our fun and games, please let us know.

Similarly we would like to know how we are doing. Please let us know if we are providing what you need and where we can improve. The standard caveat applies – those with the good ideas will be top of the list to be asked to help, but that is what it is all about. Providing all these good things should be fulfilling and fun - every little contribution individuals can make adds to everyone else's enjoyment and it keeps us active, involved and feeling useful.

As a recent joiner myself (now in my second year) I've yet to get to know many of you, and would ideally like to find out more about who you are, what your likes and interests are, and what expertise you might be able to bring to the party. Currently we might have twenty avid closet Airfix modellers (purely for example) or many that would like to try. How can we find this out without disappearing in a morass of Data Protection inertia? If anyone has any ideas, again please let us know.

We have started training for our new website, so hopefully by the next newsletter we will have something to share... That might even help us with many of the items above!

from
the
chair

Keith Searing, Chair

general meeting news

In September members were joined by the Two Spoons Company for a talk entitled 'Tea: leaf to cup'. Complete with a living tea plant and samples to taste we were treated to lots of information about tea: how it is grown, processed and the correct way to prepare and drink it. We were also told that, according to the Daily Mail, a Bourbon biscuit is perfect for dunking! Other facts revealed that there are several tea estates in the UK, but that the tea in Tesco value teabags is grown in Argentina. A range of teas were available to buy after the talk and are available via the website <https://twospoons.co.uk>.

October saw Sandra Hurst giving us a brief history of Ukraine which took as its starting point Vladimir Putin's assertion that Ukraine has never been an independent state but is historically part of Russia. Starting in the first centuries CE Sandra took us through where Ukraine's allegiances have lain over the years, finally leaving us with much food for thought and to make up our own minds as to the truth of Putin's assertion.

In November Simon Keable-Elliott talked about his grandfather Robert Keable, the author of the scandalous novel 'Simon called Peter'. This book tells the story of a priest and a nurse and has been described as a war novel but with no fighting. Rather it is the story of two people in the time of war. Simon gave a fascinating and very illuminating talk in which he described both the life of his grandfather and also the story of the scandalous novel of the title.

December saw our Christmas meeting complete with mince pies and mulled wine. As the title of Peter Allen's talk was 'Merry Christmas Mr Dickens' attendees were encouraged to wear festive or Dickensian dress with a prize awarded for the best outfit as judged by our speaker. (see photo p.13) We were treated to an entertaining telling of the story of Dickens' early life and the background to his famous book 'A Christmas Carol' illustrated with reading from Dickens' books and quotations from members of Dickens' family.

In January Bernard Lockett talked about 'The heritage of Gilbert and Sullivan', illustrating his talk with both audio and video examples.

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS:

Feb 20th – Roger Butler: *Our Canal Heritage*

Mar-19th – Suzanne Todd: *Impressions of Kazakhstan*

Apr-16th – Mike Barbakoff: *The World War II History of Bletchley Park*

May 21st – James Taylor: *Grace Darling and the Fine Art of Saving Lives at Sea*

thames valley network

You may not be aware that this network exists linking 48 u3as in the area. The TVN organises many interesting events both online and face to face.

These do however tend to get booked up very quickly, so please keep an eye out on the TVN's website for any new notifications.

For current detailed information of TVN Events and booking forms please visit:

u3atvnetwork.org.uk or the TVN page on our own website.

welcome to our newest members

*Sandra Salter, David Short, Neelum Talla,
Ann Wilson, Jan Wilson, John Wilson,
Richard Yarrow, Jennifer Yarrow, Ann Bennett,
David Birtwistle, Jane Birtwistle, Clare Bull,
Helen Cracknell, Alison Frampton,
Michael Kavanagh, Jan Kaye*



A big thank you to Sue Tattersall who is standing down after many years as a History Group coordinator with Christine Phillips.

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our groups

news about our groups from
your convenors



Antiques & Collectibles

Sue Abbey
agantiques@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a friendly and informal group who enjoy learning from each other, and new members are most welcome. We meet at the Curzon Centre on the first Friday of each month at 2pm.

Our programme of Autumn meetings covered a range of topics and activities culminating in our annual festive lunch. In October we chose the theme of 'Board Games, Puzzles & Entertainment' with the aim of going back to the days before television became the focus of family entertainment, indeed when families came together to play a variety of games, some of which have existed for hundreds of years. Victorian marbles, original boards and counters for Snakes & Ladders and Ludo, domino sets, an old cribbage board and an original wooden jigsaw were amongst the highlights, all with interesting histories and often personal stories of ownership.

'Music & Dance' was the topic the following month, with items ranging from antique pieces of music, a hunting horn (ably demonstrated!) and vinyl records, to a lovely working Victorian music box, books on dance and music, and a lavish programme, probably from around 1920, when Anna Pavlova danced in Manchester. It felt like a version of the Antiques Roadshow, with as always plenty of humour and laughter.

December has traditionally become the month when we replace the formal meeting with a buffet lunch, and we have a chance to relax and enjoy each other's company. The room and tables were beautifully decorated by members of the group, and for once the only intellectual stimulus was a fun quiz, with of course prizes for the winners!!

FUTURE MEETINGS

February 2nd – Cooking through the Ages

March 1st – Something Old and Something Loved

April 5th & May 3rd –TBA



Bird Watchers (formerly Ornithology)

Bob Moore
agornithology@sbu3a.org.uk

In spite of adverse weather conditions, there was a full programme of visits. I was not able to attend some of these due to holidays. In my absence, the Marsworth walk was organised, thanks to Pam Lloyd and this walk in September is always very pretty with the autumn leaves and 30 species were reported and a water rail, a rare bird of wetlands, was heard calling.

Otmoor, in November, proved to be great success with the roosting starlings providing

an excellent spectacle. The visit was in the afternoon when the starlings gather to roost and thousands of birds gather together. Their wheeling flights of swerves, undulations and swoops is amazing and is called a murmuration. Members of the group were able to capture both still and moving pictures which can be viewed on facebook.

The weather was poor for the December visit to Marlow gravel pits but some hardy souls still went and had a successful walk and saw 35 species.

In January, the Group went to Denham Country Park and saw 25 species including a kingfisher and a greater spotted woodpecker. The two winter migratory thrushes, redwing and fieldfare (see pic below), were seen during



these winter outings but waxwings have yet to appear; so let us hope we will see these lovely birds before the winter is out. (As I write this, they have been seen in Hazelmere).

FUTURE MEETINGS

Feb 12 – Meeting at Ann and Roger Gee's house

Mar 11 – Wiltstone,

April 8 – Stockers Lake,

May 13 – Otmoor

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

William Shakespeare is credited with inventing over 1700 new words many still in use today, including moonbeam, fairyland, watchdog, bloodsucking, zany, swagger and dwindle



Book Group ~ One ~

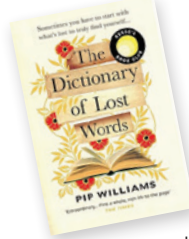
Celia Oram

agbooks@sbu3a.org.uk

We read a fast paced thriller in October called *The Burning Time* by Peter Hanington.



In November we read *The Dictionary of Lost words* by Pip Williams.



This book has a human story which is woven around the first compilation of the Oxford English dictionary. It was liked by everybody.

We had an enjoyable Christmas lunch at the Ivy House. Each member delivered a short story or poem.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Feb 27th , Mar 26th, Apr 23rd



Book Group ~ Two ~

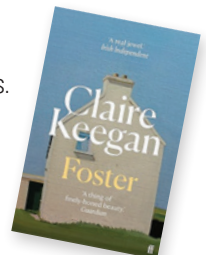
Judith Collier

Bernadette Simms

agbooks2@sbu3a.org.uk

Over the last four months we have read the following books.

Foster by Claire Keegan. A short but moving account of an ordinary man in Ireland, who lives in a close knit



community. Very much enjoyed by all.

The Marriage Portrait by Maggie O'Farrell. Set in 16th century Italy we follow Lucrezia's story from childhood to her marriage to Alfonso, the Duke of Ferrara, and the events that follow.



The Locked Room by Elly Griffiths. As this is book no.14 from a series of 15 books, it was enjoyed more by those who had read earlier books in the series. It was not a stand alone novel.



Sorrow and Bliss by Meg Mason. Mental illness and depression form the main themes of this book and it was not a popular read.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Book Group is currently full.



Bridge

Liz Pratt

agbridge@sbu3a.org.uk

STOP PRESS: We now meet EVERY Monday each month EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS.

We are a very friendly group. We play duplicate bridge: average 8 tables, 20 - 22 pre-dealt boards. There are hand records on-line when results are posted, usually by 6pm www.bridgewebs.co.uk/sbu3a We would still

welcome more players.

PLEASE ARRIVE IN GOOD TIME for 1.20pm start. We have to be finished and OUT OF THE HALL by 4.30pm.

New players do please contact Liz before coming for the first time. Anyone needing a a partner contact Liz beforehand & she will try and find you one on a week by week basis.

N.B. There is often someone looking to establish a regular partnership.

Cost: £2.50 per session

FUTURE MEETINGS

Feb 5/12/19/26 Mar 4/11/18/25

April 8/15/22/29 May 13/20



Croquet

Peter Constantine

Alan Cairns

agcroquet@sbu3a.org.uk

• **NB:** *This activity is not run by SB u3a, but our members are welcomed by the host organisation*

We play at the Hazlemere Recreation Ground. This activity is organised by The High Wycombe u3a but is open to any u3a member from local groups, with nearly half the members coming from South Bucks.

The lawns are already booked for the 2024 season which will start on Wed 3rd April at 10.30 am

FUTURE MEETINGS

*Each Wednesday morning from 10 30 to 12 30
Seasonal April to October*



Current Affairs

James Barrett

agcurrentaffairs@sbu3a.org.uk

The Group tries to maintain an agenda of interest to the thoughtful strand of the SBu3a.

We meet at the Lounge, intimate yet functional, rear of St Thomas' church hall, Mayflower Way, Holtspur on 4th Wed. of every month. We start at 1.45 pm and finish at 3.45 pm. The church provides a useful café at the interval.

We like to argue.



Discovering Art

Paddy Cooper

agart@sbu3a.org.uk

In September we were lucky to have Eric Harris present the story of FRANS HALS (the Dutch Golden Age painter 1582-1666). His life and work. FRAN'S forte was PORTRAITS, and what a variety he created. This talk was very timely, as the Frans Hals exhibition was just about to open in London.



Dining In

Ceri Watson

agdining@sbu3a.org.uk

We are all about making friends and enjoying some convivial hospitality whilst dining at home. The convenor draws up a rota (twice a year) of groups of three pairs/couples.

Each couple plays host and supplies the main course whilst 2 other couples bring a starter or a pudding. In the course of half a year each pair will have provided a starter, main course and pudding; in the second rota the groups will have a different mix of 3 couples. So that means 6 great meals in the year.

The new rota is up and running and some hosts have already liaised with the others in their group to fix a dinner date.



Frans Hals - "The Lute Player"

In October, another treat, when Carole Willatt informed us about "STOLEN ART". Considering how hard it must be to profit from this, it did and does happen quite a lot. The favourites appear to be Van Gogh and Rembrandt. At least the thieves have good taste.

In November we were delighted to welcome a double-act from the High Wycombe Art group. Claire and Jo know a lot about "ART AND THE SUFFRAGETTE MOVEMENT". And now we do

too. It was fascinating.

In December we had our traditional Xmas buffet, which was better than ever, with many handmade goodies. For our entertainment we attempted the quiz which Carole Willatt had prepared and beautifully presented on papers. The subject was "THE NATIVITY". So many to admire and so very difficult to attribute. We all got some right and thank Carole for her knowledge.

In January we anticipate a talk by Christine Phillips on WELLINGTON, which should be very interesting.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

February—James Barrett: "The language of dreams - Surrealism in Ireland".

March— Vickie Bowen: "The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood", followed by Christa Webber: A short analysis of "Self Portrait in a Fur Coat" by Albrecht Durer.

April— Eric Harris: "Three German Women Artists of the 20th Century"

May— Christa Webber: "Die Bruecke" - a group of Expressionists active in the 20th Century.



Explore London

Judith Collier

Linda Cross

Chris Le Blond

Sarah Lock

agtravel@sbu3a.org.uk

After much discussion it has been decided that the next Blue Badge Guide walk in London will be our last. I intend to organise a Spring Walk with Kim - date and details yet to be decided.

The group started in 2012 with days out by coach. In 2016 London walks were introduced after a Blue Badge Guide gave a talk at the monthly General Meeting. After Covid we stopped coach outings and concentrated on the walks. They have been very popular and we often needed to book two guides.

If anyone would like to take over this group as Convenor, I would be happy to provide initial assistance. Please contact Judith on agtravel@sbu3a.org.uk



Film Appreciation

Dieter Shaw

agfilm@sbu3a.org.uk

2023 was a good year for us, with increasing audiences and much to take away from each film. My top choice was UNTOUCHABLE, a story of friendship and hope against all the odds. We have signed up for 2024 and another year brings new challenges. Film licensing arranged by the u3a covering most leading studios is now restricted to a list of selected titles from each company. A smaller pool and most from back catalogues need our more careful selection. Studios are getting ever more concerned about monetizing their more successful films from High Street cinema to streaming.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, 19th February 2pm Hedgerley Hall

12 YEARS A SLAVE 2009 Drama USA 2hrs 14m

If you have any interest in cinema – or, for that matter, in art, economics, politics, drama, literature or history – then you need to watch 12 Years a Slave. It so happened, that this very powerful film from



British director Steve McQueen achieved a clean sweep in the best picture categories, a rare example of awards ceremonies getting it right. In parts a tough watch as a free black man is abducted and forcibly sold into slavery. 3 Academy Awards, 4

BAFTAs etc. A long film, so be comfortable.

Monday, 18th March 2 pm Hedgerley Hall
STILL ALICE 2014 Drama USA 101 minutes

This powerful low-key early onset Alzheimer's drama was the route to an Academy Award for Julianna Moore after missing out whilst being nominated on five previous occasions. Richly deserved, a performance with sympathy, grace, and insight. Not unsurprisingly, the script was adapted from a book by a neuroscientist. The actor deals brilliantly with our perception by drawing us into Moores's unfamiliar world as horror turns into a habit. Alec Baldwin and Kristen Steward, amongst others, complete an ensemble piece par excellence.



Monday, 15th April 2pm Hedgerley Hall
AN EDUCATION 2009 Drama UK 100 min



A coming-of-age drama about a teenage girl in 1960's London. Her life changes with the arrival of a playboy nearly twice her age. An unsentimental education based on the bestselling memoir of Lyn Barber. Carey Mulligan stars in her break-out role which

earns her a first Oscar Nomination. For some, also a wonderful memory of London in the 60's. A sad, painful comedy with a lovely performance by Carey making it a very enjoyable film.

Monday, May 20th May 2pm Hedgerley Hall
THE DESCENDANTS 2011 Drama USA 115 min

'Nothing gives me more pleasure than to welcome this new film' and 'George Clooney gives the

performance of his lifetime' both by Philip French of The Guardian. Matt King, Lawyer and land baron with his 20,000 inherited undeveloped acres tries to reconnect with his daughter following an accident leaving his wife Elisabeth, in a coma.. A human story, multifaceted and deeply involving. The critics loved it.



**French
Conversation**

Shelagh Wells
Lyn Watterston
agfrance@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a small but very friendly group who meet for tea (and sometimes cake!) to chat in French. We have informal discussions about a wide range of topics, which have recently included: French news reports, French films/TV series, Christmas quiz, New Year resolutions/plans for 2024, as well as, of course, general chatting about issues that interest us. Topics are dictated by what the group interests are.

We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month in each other's homes and would very much welcome new members. We are generally at intermediate/advanced level but would welcome anyone who would like to chat in French as we try to practise and improve our speaking skills. Please contact Lyn or Shelagh if you would like any further information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

6th February, 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

The ocean is home to nearly 95 percent of all life.



German Conversation

Jon Fantes

aggermany@sbu3a.org.uk

Our friendly group meets to discuss topics of general interest, which helps us keep up our language skills, and to learn from our native German speakers who very kindly join us. New members with reasonable German conversational skills are always welcome.

FUTURE MEETINGS

3rd Tuesday of each month



Christine Phillips

Dorothy Coomer

Kay Harrison

Trevor Coe

aghhistory@sbu3a.org.uk

Our first Autumn 2023 speaker in September was History member, Sandy Phillips, talking about his family history. Sandy had done a lot of research into his family background which is now in a bound volume and took us back through the ages from living in the North East to the present day in Israel and Australia. Our October meeting saw four members giving very different presentations - Helen Tippins spoke to us on "Memories of the Great Train Robbery", followed by James Barrett speaking of a medieval hero "William Marshal", John Mack

"Flying pre World War One" and Sue Bailey speaking of "The Katanga Cross".

In November we heard from outside speaker Simon Coles from Wooburn Village explaining the history from pre 1066 to the present day.

December saw Nick Phillips from The Almshouse Association who spoke of the "History of Almshouses" and stayed to chat to members at our Christmas Celebration.

In December we sadly said "Goodbye" to Sue as our joint History Convenor and Christine thanked her and said how much they had enjoyed working and planning together.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We start 2024 in January with a personal family history with Paul Le Blond's talk "The Le Blond Huguenot Family History".

In February Christa Webber is going to tell us about Lola Montez and her colourful life.

March will see us visited by local author Timandra Slade and her presentation is entitled "From a Hard Place to a Rock" it is a World War 2 family history of escape and survival.

In May we are going to hear from Jackie Kay, editor of the "The High Wycombe Society Newsletter" speaking on "Architectural High Wycombe".



Informal Bridge

*(Formerly
Better Bridge)*

Christine Miller

agbrb@sbu3a.org.uk

Are you a bridge beginner or someone who's played before and would like a relaxed social game? If so, then why not give informal bridge a go. We have a couple of people available to help guide beginners and sometimes we play

set hands that demonstrate a topic. At the end of each game we usually discuss the bidding and how we played each game to learn what we could or should have done differently! We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday in the lounge at the rear of St. Thomas's church hall between 1.30 and 3.30, and enjoy half time refreshments. If any members are interested then please contact Christine.

FUTURE MEETINGS

*Feb 7th; Feb 21st; Mar 6th; Mar 20th; Apr 3rd;
Apr 17th; May 1st; May 15th*



Penny O' Callaghan
agitalian@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a friendly group who usually meet on the first and third Friday of the month at the Etherpe Hotel in Gerrards Cross at 2.00.

We are not a language class but welcome anyone who is just beyond beginner level.

At our meetings we share our news, read and discuss a text circulated before the meeting and sometimes do some grammar and vocabulary fun challenges orally.



Jazz & Blues Appreciation

Bob Moore
agjazzapp@sbu3a.org.uk

For various reasons, only the planned meeting for October took place when I played hit recordings by Fats Waller followed by those of Billie Holiday. These were provided by Spotify because I had omitted to take my CDs. We played Fats' well known popular numbers including "I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Wite Myself A Letter", "My very good friend the milkman" etc as well as those performed by Billie Holiday. In December, we did not have a



Our Dickensonian festive general meeting. Sandra Hurst won the fancy dress with Christine Phillips and Pat Seddon as runners up.

specific programme but played a member's choice of tracks by Stan Getz and other saxophone and clarinet players, Christmas jazz and some tracks by Bix Beiderbecke.

Numbers coming to the meeting have become very low and hence, it will necessary to decide if the group is still viable and if it should still continue and I will be in contact with you about this shortly.

FUTURE MEETINGS – To be advised



Jazz Band

Rod Stevens

agjazz@sbu3a.org.uk

We continue to rehearse at Holmer Green Village Hall on first and third Thursday at 2pm.

Visitors welcome but please check first. We currently need a pianist and percussionist. If interested kindly call Rod Stevens to discuss.



Mah Jong

Judith Evans

agmahjong@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group is growing rapidly but is still friendly and welcoming to newcomers. The game of Mah Jong is a Chinese game played with tiles and is simple to learn but becomes more complicated when using the book of games.

We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the small hall behind St Thomas' hall in Mayflower Way, Holtspur..

FUTURE MEETINGS

February 13th and 27th March 12th and 26th

April 9th and 23rd and May 14th and 28th



MOTO

Members on Their Own

Ursula Hill

agmoto@sbu3a.org.uk

Seven of us enjoyed lunch at Izmir Turkish Restaurant at Farnham Common on 31st October.

When there isn't a 5th Tuesday we meet before the General Meeting at the Royal Standard, Wooburn Common.

Members are advised of time and location (usually by email) and need to reply in order to confirm numbers for the booking.

FUTURE MEETINGS

February 20th, March 19th, April 30th, May 21st



Musical Pot-Pourri

Bob Moore

agmusicalpp@sbu3a.org.uk

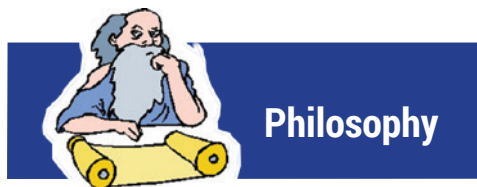
For a variety of reasons, we only had two meetings this month. The first was the songs of Tony Bennett, followed by the hits of "The

Eagles". Tony Bennett's career spanned more than 70 years and his most popular song was "I Left My Heart In San Francisco". He was born in 1926 and was still performing until well into his eighties and in his later years he performed with other vocalists e.g Lady Gaga.

The Eagles was and still is a US rock band formed in 1971 and they had five number 1 hits with the most well known being "Take It To The Limit" and "Hotel California".

Attendance at meetings is now very low and although there is much material that is still to be played, we need to agree if the group should continue and I will contact members shortly about this.

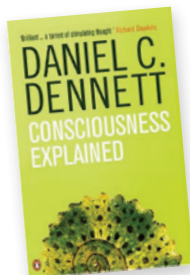
FUTURE MEETINGS – *To be advised*



John Corran
agphilosophy@sbu3a.org.uk

The Philosophy group meets at 2:00 for 2:15 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. We meet in members' homes and usually six to eight of us get together each month. Our

meetings are very interactive; we choose a book or online source in advance and help each other to understand the topic and see if we agree with the sources. Conversation is wide-ranging, always good-humoured and often provokes laughter!



In the last four months we have tackled two tricky topics: Time, and Consciousness - with

a break near Christmas for the topic of Humour. This last, accompanied by treats and fizz, jokes and videos taking the Mick out of philosophy.

The philosophy of Time overlaps with the physics of relativity – time dilation with gravity and with different relative velocities, etc. How does modern physics affect our natural view of time passing? And Consciousness: What is the relationship between electro-chemical events in the brain and our subjective experiences of sensory input, memories, and emotions?

If you are curious, do join us to explore some deeply puzzling issues, and what some of the greatest thinkers have made of them – but in a very sociable and supportive group of men and women friends. Contact John Corran, convenor, at the email address above.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2.00 pm on February 8th, March 14th,
April 11th and 9th May.



Ruth Sobel 3
agpoetry@sbu3a.org.uk

We continue to meet every 4th Thursday at 13.45 in St Thomas church.

FUTURE MEETINGS – *Topics as yet undecided*

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

Scientists have discovered herring fish communicate by farting. They send fart bubble messages to each other to help keep the fish group together at night.



Recorders

Nicky Smith

agrecorders@sbu3a.org.uk

We may be a small group but we are very friendly and meet to play a variety of music ranging from classical to more contemporary pieces, mostly in duet form, and at times combining descant and treble instruments. Our past abilities have varied greatly.

We convene generally twice a month. on a Wednesday afternoon at 2,30 pm at a member's home. We try to keep to the first and third weeks of the month, but this may occasionally vary to suit our players. We would greatly welcome new members, so If you would like to join us, then please ring the convenor to secure the date and address of our next meeting.



Science

Paul LeBlond

agscience@sbu3a.org.uk

We ended the year with a festive quiz, with questions about 2023 in Science and a range of subjects. Our first meeting of 2024 heard Caroline Searing telling us about the bizarre ingredients that go into cosmetics.

FUTURE MEETINGS

On 1 February we will be hearing (pun intended) about Audiology.

On 7 March Paul Le Blond will be talking about how aviation can achieve net zero.

On 4 April Julia Panchen will tell us all about Orchids.



Shorter Walks

Janet Walker

agshortwalks@sbu3a.org.uk

Shorter Walks meets at 10.50am on the second Thursday, and walks for up to one and a half hours, avoiding steep hills (and mud where possible!)

In October, a long-awaited visit to The Rye, High Wycombe, was made and much enjoyed (I don't think the SW Group has walked there before). November saw the Group in Burnham Beeches for the Autumnal colour, and in December it was The Palmer Arms at Dorney (with the excuse of a long walk along the Boating Lake beforehand!) drawing walkers.

We look forward to another year of enjoying our countryside (and our walking ability!)



Singing for Fun

Sue Bailey and

Jenny Gibbons

Joanna Williams

agsinging@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group continues to enjoy spending happy times together singing a variety of modern

and traditional music. In December we sang Christmas songs to a group in Holtspur. We are guided by our lovely teacher, Sara, who is always encouraging and makes the sessions fun. We are a very friendly group and we welcome anyone who wants to sing. There are no auditions and previous experience of singing in a choir is not needed. We round off the sessions with a sociable tea or coffee.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We meet in Farnham Common Village Hall at 10.15 on the second Tuesday of the month.

February 13th, March 12th, April 9th, May 14th



Sandra Hurst & Ruti Sobel
agbelarus@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group, with its new name, is flourishing as people discover that there's a lot we don't know about our Eastern friends and a lot of interesting things we can learn about them.

Before Christmas we heard about the history of Lithuania up to the Middle Ages and we read and discussed the book Poland by James Michener which demonstrated the waxing and waning fortunes of that country and roused our interest in the partitioning of Poland and the determination of other countries to wipe it off the map!

In January we heard from two of our members about books they have read and recommend about Eastern Europe and also about celebrities with origins in Poland. February will bring us the rest of the history of Lithuania and in March we shall hear about Poland between the Wars.

We meet at the Convenor's house and you would be most welcome to join us. We would also

welcome anyone with a knowledge of these countries or a contact who would be willing to offer us a talk/presentation.

FUTURE MEETINGS

February 1st : Lithuania from the Middle Ages to the Present-day by Ruth Sobel

March 7th : Poland Between the Two World Wars by Ivan Sheiham

April 4th & May: tba



**Elaine Baudouin
 & Sheila Mason**
agstretch@sbu3a.org.uk

Stretch goes from strength to strength with members working on their mobility and balance weekly. The class costs a small monthly fee and is generally full, but changes make a place available from time to time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Generally most weeks in term time.



Christine Miller
agtableten@sbu3a.org.uk

The group meets in the Beacon Centre on the 2nd and 4th Friday at 3pm. We have up to 3 tables and usually play doubles. Bats and balls are provided. Since the centre recently increased the cost of hiring

the room and equipment, group members now pay a £1 fee. New members are very welcome.

FUTURE MEETINGS

*Feb 9th; Feb 23rd; Mar 8th; Mar 22nd;
Apr 12th; Apr 26th; May 10th; May 24th*



Christine Miller
agtea@sbu3a.org.uk

Our friendly group meets on a monthly basis in members' homes. In November we enjoyed lunch at La Cantina in Farnham Common rather than our usual tea or coffee and cake.

FUTURE MEETINGS –

Monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.



Sarah Lewis, Elaine Baudouin,
Keith Searing
agcug@sbu3a.org.uk

As a group we try to cover any topics or subjects that interest or perplex our members – subject matter is driven by member requests (or by what our presenters are prepared to expound upon – we welcome all contributors!).

Additionally, each month we hold a Bring Your Own clinic within our meeting for all SBu3a members who require advice or are having problems bending their devices to their will. Apple

(Mac, iPhone), Microsoft, Android and Chromebook users are all represented amongst our members and we try to cover each group without diving too deep for the rest – breakout sessions are common.

In forthcoming meetings we may revisit and update previous presentations that cover our day-to-day use of technology, and also discuss any new developments. Possible topics include document/text programs/apps, browsers, file storage and retrieval, Zoom or similar conferencing, established social media, presentation apps (digital slides), smartphone cameras and features, and even digitally controlled home or car developments.

Give us a try and bring your (portable!) device if needed - sometimes we can display your query or problem on the projector screen so that we can all suggest a solution. We can also discuss remote support possibilities.

We meet at Wright's Meadow Centre, 10am-noon on the 4th Tuesday of the month. The centre has internet access and space to park. Refreshments (including lunch) are available.



Christine Miller
agtennis@sbu3a.org.uk

We play on the clay courts at Hazelmere tennis club every Tuesday 10-12 weather permitting. Unfortunately the weather hasn't been very kind to us recently and we've been forced to cancel quite a few sessions. We're hoping for better fortunes in 2024 and would be delighted if anyone new would like to join us.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Every Tuesday weather permitting.



Theatre Visits

David Baker

Gill Field

agtheatre@sbu3a.org.uk

If you wish to be on the Theatre Visits group list please email the Convenor including your telephone number. If you do not have email, then please arrange with a friend who does, to act for you.

Our visits are almost always to afternoon performances and we have the great advantage of having a coach to take us from the Beacon Centre to the door of the theatre – normally in the West End but also sometimes to Aylesbury, Windsor or Oxford.

Tickets are not advertised in this Newsletter or at a General Meeting so having your name on the Theatre Group list is essential to be informed of trips.

The money you pay covers parking at the Beacon Centre (round the back please and share cars where possible), driver's gratuity, coach from Beacon Centre to the theatre and back, as well as theatre ticket.



Walks

Keith Searing

agwalks@sbu3a.org.uk

Keith is temporarily acting as convenor, proposing and leading walks. PLEASE lighten

my u3a load and volunteer to assist!

Organising a walk entails picking a (currently) 2.5 hour 5 mile 'Chilterns' route, reconnoitring it for stiles, mud and other hazards, and warning the pub of impending lunch custom. The convenor emails details to the group in advance. Walks are held at 10.30am on the fourth Monday of each month, and walkers are expected to be suitably prepared for the intended walk. We walk at the pace of the slowest.

I would love to improve our range of walks (together with the Shorter Walks group) to help suit everyone's varying abilities regarding distance, gradients and speed in order to meet our social, exercise and interest preferences... Your input is welcomed as to how to do this!

Please contact the convenor to get on the mailing list.



Wine Club

Annie Burkitt

agwine@sbu3a.org.uk

We continue our friendly monthly meetings on the third Wednesday evening of the month.

Members take turns to present wines usually three whites and three reds and typically with a theme, like a grape variety or region or maybe a supplier such as Majestic or a supermarket. The majority of our wines are priced under £10.

We welcome experts and novices alike. We like to think of our group as a fun social gathering with snacks at half time!

If you enjoy wine and good humour and would like to join us, please contact Annie.

**1st
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	JAZZ & BLUES APPRECIATION 10.15 Wrights Meadow Centre	ITALIAN CONVERSATION 2pm Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross
	HISTORY 2 pm St Thomas's Hall, Holtspur	STRETCH* 10 am Bourne End Junior Sports Club	SPOTLIGHT ON EASTERN EUROPE 2.30 pm Members' Homes	ANTIQUES & COLLECTABLES 2 pm Members' Homes
	FRENCH CONVERSATION 2 pm Members' Homes	RECORDERS 2.30 pm Members' Homes	SCIENCE 2 pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall	
		INFORMAL BRIDGE 1.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge	JAZZ BAND 2.00 pm Holmer Green Village Hall	

**2nd
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BIRD WATCHERS 10 am - Locations TBA	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	SHORTER WALKS 10.50 am - Location TBA	TABLE TENNIS 3 pm Beacon Centre
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	SINGING FOR FUN 10.15 Farnham Common Village Hall	STRETCH* 10 am Bourne End Junior Sports Club	BOOK GROUP 2 2 pm Members' Homes	
	MAH JONG 2 pm St Thomas's Lounge	DISCOVERING ART 2 pm Rossetti Hall	PHILOSOPHY 2.15 pm Members' Homes	
		TEA & CHAT 2pm Members' Homes		

**3rd
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	JAZZ BAND 2.00 pm Holmer Green Village Hall	ITALIAN CONVERSATION 2pm Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross
FILM APPRECIATION 2pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall	MOTO* (Members On Their Own) Time & Location TBA	STRETCH* 10am Bourne End Junior Sports Club		
	MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 2 pm Beacon Centre	MUSICAL POT-POURRI 2 pm -Venue TBA		
	GERMAN CONVERSATION 1.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge	RECORDERS 2.30 pm Members' Homes		
		INFORMAL BRIDGE 1.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge		
		WINE CLUB 7.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge		

** N.B. Bridge, MOTO & Stretch will also be held in the fifth week of the month when applicable except on Bank Holidays*

**4th
week
in month**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
WALKS 10.30 am, Locations - TBA	TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club	CROQUET 10am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground	POETRY 1.45 pm St Thomas Church	TABLE TENNIS 3 pm Beacon Centre
BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur	TECHNOLOGY 10.00 Wrights Meadow Centre	STRETCH* 10 am Bourne End Junior Sports Club	INFORMAL BRIDGE 2 pm St Thomas Church	
	BOOK GROUP 1 2 pm Members' Homes	CURRENT AFFAIRS 1.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge		
	MAH JONG 2 pm St Thomas's Lounge			

ADDITIONAL GROUPS

EXPLORE LONDON	THEATRE GOERS	DINING IN
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