

Dear members,

As we move into May, we have a double bill for you this month. On **Thursday, 5 May at 2 PM** we will be convening an online only Zoom **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**.

With the current high levels of COVID in circulation and possible logistic problems running a fully participatory hybrid meeting, the Committee decided to scale down the AGM and focus more on organising another garden party in the near future. An agenda and any supporting documentation for the AGM will be sent by email along with the Zoom link next week - we hope you will make the effort to attend, even as relatively passive observers.

The following week, on **Thursday 12th of May at 2 PM** we will hold our usual monthly speakers meeting. This Zoom only talk will be given by **Jim Holmes** with the title "**BOWING TO TRADITION -Traditionalism and Modernity in Japanese Society**". Travel with Jim, an experienced tour guide, through the less expected sides of Japanese life and see how simple, handmade and contradictory it really can be. This richly illustrated presentation is Jim's personal journey through the contradictions of Japanese life.

PS: Apologies to those trying to join Andrew Babicz's talk on Great British Gardens. Due to software incompatibility, it was not possible to show photos and have good sound quality at the same time and Andrew did not have a recording of his talk. We may invite him back sometime to do a "gardener's question time".

Groups

The new French conversation group is holding its first meeting on 11 May in Kidlington. The dates and times of future meetings will be discussed then. The group is very fortunate to be led by France Godfrey, who is a native French speaker. No particular level of conversational expertise is required, just enthusiasm ! If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Linn Harmer lfharmer@googlemail.com who is acting as coordinator.

The Board Games Group is now offering two meetings a month. Meetings will be held at the leader's home, just off Squitchey in North Oxford, and take place for 2 hours on the **1st Wednesday and the 3rd Thursday each month at 2 pm**. Members may opt to attend the Wednesday or the Thursday meeting or, if it is possible for them to do so, they may attend both meetings whilst group numbers at either meeting remain 8 or less. A range of games that involve boards and /or cards or tiles are available. Many games work best for 3, 4 or 5 players, but other games can be played by 2, 6, 7 or 8 players and we are able to have 2 games taking place at any one time when this is appropriate. A new list of games available will be shown on the Woodstock u3a website sometime in May. Members wishing to join either of the groups will be welcomed, so please make contact via the website (see link below).

The craft group is currently looking for a new leader so this is a great opportunity to get involved with one of our longstanding groups. Please contact Janet via the website (Groups enquiry, <https://u3asites.org.uk/woodstock/contact>).

If you have another particular skill or enthusiasm that you would like to share by setting up a new group, please get in touch. We can give lots of help and support in getting started.

Other News and Events

The next talk of the Woodstock Literary Society will be given by **Marion Turner** on "**The Wife of Bath's Progeny**" in the **Church of St Mary Magdalene, Woodstock** on **Wednesday 18th May at 8pm**. **Guest tickets are £7 at the door**.

Marion Turner is a Fellow of Jesus College and Professor of English Literature at the University of Oxford. Her biography "Chaucer: a European Life" (Princeton 2019) was named Book of the Year in 2019 by The Times, The Sunday Times, and The Times Literary Supplement. She has broadcast extensively on both TV and BBC Radio.

See: <https://sites.google.com/site/woodstockliteraturesociety/programme>

Woodstock Jazz has two forthcoming events at the St Hugh's Centre, Hensington Road. **Sarah Moule** and the **Simon Wallace Quartet** will be presenting the music of Johnny Mercer on Friday 29th April at 8.00pm start (doors open 7.30pm). Tickets £15.00 (in advance only no tickets on door)

Friday 27th May features the Tommaso Starace Band – "a stellar quartet that fizzes with energy - they play Adderley & Bird!" Tickets again £15.00 (in advance only no tickets on door) and 8.00pm start (doors open 7.30pm)

See: http://www.woodstockjazz.co.uk/whats_on.html

Best wishes

David Duthie