



learn
laugh
live

Ver-Colne Valley

Newsletter: No 166 October 2022

**General meetings 3rd Thursday each month at 10am
Greenwood Park Community Centre,
Tippendell Lane,
Chiswell Green, AL2 3HW**

Charity No:1156215

VCV Web Site: www.ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

Username = valley

Hello again,

Well done and a big 'thank you' to all who entered our cake competition at the meeting last month. A very impressive selection which Mary Berry etc. would no doubt have approved of. The interest and activity of the members in sampling the cakes were equally impressive- did I hear of three helpings? It was a great success for the organisers and something that we can try again next year.

The VCV AGM is imminent and hopefully all nominations will have been sent to the Secretary in time. By now you should have received details of the nominations and any motions submitted. If we have additional members on the committee this will be a welcome outcome as there is much to do next year.

Remember the AGM is the opening part of the meeting and will be followed by our usual social break with coffee and tea followed by an interesting talk. All of the side tables will be operative for events, groups, the raffle, membership enquiries, books and cards. It promises to be a busy meeting.

The economic prospects for the future are concerning and the VCV will no doubt be affected by rising costs as we all are personally. The priority is that we continue to hold our monthly meetings and group activities which are so important. Also, that our events as planned for 2023 include attractive venues at an acceptable cost. In other words, business as usual but keeping a watch on costs.

Tickets will be on sale at the October meeting for the VCV Dance ["Let's dance together"] on Saturday the 26th November. This promises to be as enjoyable as those held before. The priority for tickets will be for the members and guests, guests can only be accepted to accompany single members. This must be done as there is a limit on the seating for the Dance and members must come first. Our organisers have worked hard to ensure that a good time is had by all. A light meal is included but remember to bring your own drinks and glasses. Closing date for sale of tickets will be Friday 11th November.

The monthly meeting on Thursday 15th December will be our Christmas Party and preparations are underway to ensure that we finish the year in style. Further details will be available in the November Newsletter. Please make a note of this in your diary. The party will be for members only.

New members remain a priority and your help in getting friends and neighbours to attend a meeting to see how we operate will be welcome. In order not to overlook visitors we are introducing a distinctive label so that they can be identified and shown around. So, bring them along to our November meeting.

I am sure that we all have memories of the events leading up to the funeral of the Queen and the uplifting way in which the proceedings took place on the day. The organization was immaculate and an indication that the UK can put on a display that, in this case, emphasises how the Queen was respected and deeply appreciated.

Now we face financial uncertainties for an unknown period and the media, as always, are keen to ensure that we are reminded of this. It will be a case literally of keeping calm and carrying on and being available for those who might need help and advice. Life goes on regardless and we are going to make the most of it.

See you at the AGM, **Ron Fenn**

To contact any committee member please go to

<https://u3asites.org.uk/ver-colnevalley/contact>

and select with whom you would like to communicate

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR the FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

Notice is given that the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Ver-Colne Valley u3a (VCV) will be held at:
Greenwood Park Community Centre, Tippendell Lane, Chiswell Green, St Albans, AL2 3HW
at 10.00 am on THURSDAY 20th October 2022

Annual General Meeting Agenda

1. **Welcome**
2. **Apologies for absence**
3. **Minutes of the last AGM**
To approve the minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting held on 21 October 2021 (available on VCV web site).
4. **Committee's Report**
5. **Receive the Financial Report** for the period 1st April 2021 to March 31st 2022.
Please note that both the Committee and the Financial Reports will be available on the VCV website from Thursday 13th October 2022 and at the AGM itself.
6. **Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the accounts.**
7. **Motions already received**
8. **Elect the Committee**
The Constitution requires that all members of the Committee stand down each year. With the exception of two co-opted members, all members of the existing Committee offer themselves for re-election. However, there is a need for further members to come forward to share the workload and provide continuity.
9. **Any Other Business**
10. **Date of the next Annual General Meeting (provisionally 19th October 2023).**

Note:

Any proposed motions or nominations for election to the Committee must be sent with named sponsors and seconders to the Secretary, Dick Downs, to arrive no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday 6th October 2022 to: secretary@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk or at 17 Hawfield Gardens, Park Street, St Albans, AL2 2PB

The Meeting

Members are reminded that the AGM is for current members only; non-members can attend after the AGM is completed

Committee News

Groups News

Hi Everyone,

It was great to see so many of you at the September GM and thank you to all the bakers who made the morning such a success. I think we may have to do this again..... Thank you also to the helpers in charge of teas and coffees, you all helped the morning run smoothly.

We are still looking for more stamp collectors, if you are interested in joining this group please sign -up at the next GM or email me directly if you would like to join. Also, if you are single and would like to join other likeminded people for a get together at weekends for either coffee, lunch, cinema or whatever you like, I have a sign-up sheet available or email me directly if you wish.

I would appreciate any photos of activities you've been up to recently in your groups, it would be good to share with others. Also, if you have an interest and can't find a group to join, let me know and I can help start a group up for you.

Take care for now and look forward to seeing you all soon.

Julia juliadscott@hotmail.co.uk

Remember to bring Membership cards when attending meetings, the new bar code reader is making booking you in much faster.

Please make sure that you sign out if you leave the General Meeting before it ends. This is a Health & Safety issue; we would hate to have firefighters entering the building to search for you, if there is a fire, when you have already left.

**Please note: The Theatre and Group tables will be on the left and the Visit and Membership table will be on the right.
Raffle and Books and Cards will remain on the left.**

The Tickets for November dance will be by the Committee Tables.

**Nick Photi
General Meeting Manager**

Speakers Corner – Gill Davies

October 20th 2022

By popular request we have Paul Robbins back to give us a talk on the 1970s. His extremely popular talk looks at the news, people, music and culture of this incredible decade and how it fundamentally changed British society in so many ways. Do you remember the long hot summer of 1976, The Queen's silver jubilee or the winter of discontent?

Can you remember dancing to the Hustle or remember how that wonderful film the Sting ended? Did you wear a tank top or Hotpants and danced to the sounds of Saturday Night Fever?

If so, this is the talk for you, a presentation that brings back so many memories for those of us fortunate to have lived through it!

November 2022

Today we are very lucky to have a speaker who is an historian from Hampton Court. Dressed in the costume of the time Sarah will present a talk on some of this famous royal palace's royal inhabitants and their history



Grumpy old Women

will be doing refreshments

Thank you.

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR CUP

Closing date for the next Newsletter
NO LATER than the morning of Friday 4th November 2022 and for the ENews 17th October 2022

Please note articles received after the deadline will be published in the next newsletter if appropriate.

Please send your articles to
newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

u3a 2023 Diaries

Please contact Dick Downs if you would like a u3a 2023 Diary

Dates for your Diary

Walking in London. Bronwen Hewer j.hewer@sky.com

Our walk for November 2022 is entitled
"Waterloo, Lambeth and the South Bank."

We shall meet our guide John Colmans, on the concourse
at Waterloo Station at 11.30a.m. on Thursday 3rd
November and Tuesday 8th November 2022.

The cost will be £8 per person paid by cheque to Mrs J B Hewer which I put in our dedicated "London Walks"
account to be cleared before we do the walks. Usually the walks are about two hours long with our guide giving
us information on the Architecture, History, Geography and many other anecdotes about the area in which we
are walking.

John Colmans is a Blue Badge London Guide and is exceptional in his knowledge, humour, stories and memory
covering the 18 different walks he has prepared for us over the years. We are hugely indebted to him, and it is
well worth joining us for our next walk if you should be interested.

Please let me know by email whether you would like to join us and which of the two dates you would prefer.
Further details will then follow.

AMBLERS - Joy Dabson



Please meet for an 11am start,
Friday October 28th, The Swan pub car
park, College Rd, WD5 0NR, Abbots Langley.

We will do a figure of eight around Leavesden
Country Park.

Event	Date	Contact	Current Position
 Ambler's	28 th October 2022	Joy Dabson	Please contact leader if you wish to join the group
 Walking Group 2	28 th October 2022	Angela Wright	Please contact leader if you wish to join the group
VCV Annual General Meeting	20 th October 2022	Dick Downs	
Funny Money	29 th October 2022	Maggie Fenn	If you are interested, please let Maggie know and she will add your name to waiting list
Walking in London	3 rd / 8 th November 22	Bronwen Hewer	
Christmas Dance	26 th November 2022	Nick Photi / Gill Davies	Tickets on sale at October GM
Christmas Shopping Milton Keynes	29 th November 2022	Brenda Kember	Open to members, family and friends
FROZEN	26 th January 2023	Maggie Fenn	If you are interested, please let Maggie know and she will add your name to waiting list

"Let's Dance Together"

Saturday 26th November 2022

Doors open at 7.30

Ticket Price £15.00 on sale at October GM

Group bookings can be made but **must** be paid for together.

Tables are for 8 people but if you wish for a bigger group then request for tables
next to each other

Closing date of tickets Friday 11th November

PLEASE COME AND COLLECT YOUR HANDOUTS FOR THE SHOWS YOU ARE GOING TO. Thank you



MASKS

It is still advisable to wear masks in the Theatres.

If you have the slightest cough, cold or sore throat, please DO A LATERAL FLOW TEST beforehand. Thank you.

Tickets are now on sale for FROZEN, so please don't forget to bring your cheque books to the GM

FUNNY MONEY – THE MILL AT SONNING

SATURDAY 29th October 2022 – Matinee

Pick up Point	Greenwood Park
Departure Time	Coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am
Return Time	Approx. 5.30 pm
Price	£77

Message from The Mill

Throughout the pandemic, we have carefully thought about the Covid safety measures for our staff and customers. While the news of restrictions ending in England is wonderful, there are still some members of the public who are concerned.

If you have Covid or any symptoms, we would be very grateful if you didn't attend the theatre. Upon proof of a positive test, we will transfer their tickets to another date. If you feel more comfortable doing so, then we do encourage the use of mask wearing while in the theatre.

A show to cheer us up after Christmas and something to look forward to.



FROZEN

THURSDAY 26th January 2023 – Matinee

Pick up Point	Greenwood Park
Departure Time	Coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am
Return Time	Approx. 5.30 pm
Price	£52.00

Now open to friends and family

We will be putting out the interests lists at the meeting so come and see if anything interests you.

There are some exceptionally good shows coming to the west end.

“In the pipeline”

Moulin rouge

Only fools and horses

From here to eternity

Keep a watch on the website or emails for details

Day Trips and Events

Trips Contact Barbara Croom – trips@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk Tel: 01727 834298

Now On sale – open to members, family and friends

Christmas Shopping at Milton. Keynes Centre Shopping Mall.

Date: Tuesday 29th November

Price: £11 Including coach and driver's tip.

Depart GWP: 9:30

Depart Milton Keynes: 3:30



Let the coach take the strain. Enjoy a wide variety of shops - including department stores to boutiques and restaurants (from Italian to McDonalds) to get you in the Christmas mood.

Contact Brenda Kember Email: bren.kember@virginmedia.com Phone: 01727 866952

Possible 2023 Day Trips

Royal Hospital Chelsea

April 2023



Wimbledon A tour of the grounds

Mid to late



July 2023

Saville Gardens and Thames Cruise



August 2023

National Memorial Arboretum



October 2023

Winchester Cathedral and Christmas Market

November or December 2023



Denbies Vineyard



Coventry Cathedral

Interest list for these trips will be available at the General Meeting

Welfare: Pam Kimber: Email: c.kimber@ntlworld.com

Newsletter: Tina Photi/ Dick Downs: Email: newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

Sound & Lighting: Roger Barry / Trevor Spinage

Catering & Supplies: Steve Bowler

News and Features

Les Misérables at the Sondheim Theatre

As with most theatre trips, this was organised long before the death of Her Majesty and booked for a week before the funeral.

Boarding the coach at half ten in Greenwood Park none of us knew what to expect – long traffic jams getting to the theatre, forbidden to queue at the theatre, etc. As it turned out this trip rates as one of the fastest ever! The roads were almost empty, and we got there in 55 minutes.

So, with three hours to spare the group separated to choose a local eatery.



At two fifteen we entered the theatre and sat down for a treat and a half. The stage is smaller than previous venues where Les Mis has been staged, the scenery was a lot darker which brought a quiet menace to the whole musical. The cast were all new to us and they certainly did not disappoint, putting on a stunning three-hour performance. The part of Jean Valjean, played by Jon Robyns, was a delight to hear. Such a range. By the end of the performance I doubt there was a dry eye in the house.

Thank you, Maggie and team for a wonderful day out in London

Margaret Downs

Theatre trip to see “Fishermen’s Friends”

MAGGIE AND CORAL, THE DYNAMIC DUO STRIKE AGAIN - Ann Heartfield



On a slightly rainy Wednesday, the theatre group took off for a visit to Milton Keynes Theatre. It turned out to be a brilliant ‘feel good’ show, Fishermen’s Friends, the Musical.

We had fantastic seats in the stalls which had a good slope, so no big hair or extra tall bodies to spoil your view. The play was about a group of Cornish fishermen who lead hard lives, leaving home in the early hours of morning to battle with the heavy seas

around the Cornish coast. They meet up in the village pub where they form a group of singers and musicians to sing sea shanties just for themselves. There is a really strong story line running through the play and the music is rousing. I’m not going to say much more about the play because it needs to be seen to get the full joy of the performance.

Thank you, Maggie and Coral, brilliant day out.

News and Features



Walking Group 2

We set out from the Green Dragon in Wheathampstead, Passing Colney Fields shopping centre, crossing the M25 and skirting Watford and Arsenal training grounds and on to fields beyond. We encountered a couple of challenging stiles, especially for the less agile and shorter members of the group. Beautiful countryside and some friendly horses added to our enjoyment and a well-deserved drink and meal at the Green Dragon on our return. Thank you, John, for arranging

London Walk



Fifteen of us arrived at Tower Hill station to meet up with our Blue Badge Guide, John Colmans for our walk around Southwark and



Rotherhithe. First stop the Tower of London, with the moat still filled with the Spring bloom flowers. In the background is The Shard – with over 900 years of history between them. Walking swiftly to try and avoid the heavy showers, we crossed Tower Bridge for the start of our walk along the Thames path. This part is full of restaurants and amazing views of the Thames, although unfortunately the view of Tower bridge from this side is somewhat marred by the Walkie Talkie being set squarely in the middle! Next stop, Shad Thames – wharves now converted into flats but with their bridges between the buildings still in situ. John reminded us that Turner's painting of the Fighting Temeraire was inspired by the views from here. From here we could see Wapping and the northern wharves, but as John said, their story is for another walk.

There are many streams and rivers which still enter the Thames, some of which have now been moved underground, but one that does remain in view is the River Neckinger which we crossed by a very modern swing footbridge. This was at high tide but apparently at low tide its mud banks and riverbed make an eerie sight and remind you of Dickens' Bill Sykes and Oliver Twist.

Further on we came to the remains of King Edward III's hunting lodge and opposite, next to the Angel pub, are four statues of Dr Salter (a local philanthropist), his wife, daughter and cat. Next stop, St Mary's Church and the Mayflower pub, from where the Pilgrim Fathers set sail for Virginia via Plymouth.

Our last stop was at Brunel's Rotherhithe Tunnel (now a museum) – which took 25 years to build and was originally a foot tunnel, then later used as a part of the new underground system.

Such an interesting walk around a somewhat hidden part of London. Thanks, as always to John, our guide, for his amazing and well-researched knowledge.

Barbara Bennett



THANK YOU so much to everyone who has brought in their used stamps. Every one of them is valuable and help me to help the RNIB raise funds for this amazing organisation, who offer support help and the tools needed by blind and partially sighted people. Everyday 250 people begin to lose their sight. The RNIB has a crucial role to play in creating a world where there are no barriers to people with sight loss.

PLEASE continue to bring me your used stamps, if I am not at the meetings, please hand them to Jill or Nick on the committee. **Mary Gotts**

Walking Group 3 – October 2022

On a clear, sunny Tuesday morning, 21 members met at the Roundbush pub for a gentle five-mile meander through Aldenham, down to the River Colne at Otterspool House and along the banks of the Colne through the Munden Estate. Perfect walking weather, even the dogs enjoyed it. Once clear of Munden we were then faced with the climb up to Blackbirds Farm, where we were delighted to see Santa's sleigh being prepared for Christmas!

It was a relief when the Aldenham Church spire came into view and soon the welcoming sight of the Roundbush. Most of us opted to stay for lunch, which was lovely and fairly prompt considering the size of our group.

Once again, thanks to David and Penny Collins for a great day out - **Dick Downs**



Quiz

Potluck



- 1 Which country includes the Isle of Tiree?
- 2 Which British songwriter/actor wrote the first Tarzan movie script?
- 3 In which year did John Major become Prime Minister?
- 4 What is the only English anagram of KITCHENS?
- 5 Brontophobia is a fear of what?

UK Geography

- 6 What was the former name of Sellafield?
- 7 Holy Loch is an inlet of which river?
- 8 Where is the administrative headquarters of the Grampian region?
- 9 The Goodwin Sands are at the entrance of which straits?
- 10 Which bell was named after Benjamin Hall?

70's Pop Music



- 11 Which hit by the Osmonds gave Boyzone a hit in '94?
- 12 Which Lieutenant's only UK No 1 hit was "Mouldy Old Dough"?
- 13 Who said that she was "born in the wagon of a travelling show"?
- 14 "(Hey There) Lonely Girl" was the only UK hit for which vocalist?
- 15 Tony Orlando sang in which group that had a girl's name?

September Quiz Answers

- 1 Brighton; 2 Suffolk; 3 Salopian; 4 Clyde; 5 Aberdeen; 6 Neotropical; 7 Starfish; 8 On the seabed; 9 Wishbone; 10 Madagascar



“Let’s Dance Together”

Saturday 26th November 2022

Doors open at 7.30

60’s music from 8.00 till 10.45

Price
£15.00

Food included but bring
your own Drink (Please let
us know of any special dietary
needs)

Tickets on sale at the October Annual General
Meeting
Cheques only Name and Membership No
on back please

Tables of up to 8 are bookable but any block
bookings must be paid for together.

Music by



Smart dress to impress

Contact Nick Tel: 07803064180 or nicholasphoti@hotmail.com

Name	Mem No	Cheque No	Dietary Needs

If you wish for a group of over 8, please let us know and we can put you on 2 tables next to each other.
(PLEASE DO NOT MOVE TABLES TOGETHER) There will be a table plan on the night

Closing date for tickets Friday 11th November