

Hello again,

June already. Is it my imagination that this year seems to be racing by or is it because I am an oldie?

My thanks to all who helped to set up and put away at the May Coronation meeting and also an appreciation to all who came that day.

Our team of cake specialists ensured that there was an enjoyable selection to munch and then wash down with Prosecco or fruit juice.

The Flower Arranging Group did us proud with their floral display so well-done ladies.



By a stroke of luck Nick Photi had organized a clear out of our store cupboard which resulted in the discovery of yards of bunting, flags, plates and cutlery. The subsequent flag waving was very impressive and will hopefully be pictured in this Newsletter.



Talking of the Newsletter I have to apologise for the late delivery by email.

Having praised the use of the Beacon system for distribution purposes in the May newsletter it was ironic that this failed and led to a short delay. This was a temporary problem but has indicated that alternative methods of sending out the Newsletter may have to be considered at some point in the future. The Beacon system has features which are a great asset to the running of a u3a, not least the ability to send out block emails to all members. However, as more u3as sign in to using the system the level of traffic will increase and make it difficult to send out large email attachments. No need to emphasise how important it is to circulate our Newsletter.

Do you visit the VCV website? Past surveys have shown that the use by members is variable. The Third Age Trust are introducing a new website package which will eventually take over the existing one. It is early days yet, but the opportunity could be that we can make the website our main communication channel where the Newsletter can be read and downloaded if wished. However, using Beacon will be our main method of distribution for the time being. Many of you are internet users so visiting our future website will not be a problem. For those who may find this a challenging prospect fear not. Our Webmaster will ensure that the easy steps to gain access are set out clearly when the situation requires it.

Now the sun is shining but as usual the doom mongers are predicting a drought and the media continues to provide details of the antics of so-called celebrities and those who should know better. In the meantime, the VCV will get on with life as usual; theatre visits and day trips await. I recommend a glass of wine at times like this ....purely for medicinal reasons of course. Enjoy. **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.

# Committee News

**June 15<sup>th</sup>**

Tim Perkins is from 'The Midshires Search & Rescue who are part of The National Lowland Rescue organisation, and they cover Herts & Beds. Tim Perkins is the Membership Officer and also an Operational Search Technician on the team.'

**July 20<sup>th</sup>**

Simon Smith - Simon is going to be talking all about the history of Alms Houses. He was recommended by another U3A member for which I am very grateful.

**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.

**Nick Photi**  
**General Meeting Manager**



It's time to renew your membership, this can be done by cheque or BACS. You can collect your new badge at the GM after you have renewed.

Closing date for the next Newsletter  
NO LATER than the morning of **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023**

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](mailto:newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk)

## Refreshments

Group	Month
Table Tennis	June
Ukulele	July
Walking group 3	August
Wine Appreciation	Sept
Badminton	October
Watercolour Painting	November

**Groups News from Julia Scott – Groups Co-ordinator** [juliadscott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliadscott@hotmail.co.uk)

Hi Everyone,

I do hope you are all enjoying this lovely warm sunny weather we are having lately, I know I am, it's been a little late in coming! Thank you to 'Petals' our flower arranging group for producing such lovely colourful flower arrangements for the celebratory GM last month, they helped set the scene for the Coronation theme, very much appreciated. I hope those of you that attended enjoyed the selection of refreshments and many thanks to all who contributed.

Our Chess group is no longer running, as we don't have a lead person to organise this. If you are a keen chess player and would like to set up another group, please contact me and I can help organise this. Also, our Photography group is no longer running, but if you're a keen photographer and would like to start a group just let me know.

Our Zumba Gold class could do with a few more members, it's fun and is a wonderful way to keep fit, why not give it a go? Come and chat to me at the next GM or contact me directly for more information.







It would be good to have more news from groups to share with you all, plus the odd photo or two, just send to my email address and I will do the rest.

Take care and look forward to seeing you at the next GM.

Julia  
[juliadscott@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:juliadscott@hotmail.co.uk)

As you might be aware Dick Downs, our e-news editor, is currently unwell and is unable to continue with the e-news at present. Hopefully it will return when he is back to full health. I am sure you will join with us to wish him a speedy return to health.

## Dates for your Diary

Event	Date	Contact	Current Position
<b>Amblers</b> The Wicked Lady, Nomansland	Friday June 23rd	Joy Dabson	Please contact Joy
 <b>Piccadilly Theatre</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> June 2023</b>	<b>Maggie Fenn</b>	<b>Sold out</b>
<b>Cathy Browns Garden</b>  Garden Appreciation Group	29 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Ann Allam / Pat Hammond	Sold Out - Please contact Ann or Pat to put your name on the waiting list.
<b>Walking Group 2</b>	30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Angela Wright	Please contact Angela
<b>Walking In London</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> / 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	Bob Gettleson	Please contact Bob
<b>Coton Manor</b>  Garden Appreciation Group	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Ann Allam / Pat Hammond	Please contact Ann or Pat
<b>Wimbledon</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> July 2023	Barbara Croom	On sale now
<b>Savill Garden and Thames cruise</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> August 2023	Barbara Croom	On sale now
<b>La Cage Aux Folles</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	Maggie Fenn	On sale now
<b>Barnsdale</b> 	31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023	Ann Allam / Pat Hammond	Please contact Ann or Pat
<b>How the Other Half Loves – Mill at Sonning</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Maggie Fenn	1 Ticket left
<b>Luton Hoo Walled Garden</b> 	15 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Ann Allam / Pat Hammond	Please contact Ann or Pat
<b>Aston Pottery</b> 	10 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Ann Allam / Pat Hammond	Please contact Ann or Pat
<b>Talk by George Lockwood</b>	November tdc	Ann Allam / Pat Hammond	Please contact Ann or Pat
<b>High Society – Mill at Sonning</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Maggie Fenn	Sold out come and put your name on the waiting list



AMBLERS - Joy Dabson  
Please meet, Friday June 23rd, for an 11am start, car park The Wicked Lady, Nomansland, St.Albans, AL4 8EL



### Walking in London

The next walk will take place on Tuesday 4th July and Friday 7th July. The walk is titled Historic Southwark. The group last did this walk in 2017.

John Colmans, our fantastic Blue Badge Guide, will meet the group at 11:30am outside Cannon Street Station (Dowgate Hill exit). As usual, the walk will last about 2 hours and it will finish near London Bridge Station.

The cost is £10 per person payable to me. You can pay by cheque made out to Robert Gettleson with your membership number and date of walk on the back. I will be at the VCV U3A meeting in June so you can see me there. If you won't be at the meeting, and you wish to pay by cheque, contact me and I'll give you my home address so you can post it or pop it through my door. Alternatively, if you prefer, you can pay by BACS (internet banking) ask me for details.





# Theatre Trips

Theatre Trips Organiser: Maggie Fenn  
Email: [theatre@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:theatre@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk)

## 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



### MOULIN ROUGE

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023 – matinee performance

Theatre	Piccadilly, London
Pick up Point	Greenwood Park
Departure Time	Coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am.
Return Time	Approx 5.30 pm.
Price	£77.50 incl of coach and driver's tip

### HOW THE OTHER HALF LOVES

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Theatre  
Pick up Point  
Departure Time  
Return Time  
Price

matinee performance  
The Mill at Sonning  
Greenwood Park  
The coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am.  
Approx 5.00 pm.  
£81



### LA CAGE AUX FOLLES

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023 – matinee performance.

Theatre	Regents Park Open Air Theatre
Pick up Point	Greenwood Park
Departure Time	The coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am.
Return Time	Approx 5.30 pm.
Price	£47

### A short synopsis of the show:

One day the life of two elderly gay men is literally turned upside down. Georges is visited by his son Jean -Michel [the result of an affair in his youth] who says that he intends to marry Anne Dindon. Normally nothing is wrong with this except that the father of the young lady is the leader of a group who strives for moral purity; as a result, he is a notorious homophobe and bigot. The wedding will be off if he finds out the sexual inclinations and lifestyle of the groom's father. So, Georges as the head of the family and his loyal partner Albin must find a way to hide the truth and not let down the young couple.

Before the bride's parents come to the house there have to be changes made so that it looks like that of a normal respectable married couple. Albin is terribly offended when it is suggested that he is absent at this time, and it is decided the solution is that he will act the part of Georges' wife. Georges in turn will present himself as someone with artistic interests. Accidentally a mutual friend who is unaware of the subterfuge exposes Albin. Complications ensue.

### TICKETS ARE NOW ON SALE

#### HIGH SOCIETY

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Theatre	The Mill at Sonning
Pick up Point	Greenwood Park
Departure Time	The coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am.
Return Time	Approx 5.00 pm.
Price	£83



**The interest list does not guarantee a ticket. Payment is required before your name is added to the booking list for the event.**

We are looking to book the following for 2024 -  
Guys and Dolls – London,  
White Christmas – Sonning  
Calendar Girls – Sonning

# Day Trips and Events

**Trips** Contact Barbara Croom – [trips@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:trips@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk) Tel: 01727 834298

## FORTHCOMING TRIPS 2023

**On sale now**

### Wimbledon

Date – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July

Price - £29 per person

Depart GWP - 9am

Depart London – 4pm

Come to this internationally famous club with a tour led by a Blue Badge guide. Learn how the grass is cared for and the site improved each year. Visit the Centre and No 1 court and see the facilities for the press and players. In the museum, get up close to the Championship trophies and discover the history, traditions and legends of the game.



**On sale in June**



### Savill Garden & Thames cruise

Date – Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August

Price – £44pp

Depart GWP – 8.30am

Depart venue – 4.45pm

Wander through some of the thirty-five acres of gardens and woodland, a delight to everyone from the dedicated horticulturist to those just wanting a relaxing walk-in beautiful surroundings. In the afternoon our coach takes us to the jetty where we board the boat for a river cruise and a cream tea.

**On sale in July**

### National Memorial Arboretum

Date – Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October

Price – £21pp

Depart GWP – 8.30am

Depart venue – 4.00pm

First the statistics – there are some 400 memorials set amidst 25,000 trees (hopefully some of them in autumn colours) in 150 acres. The memorials cover a wide variety of the armed services, and also include emergency services and tributes to civilians. There will be time for coffee when we arrive followed by a land-train tour to give you some idea of what there is to see, but the rest of the day you are free to wander at your own pace. There is a cafe offering a selection of food, or you may prefer to bring a packed lunch.

**NB** Please note this is going to be a long day. The coach journeys will take about 3 hours each way, but this includes a toilet break on both the outward and return journeys.



**Welfare:** Pam Kimber: Email: [c.kimber@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.kimber@ntlworld.com)

**Newsletter:** Tina Photi/ Dick Downs: Email: [newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk)

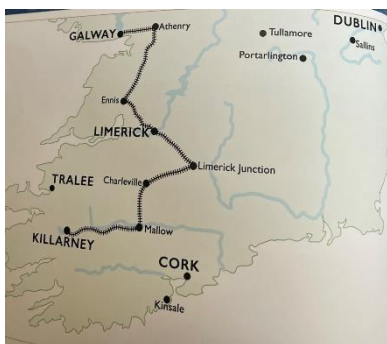
**Sound & Lighting:** Roger Barry / Trevor Spinage

**Catering & Supplies:** Steve Bowler



# News and Features

6th May 2023 – King Charles III Coronation Day.



**Did we join in?**

We spent the day travelling by steam train across Ireland from Galway to Killarney with a 2

hour stop in Limerick. On board, there was a Limerick competition – which we did not win.

Using my phone as a hot spot we managed to get Wi-Fi and joined the BBC broadcast as the King arrived at the Abbey. We were soon joined by a crowd of fellow travellers.



We had to dip in and out of the broadcast as we lost signal but were able to join in at various points but managed to see the crowning of Queen Camilla, the leaving procession and the fantastic parade back to the Palace. Americans on the trip were amazed at the magnificence of the day. On returning home we sat and caught up with the whole day, watching every second memorising not only the coronation, but also the fabulous journey we had undertaken on the day itself.

**Rob and Brenda Kember**



LIMERICK



## Walking Group 2

A gentle walk through the lanes and countryside around Harpenden, easy walking as much was done on the "Nickey Line" which is a disused railway that once linked the towns of Hemel Hempstead, Luton and Harpenden via Redbourn.



We also meet a couple of Gloucestershire Old Spot enjoying the sunshine too.

A lovely morning followed by a very tasty meal in Godfrey's Fish and Chip restaurant in Harpenden.

Thank you, John and Angela, for arranging yet another enjoyable walk.





# News and Features

## London walkers enjoy the best of both worlds - Rod Harman

The thing about London is... you just have to walk a few hundred yards, from one street or location to another, to easily believe you've travelled to a completely different town or city.

Such was the impression gained by members of the VCV's London Walks group on its May adventure, which trod a path from Camden Town (energetic, noisy, colourful, milling with local pedestrians, tourists and traffic) to nearby Primrose Hill (quiet, bucolic, dignified, comparatively devoid of both human and vehicular movement). Talk about diversity!

As per usual, popular demand dictated two groups of walkers spilt over two days; the Wednesday group enjoying bright spring sunshine, the Friday contingent enduring threatening skies and intermittent showers - as well as needing to navigate the effects of yet another rail strike to reach the walk's start point, Camden Town station.

And it was here that the groups met up with and gathered around our guide, the knowledgeable and ever-entertaining John Colmans, for his introductory scene-set before stepping off towards Regents Park for the start of the circular tour.

Alas, too much (and insufficient space) to record each and every step... so just a selection of some of the stops *en route*:



**Gloucester Gate's Matilda Fountain:** A [Grade II listed](#) statue and (once upon a time) drinking fountain depicting a milkmaid looking towards Regents Park. Now in need of much TLC it does, however, provide a welcome overnight retreat for the occasional homeless visitor.

**A plethora of historic Public Houses:** Including the Dublin Castle and the Edinboro Castle, lying just a few hundred yards apart. As our guide mooted... perhaps an early attempt to segregate warring nations.

**Cecil Sharpe House:** Concert Hall and home to the English Folk Dancing and Song Society.

**Street Art:** Some colourful decoration on what would otherwise be a drab brick wall.



**Property envy:** A meander through Park Village West to admire the houses and see how the other half live - but 'forget it' if you haven't got the necessary four million plus.

**Peering over bridges:** Canals, railway tracks, discovering evidence that work on HS2 is still progressing on the run into Euston station.

**The Regents Canal:** The floating Feng Shang Chinese restaurant (set lunch £45 per head according to its website).



**Blue Plaques and Pavement Plaques:** Looking up to find where the famous and the worthy once dwelled and looking down to spot singers and groups recorded on Camden High Street's 'Music Walk of Fame'.

**Strolling through bustling Camden Market:** and deciding that fashion is not what is used to be and, although the street food looks and smells appealing, perhaps somewhere quieter with seats would be preferable to enjoy a post-walk lunch.

Thanks, as always, to guide John for enhancing our lives with droplets of culture and history, and not forgetting our own Bob Gettleson for 'making it happen'.



# News and Features

## A Visit to Waterperry Gardens - Tina Photi

The Gardening group met at Greenwood Park and was blessed with another fine day, and a very smooth journey, for their visit to Waterperry Gardens.

The Gardens are located seven and a half miles from Oxford city centre and was established by Beatrix Havergal who had her School of Horticulture for Ladies were from 1932 to 1971.

We have visited these gardens before, but later in the summer. A return visit to see the difference between the seasons is well worth it. Along the herbaceous borders we were interested to see one of the lady gardeners making the "nests" of woven hazel, coppiced from the grounds, that are used to support the plants as they grow, normally these would be hidden when the plants are fully grown.

The walled garden includes a cutting garden, vegetable beds and cane and fruit bushes. The Orchard includes varieties of apples, pears and plums. One of the trees had a plethora of apples grafted on, many of which were old varieties and some that I had never heard of.



There is a Fritillary meadow, a quiet space with a Wisteria walk where three different coloured flowers hung above our heads.

Waterperry is also the home for the National Collection of Kabschia Saxifrages.

After a very interesting visit to the Rural Life Museum where many exclamations of "I remember we had one of those" or "What on earth is that for?" and an obligatory walk through the Garden Shop and of course something to eat and drink, we made our way back to the coach for the journey home.

The inscription on the Monolith reads "All be happy, All be without Disease, All creatures have well-being and none should be in misery of any sort" – seems a good sentiment to me.

Thank you, Ann and Pat for arranging this very interesting and enjoyable visit.



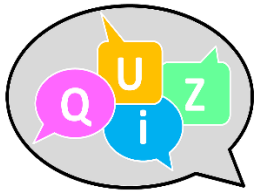
## Cash point machines - How to stay safer.

Herts Police Cyber and Fraud department are warning of a recent rise in reports of incidents at 'hole in the wall' cash (ATM) machines:

Please be aware that two male fraudsters are targeting ATM machines in the Watford and St Albans areas. After the victim has inserted their bank card, Male 1 will engage them in conversation and claim that the ATM is broken. Meanwhile Male 2 will cancel the transaction and remove the victim's bank card which is later used in fraud.

- Police advise caution when using ATM machines;
- Shield your pin when entering it onto the keypad;
- Do not engage with persons who attempt to advise you the machine is broken;
- Do not get distracted from your process - complete your withdrawal and remove your card yourself;
- Report any concerns to shop staff, if appropriate;
- If at all possible, go into a bank branch to use the ATM inside where CCTV and assistance is available if needed;
- Ring 999 if a crime is in progress, ring 101 to report anything suspicious - your report could prevent the next person from becoming a victim."





### May Quiz Answers

1. Queen Elizabeth II; 2. King Edward VIII and Queen Alexandra; 3. Queen Elizabeth Queen Mother; 4. Balmoral, Scotland; 5. Frogmore House, Windsor; 6. Osborne House, Isle of Wight; 7. Mysore Palace, Karnataka, India; 8. Royal Palace of Madrid; 9. Nymphenburg Palace, Munich; 10. VS Naipaul; 11. Midnight in Moscow; 12. Dombey & Son.

### Potluck

1. What were the names of the three tunnels dug by POWs in the "Great Escape"?
2. Who had an 80s No 1 with "Star Trekkin"?
3. In which country is the city of Abu Dhabi?
4. Which shipping forecast area is due north of Shannon?
5. What is the only English anagram of GRANDIOSE?
6. What was Frederick John Robinson's title when he was UK prime minister?
7. Who is the patron saint of wine merchants?
8. Lipari and Salina are in which island group?
9. Which character was played by Prunella Scales in After Henry?
10. Who wrote the novel The Sea, The Sea?



### The Living World



1. What is the largest span of a living bird?
2. RSPB founders campaigned specifically against the slaughter of birds for what purpose?
3. Which Australian male bird incubates the eggs and raises the young?
4. Which bird can walk up to 20 miles a day?
5. Which sense does the New World vulture have which the Old-World vulture doesn't?
6. What follow "milk" and "rag" in the plant world?
7. Which part of the tree is cinnamon obtained from?
8. What does lamina mean when referring to a leaf?
9. What is found in a plant's anther?
10. Which plant's name means lion's tooth?



### Sports



1. Which German tennis player was born on Billie Jean King's 23<sup>rd</sup> birthday?
2. Which South African golfer's real first name is Theodore?
3. Peter Nicol won Commonwealth gold for Scotland in which sport?
4. Who was the first heavyweight boxing champion to retire undefeated?
5. Which surname was shared by three world snooker champions?
6. Who defeated Navratilova in the final at her last Wimbledon?
7. Which Harlequins hooker was nicknamed "Pitbull"?
8. In which decade was Rugby Union last played in the Olympics?
9. Who did Martin Offiah play for in his first years as a League player?
10. For which side did Brian Bevan score 740 tries in 620 matches?