

Ver-Colne Valley



General meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk)

Username = valley

Newsletter: No 181 January 2024

Greetings – Happy New Year to you all.

I hope you all had a good festive break and perhaps a couple of glasses of whatever your tippie is to celebrate the New Year.

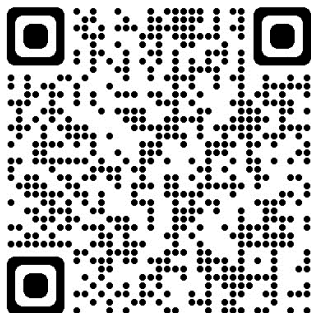
As you will see our Christmas get together went down a treat, with 161 members attending. I really hope that you had a great time and I would like to thank everyone for their hard work in organising it.

2023 seemed to flash by with Theatre trips, visiting various cities, going on various walks and visits and most of all, hopefully, enjoying the various groups that you were involved in.

Now what does 2024 hold for us? The committee is vigorously planning the year – starting with the celebration of VCV u3a's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in the summer and also our Christmas Dance in November. Gill, our Speaker Secretary, is busy arranging your after coffee speakers, Julia, Groups Coordinator, is keeping the groups viable, enjoyable and inviting, Denise, Visits Coordinator, is liaising with Barbara to organise more visits, while the rest of the Committee is continuing the general business of running VCV.

To sum it up we are looking forward to 2024 and whatever it may hold for us, so watch this space!

Nick Photi (Chair)



**WELCOME**

Jo Lankester  
Ken Osborne  
Susan Osborne

**WELCOME BACK**

John Auld  
Margaret Burdett

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

Group	Month
Book Discussion/Boules	January
Bridge/Canasta	February
Creative Writing	March
Croquet	April
Current Affairs/Family History	May
Garden Allotment/Geology	June
Grumpy Old Men	July
Grumpy Old Women	August
Singing For Fun	Sept
Table Games/Spanish	October
Walking Group 1 Amblers	November

Hi Everyone,

I hope you all had a very enjoyable Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

Above is the refreshment rota for this year's General meetings, I have put a few groups together as they are probably few in number. Let me know if there are any problems and I will try and help where I can.

The good news is our new yoga group will be up and running this month, we have a full house so if you are keen and have an interest in this, I will be compiling a waiting list and will let people know as soon as places become available.

Shortly I will be going along to the Vue Cinema to discuss the idea of a Cinema group, just to see if they have anything to offer. I will let you know how I get on with this asap.

Also, our Japanese Embroidery group will now become the 'VCV Embroidery Group', the idea is to expand to a wider group membership where people can bring along any type of embroidery they like, with those wishing to stick to the Japanese techniques becoming a subgroup. Day and timing will stay the same, but meetings will now take place in members' homes.

If you have an idea for a group, please let me know and I can see what we need to do to make it a reality.

Take care and see you all soon.

Julia

Closing date for articles for Newsletter  
NO LATER than the morning of **Friday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**

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)

There is a QR Code on the first page of this Newsletter. To use this, scan the code, from any directions for 360 degrees using the camera on your smart phone. It is a direct link to the home page of the VER-Colne Valley website. Not all phones are compatible unfortunately.  
**Bob Gettleson. Web master**

## Speakers' Corner

Gill Davies

**January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024** – Our speaker is Graham Harrison who is giving a talk entitled, A Warning to Country Folk - Tales from the Elizabethan Underworld. An often-light-hearted examination of some of the cons, swindles and outright thievery practiced on unwary visitors in 16th Century London. Both shocking and amusing - and you thought the city was dangerous now!

**February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024** - Our speaker will be a London Walk's Guide, David Charnick, who will be giving a talk on "The Dark Side of East London"

## Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Contact	Current Position
Walking in London - 'Aldgate and Spitalfields'	10/12 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Bob Gattleson	Please contact Bob
Garden Appreciation	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	Pat Hammond Ann Allam	Discussion on ideas for the forthcoming year.
Guys and Dolls	1 <sup>st</sup> February 2024	Maggie Fenn	Sold out but put your name on the waiting list
Walking Group 2	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024	Angela Wright	Please contact Angela
Walking Group 3	13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Penny Collins	All VCV members welcome please contact Penny
Milestones Museum	6 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Barbara Croom	On sale now
Walking Group 3	12 <sup>h</sup> March 2024	Penny Collins	All VCV members welcome please contact Penny
VCV u3a Railway Trips Group	16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	David Choppin	Please contact David
Calendar Girls	Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Maggie Fenn	Sold out come and put your name on the waiting list

## Day Trips and Events

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

**On sale now**

### Milestones Museum - Basingstoke



Date – Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March

Price - £30pp

Depart GWP – 10.00am

Depart venue – 3.30pm

Come and visit this museum of living history, made up of a network of streets that have been recreated according to Victorian and 1930s Hampshire. Stroll along the streets to the seaside pier or wander round the vintage vehicles. Buy a ration of sweets from the 1940s sweetshop and have a go in the penny arcade. There is something for everybody to enjoy. The Baverstock Arms is an operating pub, and the Rooftops Cafe sells a variety of snacks and hot food. Alternatively, you can bring your own refreshments and eat them on the picnic tables just outside the museum.

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



## GUYS AND DOLLS

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 matinee performance  
Theatre The Bridge Theatre, London  
Pick up Point Greenwood Park  
Departure Time Coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am  
Return Time Approx 5.00 pm  
Price £62



## CALENDAR GIRLS

Saturday 20 April 2024 – Matinee performance  
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 £86



**BRING YOUR CHEQUE BOOKS AS WE MIGHT BE SELLING TICKETS FOR THE LION KING.**



# News and Features



**VCV Enjoying the Christmas Festivities**

**UKELELE SUNSHINE BAND**



**SINGING FOR FUN**

Not so Grumpy Old Women group enjoying their Christmas (lunch) meeting at Burston's. They meet on the 2nd Friday of the month and enjoy having a general grumble, lots of discussion and laughter and a good cup of something hot.

No pictures of the Grumpy Men's group (too grumpy). They meet once a month on a Monday, also put the worlds to right, whilst enjoying a pint or two.



**Singing for Fun's Christmas sing song and tea**





## News and Features

### Walking group 2 - Pam Taylor

Twixt Christmas and New Year, the intrepid walkers set out under grey skies. We walked a circular route from Park Street to Bricket Wood along the river Ver. Unfortunately, heavy rain started halfway through the walk and at the finish most of us resembled drowned rats.



Everyone went back to John and Angie's house for hot soups, mulled wine and party food (the more sensible ones amongst us had missed out the walk and went straight to the party). Despite the rain we all had a wonderful get together.

Thanks for your great hospitality, John and Angie.



**The Flower Petals** met for their Christmas workshop to make floral arrangements to adorn their homes over the festive period. The hall was perfumed with the fragrance of Pine & Flowers which got us all into the Christmas mood.



## News and Features

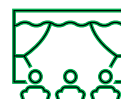


**Please save your used Christmas Stamps** Every one of them is valuable and helps me to help the RNIB raise funds for this amazing organisation, who offer support, help and the tools needed by blind and partially sighted people. Everyday 250 people begin to lose their sight. The RNIB has a crucial role 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**



supporting blind and partially sighted people



### The Mill at Sonning Visit on Thursday, 21 December to see High Society

Our coach departed from Greenwood Park at 10.30am and we had a smooth journey to Sonning. We passed through some pretty towns such as Marlow and Henley-on-Thames and they were all beautifully decorated with Christmas lights and decorations.

On arriving at Sonning we had time to have a drink before going to the restaurant. Our tables were in a nice area, just off the main restaurant and with windows overlooking part of the Mill and the Thames. The food was excellent, as always, and the waiter couldn't do enough to help us.



We then proceeded into the theatre area and the show started promptly. The theatre seats are semi-arranged around the stage and graduated, rather like a Roman amphitheatre. The background of the stage showed a sea scene with boats and yachts bobbing on a lovely blue sea which was the waterfront estate that belonged to the Lord family. High Society is a musical romantic comedy with Cole Porter's songs such as True Love, Who Wants to be a Millionaire, I love Paris and many more. The story is based on a love triangle and loosely follows the romantic comedy The Philadelphia Story. Tracy Lord, the wealthy socialite, was torn between choosing one of three men, her ex-husband, Dexter, who lives next door, and was a jazz musician, her fiancé George, who she is about to marry as he is safe but somewhat boring and Mike, an undercover tabloid reporter. She accepts Dexter's proposal of marriage in the end.



It was a most enjoyable reproduction of High Society and a lovely start to Christmas week.

Cindy Binnions





## 2023 Quiz



1. Sweden won their sixth Eurovision Song Contest in 2023, but in which year did the country gain its first victory?
2. Who is the author of the book "Endgame" that was released this year?
3. Which member of the British Royal Family welcomed a new baby this year?
4. Which popular British retailer went into administration this year but has since made a comeback?
5. Who won the 2023 Wimbledon Men's Singles title?
6. What was branded Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year 2023 & where did it come from?
7. Name the England cricketer who announced his retirement from the sport this year?
8. Who did England play in the FIFA Women's World Cup final?
9. It was the fifth anniversary of the first statue of a woman in London's Parliament Square, who is she?
10. NASA astronauts dropped what into orbit on November 1?
11. Which country won the Rugby World Cup 2023?
12. Which former Pope was buried on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2023?
13. The King's Coronation was planned using which secret code name?
14. The second series of Clarkson's Farm was released in early 2023. What is the name of his farm?
15. Where was the Eurovision Song Contest held?



Quiz answers: 1. 1974; 2. Omid Scobie; 3. Princess Eugenie; 4. Wilko; 5. Carlos Alcaraz; 6. 'Rizz', a shortened version of the word 'charisma' coined by Gen-Z; 7. Stuart Broad; 8. Spain; 9. Milliecent Fawcett; 10. A tool bag; 11. South Africa; 12. Pope Benedict XVI; 13. Operation Golden Orb; 14. Diddly Squat Farm; 15. Liverpool;