



u3a
Wyre

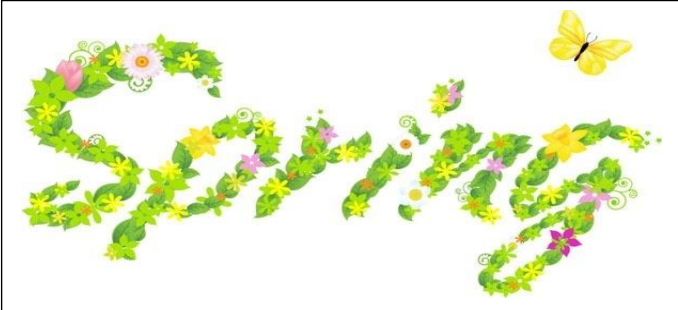
learn,
laugh,
live

newsletter

Issue 3.23

Registered Charity Number 1184776

April 2023



CHAIRMAN'S CHAT -

Kathleen Smith

I hope you are all ready to get voting for your new Committee.

The April Meeting is the Wyre u3a Annual General Meeting and any nominations must be handed in 14 days prior to the meeting date, which is, Thursday, 13th April 2023. We can have up to twelve members on our committee so don't hold back.

Whilst I have had my ups and downs during my term, I have no regrets to have been taking a part in the committee. Don't let anything put you off giving it a go, you won't be on your own.

Thanks to everyone who has been supporting me during my term. Also, where would we be without all those doing great stuff, Group Leaders, Newsletter Team, Computer sites managers, event arrangers and group members who sometimes take a lead role. Believe me, you are worth your weight in gold.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT -

Susan Cox

The membership fee for 2023/24 will remain at £17. This is due on 1st May and must be paid by 31st May if you wish to remain a member.

Wherever possible, please pay by BACS transfer, details below, entering your name in the reference field. Cheques may be posted to the address below, please ensure names are clearly written on the cheque reverse. For payments received by 8th May, your membership card will be ready to collect at the May general meeting. If paying by cash, please bring this to the May meeting in a sealed envelope with your name on the outside. No cards will be issued on that day.

Membership cards can be collected on Friday, 2nd June 1.00-3.00 p.m. at Carleton Memorial Hall. New membership cards will be asked for at meetings from that date.

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR -

Diane M. Whitworth

groups.wyreu3a@gmail.com

Grateful thanks to each and every one of our Group Leaders for their dedication and hard work with their respective groups.

I am still hopeful that a willing member will volunteer to assume the role of Group Leader of the Amblers Group.

All members who join the Amblers will be asked to complete an I.C.E Card, which contains details of the people you wish to be contacted in case of an Emergency. It also contains important information about your health and medical requirements.

The Wyre u3a Facebook Page is a Private Group for Wyre u3a members only. It provides a forum, where our members are invited to express their views, share information, photographs and funny stories.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Monthly Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Thornton Little Theatre.

13th April - AGM

Ron Browne – The wonderful Barn Owl.
Ron is a wildlife photographer who loves barn owls.

8th May

Prof. Judith Ellis MBE – Global Health Matters.
Part of her talk is about Mulango Hospital in Uganda.

I will be assisting the new Speaker Secretary to book further Speakers.

SOCIAL EVENTS -

*Diane M. Whitworth, Helen Kehoe
and Norma Culshaw*

social.wyre3a@gmail.com

The Coronation of King Charles 111.

We have planned a 3 course Evening Meal at The Park Club, West Drive on Friday, 12th May at 7.00 p.m. Menu choices and payment, by cash or cheque please, must be made on or before the Monthly Meeting at Thornton Little Theatre on Thursday, 13th April which is the final date for payment.

There will be a welcome drink, a “Royal” Quiz and a raffle. Donations of raffle prizes will be greatly appreciated please.

The event is now full so we will be starting a Reserve List.

Coach trip to Harrogate on Thursday, 15th June.

Harrogate is the definitive, spa town in the heart of Yorkshire. It's fashionable heritage as a thriving spa resort continues in the Montpellier Quarter with The Royal Pump Museum, documenting its importance of local mineral springs.

It's thriving streets buzz with busy shops and eateries, including the famous Betty's Tearooms. Harrogate is known for its floral excellence evident in the wonderful displays across the town in its well-kept parks and gardens, the largest of these being the Grade 1 listed Valley Gardens. Southwest of the city centre and easily accessible is the stunning RHS Harlow Carr.

Names and a non-refundable payment of £18.00 p.p can be made at the Monthly Meetings in April and May at The Thornton Little Theatre.

A reminder from the Committee
Please note that, unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on any walks.

New Year Social

This was once again a fun filled evening with a delicious buffet, great company and wonderful entertainment. Thanks so much to everyone who came along and supported the event. Grateful thanks to Graham Topping for his invaluable assistance on the night and not forgetting Taylor's Bakery and the Fylde Ukulele Network for the catering and entertainment.

Wine Tasting Evening

What better way to spend a dark cold evening in February, than tasting wine with a group of like-minded members of Wyre u3a?

So, on Saturday, 25th February, thirty plus members gathered at St Hilda's Church Hall, Carleton, in anticipation of an enjoyable evening ahead.

Following on from his very successful wine tasting presentation last year, Jordan Kehoe, (Helen's grandson), provided us with a second one. Jordan is obviously very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about wines and their origins. He explained their different needs re soil, climate and production. The wines we sampled ranged from a sparkling rose through to a rich red.

A big thank you to Jordan and the social committee for once again organising a very good evening.

Wyre u3a Lunch at Blackpool and the Fylde College's Level Six Restaurant

On Thursday, 23rd March thirty-six u3a members assembled in Reception at the college and after signing in made their way to the sixth floor. As we in u3a were all brought up properly, we were, of course, a little early and after a short wait, the restaurant allowed us in.

We had pre-selected our choices from their Easter Menu and the Social Committee had produced slips of paper with our names and choices on them, so there was no confusion when it was time for our food to be served. The food was beautifully presented on the plate and, while the portion sizes were not large, the food was delicious and there was more than enough over a three-course lunch. While we were there the sun had come out and the view across Blackpool, Bispham and Cleveleys was lovely, although the Lakes were lost in cloud.

Everyone who attended appeared to have enjoyed their meal and the company they were with as the photograph shows. Certainly worth another visit in the future.



NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Amblers

On Tuesday, 28th March the walk was from Pilling to Knott End.

Six walkers braved the rain and wind and completed the 4.5-mile walk. Great fish and chips were enjoyed at The Shovels in Hambleton on the way home.

Sue W will lead a 4.5 mile walk around Knott End and Preesall on Thursday, 20th April. We will meet at The Ferry Car Park, Knott End (FY6 OEA) at 10.30 a.m. Optional lunch at the end of the walk.

Please advise on The Amblers WhatsApp Group by 19.4.23 if you will be joining us.

Please send contributions to u3aNewsletterWyre@gmail.com
When finished with this issue, please forward it to a friend.

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Crown Green Bowling - Kenneth Speakman

Monday, 20th March signalled the start of our groups' new season.

Even with the dismal weather forecast and some very light rain there were ten hardy souls appeared to what turned out to be a very enjoyable morning on the green. The light rain stopped by about 10.30 a.m. and the sun did its best (but failed) to come out.

It was good to see so many old faces and have a chat with a very welcome brew at half time.

Why not come and give it a go, we will be there throughout the summer months (heavy rain may stop play). I do have a couple of spare bowls but the ladies may find them a little on the heavy side. If you would like to join us it would probably be better if you could Beg, Borrow or Buy some bowls for yourself. We are a friendly bunch.

Creative Writing - Ann Fewson

A Dedicated Follower of Fashion proved to be an inspiring title judging by the originality and quality of the work produced this month. The Kinks' famous single from the 1960s may have been the starting point but our group of writers always manage to take titles to other places often with unlikely outcomes. Who would have thought that it was possible to write about a grouse on Bleasdale Fell using all his wily ways whilst trying to woo a female bird in this context? It was a really clever and amusing story that had us all guessing until the end. Another enjoyable morning!

Next meeting; Monday, 10th April.

Subject: The Rescue

Dining Group - Irene Evans

The next meal is on Wednesday, 12th April at the Thyme Restaurant, Teanlowe Centre in Poulton - 6.00 p.m. for 6.30 p.m.

Pre-ordering is required so I will put the menu on the WhatsApp dining Group.

Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, 27th April 2023
BH 30/03/2023

French Conversation - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held at the Thornton Library on 6th and 20th March. The membership number is as strong as ever and new members are always most welcome. With the addition of two new members recently our total number is eleven. The next two meetings will be on 3rd and 17th April. However, with two public holidays in May we are limited to only one Monday meeting that month on the 15th, then to be followed by the next meeting on 12th June. However, to make up this shortfall the group has the option of meeting on Tuesdays 2nd and 30th May at the same time and place if they so wish. We continue to focus on spontaneous French Conversation rather than by individual work or presentations, by encouraging free-flowing discussion and subsequent questions without the fear of making mistakes or drying up in the conversation. There were some excellent conversations on a range of topics, including a podcast article about a crisis due to the shortage of mustard in France in 2022 caused by crop failures internationally, topics from 'News in Slow French', a discussion on other sources of spoken French, holidays in Nice, a restaurant visit, Mother's Day celebrations, an American sci-fi film called Innerspace which was made in 1987, 6-Nations Rugby and watching rugby locally, international travel plans, caravanning, and recent email problems encountered. The audio input theme will continue at the next meetings.

French Refreshers - Ann Burley

Once again, our group met twice during March. We continued with the framework of setting the scene for conversation and then following with questions and replies.

The first meeting covered the scene of a young woman bringing her new boyfriend home to meet her mother. She explained to her mother that he would begin training to become a teacher on his return from his summer travels in Europe. Apparently his whole family, parents, two brothers and a sister, are all teachers.

The second meeting was slightly different in that we were all asked to say a couple of

sentences covering events or situations that had happened earlier in our lives. Given the broad backgrounds of our group, this was a very interesting session. We heard of a wide variety of events they had experienced; places they had visited and events that had stayed in their memories.

Once again, both sessions were dominated by everyday vocabulary, continuing, in the second meeting, to practise the use of the past tense.

French for Improvers - Christine Holt

At our first meeting this month, we talked about restaurants we had visited and the memories we had of that time and place. It showed what a well-travelled bunch we are. We heard about restaurants from Australia to Italy and France and more.

The theme for our second meeting was very broad. It was 'entertainment'. This covered a five hour opera, where you could go for a meal or a picnic in the middle; opera again but this time in Verona; a recent wonderful production of the 'King and I' and a visit to a wonderful theatre school in America, which as part of its programme, gave free musical instruments to children who wouldn't have been able to afford them. All these talks are always very interesting.

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

We were slightly down on numbers this month. We were at a member's home and, to be honest, our subjects of discussion varied widely.

Why can you grow that plant when I cannot? Why do garden centres describe some plants as "dwarf" when they should say, "slow growing but can reach several metres"?

If you don't have a greenhouse, what variety of tomatoes will grow outside?

When you visit a garden centre, are the staff plain talking, or do they make you feel like you know nothing.

One of our main subjects covered the health and wellbeing of gardening and how, some people need to focus on academics and others need to be physically hands on.

We are starting a list of things to do and places to see.

The Social Group are having a trip out to Harrogate in June. Now, although this is a Thursday event, we want to change our Wednesday meeting to this date. We know that a day out will allow us to visit whichever garden we want to.

We need ideas for April. We have a host for May. I have a National Open Garden List so I will see what is going on around our area.

History - Susan Cox

We had an interesting talk about The Industrial Revolution from Graham Topping in March. The Industrial Revolution (IR) began around 1750 until about well into the C19. Graham started his talk with descriptions of 'what life was like before the IR' i.e. rural, cottage textile industries etc. Then, more information about the driving forces such as steam powered machines, railways and better roads. We were told about some of the machine inventions/developers like the Spinning Jenny and the Water Frame. By 1860 there were 2,650 cotton mills and a population of 440,000 people in Lancashire. Although the migration of farm labourers, caused by mechanisation, led to improved farming methods as the workers moved to the towns. The cheap to build, crowded houses resulted in much disease like cholera, typhoid and TB. Factories were dangerous places to work in, especially for children. There were no antiseptics or anaesthetics until the mid C19. The health of workers only improved with the National Health Service in 1948. We concluded with a discussion about why the IR should have begun in the UK and there was much interest in the current river pollution problem.

There will be no meetings in April or May due to Bank Holidays, so watch this space for details of the June meeting. New members are always welcome.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

We looked at the Royal Collection as far as the Stuart monarchs and will later cover up to the present day. Our rather melancholy conclusion was that Charles 1st magnificent art collection effectively brought about Civil War and of course his very public demise. As with George IV, the monarchs with the

most artistic discernment proved to be the worst rulers!

Next month we will consider Mannerism, the rather loose term given to those artists who rejected Raphael's perfection and followed late Michelangelo's style. The best Mannerist paintings of Titian, Tintoretto, Parmigianino, El Greco, & Bronzino can be representative of this Art Movement.

Italian Group - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held at the Poulton Library on 7th and 21st March. The membership number is very strong with nine members in the Main Group and three members in the newly established Beginners' Group as a result of recent interest shown in offering beginners' level Italian learning. We are now running a 45-minute beginners' session from 10.15 a.m. at the Poulton Library before the main group session starts at 11.00 a.m. and are currently working through two initial sections of work to introduce the language. The Beginners' members then have the option of sitting-in on the Main Group afterwards. Our next two meetings will be on 4th and 18th April and following that meetings are projected for 2nd, 16th and 30th May then 13th June. The Beginners' Group is currently working through three major sections of elementary work including role-play conversation and pronunciation practice and listening and hearing practice using an audio CD. The Main Group is currently working on the grammatical aspects of Possession and Specification and Place. We continue to study articles on various aspects of Italian life, culture and literature. Having recently finished the Reading and Thinking Italian text we have moved on to a book of short Italian stories the first reading and listening articles of which have been about a Space Capsule (La Capsula Spaziale). And a similar book will then be used after that. Another article focused on an American sci-fi film called Innerspace which was made in 1987. There was also plenty of very good general conversation in Italian on a variety of topics including what we have been doing individually and a recent family reunion for one member of the group with relatives from Sicily.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

I don't need to take up too much space here. The music plays, the dancing commences and the world outside disappears.

Philosophy - Linda Parkins

This month our discussion centred on the difficulty between freedom, whether speech or actions, and rights of other people. Also, Sartre's statement that people spent an inordinate amount of time persuading themselves that they were not responsible for their actions.

Play Reading - Graham Bannister

The Group completed the reading of "Habeas Corpus" and started to read "When we are Married" by J.B. Priestley. The play was first performed in October 1938 at St Martins` Theatre London. The action takes place in the sitting room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckleywyke, a town in the West Riding. Three Yorkshire couples discover, as they are about to celebrate their Silver Weddings, that they were never legally married. Social embarrassment is followed by a dawning awareness that their lives have been overturned.

Poetry for Pleasure - Ann Fewson

Lots of excellent descriptive verse written about water in its various forms - be it waterfalls, lakes or rivers was our subject this month. We also considered several of Ted Hughes' rather more challenging poems which took the subject more obliquely. Some well-loved verse also figured such as Inversnaid and The Lake Isle of Innisfree and an amusing mock-heroic Ode by Thomas Grey about the death of a cat drowned in a tub of goldfish. Variety aplenty!

Next Meeting: Thursday 6th April.

Subject: Light verse

Recycling - Kathleen Smith

We will begin again in April on the second Tuesday. One morning and one afternoon session. What do you want to make out of pallet wood? Think about designing something unique that will make you smile.

Quiz and Games - Cindy Potter

At the February meeting there was a good turnout. The game Qwirkle was introduced to the group and proved popular and enjoyable. On 27th March the quiz returned and the random selection of team members was introduced giving quizzers the chance to meet new friends and make use of their memories!

At the next games meeting on 24th April Qwirkle will be available along with other table games. We hope to introduce Canasta to anyone who is interested.

New members are welcome at all our meetings.

Science and Technology - Graham Topping

We had a good turnout for Geoff Cowell's presentation entitled "Austin 7 centenary and an update on Lake District Archaeology".

He began with an update of the archaeological work he was involved with in the Lake District. This covered the evidence for a battle around the Roman fort at Ambleside, in particular the findings and location of the lead sling bullets used in this conflict. He finished with an examination of the evidence for a Roman Road between Broughton Roman Fort and Penrith.

The second part of his talk covered the centenary of the Austin 7 and he introduced the audience, through photographs and video links, the range of cars which over a thousand people had brought to this special event.

Our next meeting will be on 17th April when Stephen Fewster, a retired surgeon, will give a presentation entitled "Joint replacement".

Singing for Fun - Arthur Jones

Our theme at the March meeting was Musical Maths – but fortunately there was no great academic rigour involved. Our songs included numbers in their various forms and different combinations of the basic mathematical functions. We couldn't help noticing though that the mathematical prowess of some of the recording stars was

a little shaky to say the least. The Brits did better than the Americans, with Cliff telling us that one and one makes two whereas Elvis believed that six and six make fourteen, four and four make nine.

Our April meeting (2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 12th April) should be a little less mentally demanding, the theme being Showers and Flowers.

Spain Beyond the Costas - Sue Clark

At the March meeting we went well beyond the Costas, as far as Fez, in Morocco in fact. Fez was the capital of Morocco until 1912, when the French colonial power moved it to Rabat, but it remains the cultural and spiritual capital. We talked about the invasion of the Iberian Peninsula by the 'Moors', a mixed force of Arabs and Berbers, in 711 and the evolution of the regime which lasted for nearly eight centuries. There was a massive influence in styles of architecture, agriculture and gastronomy, still in evidence today, particularly in southern Spain. In the second half of the meeting, in small groups, members had to match seven famous Spanish artists to less well-known examples of their work, which proved a difficult task. They then researched one of the artists and presented their findings to the whole group.

There won't be a meeting in April, so the next meeting will be on Wednesday, 3rd May.



Travel - Mick Carey

At the meeting on 15th March, we were unable to go ahead with the planned presentation due to technical problems.

Fortunately, Clive Jones was able to step in and give us an interesting talk on a visit he made to Chamonix and the Mont Blanc area of the Alps, so all was not lost. Thanks Clive.

Thanks also to Julie for her patience and for agreeing to come back and deliver her presentation in April.

The rearranged programme is as follows.

19th April - Julie Kay on Norway

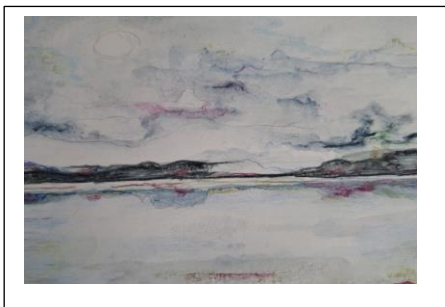
17th May - Dorte Ravenscroft on Bangkok

21st June - Claire and Bryan Fretwell Parker on Kefalonia and Scottish castles

Watercolours - Christine Cutts

Scenic Skies was our theme for March. It sounds lovely but I think we all found it quite challenging to fill a blank piece of paper with predominantly sky. Well done everyone - one of our harder themes.





Risk Assessment Advice

Members are reminded that, when participating in Wyre u3a activities, they do so at their own risk.

This is particularly relevant when undertaking any physical activity.

Carleton Memorial Hall

Bookings should be addressed to Peter Farrell.

Peter must be notified, in advance if the hall is not going to be used otherwise a charge will be made for the room

Wyre u3a Newsletter

This newsletter is published for members of Wyre u3a. Any opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the newsletter team, or of the Wyre u3a committee, or of the u3a Trust.

Wyre u3a

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Committee Contact Details

Chairman:	Kathleen Smith:
Secretary:	Kathleen Smith:
Treasurer:	Ted Armitage:
Membership Secretary:	Susan Cox:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth: groups.wyreu3a@gmail.com
Speakers' Secretary:	Kathleen Smith:
Minute Secretary:	James Morgan:
Social Committee:	Diane M. Whitworth, Norma Culshaw and Helen Kehoe: social.wyreu3a@gmail.com
Property Co-ordinator:	Jennifer Machell:

Other Contact Information

Newsletter Team:

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Wyre u3a Website:

u3a National Newsletter:

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

If unsure about any aspect of a Group meeting, always check with the Co-ordinator

Activity	Regular Meeting	Co-ordinator Contact	Venue
The Amblers Walking Group	Arranged monthly by the leader (see Newsletter)	Changes monthly (see Newsletter)	See Newsletter
Artists and Paintings in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries	3 rd Monday at 1.00 p.m.-2.30 p.m.	Barbra Cropper	Check with Co-ordinator
Badminton	Weekly on Wednesdays 10.00 a.m.-12 noon	Alison Hamer Pauline Ronson	All Hallows Church Hall Bispham.
Book Group (Monday)	1 st Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Helen Scarborough	Thornton Library
Book Group (Wednesday)	2 nd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Brenda Ormrod	Poulton Library
Card Making	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays at 2.00 p.m.	Carla Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Creative Writing	2 nd Monday at 10.00 a.m.	Ann Fewson	Lodge Cottage
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50 a.m. for 10.00 a.m.	Ken Speakman	HASSRA Green
The Dining Group	See Newsletter	Irene Evans	See Newsletter
Eat and Heat Group	To be arranged	Tony Ward	Please contact Co-ordinator
Family History	1 st Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Shaun O'Hara and Joanne Mathews	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00 p.m.	Ann Burley	Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays At 1.30 p.m.	Christine Holt	Fleetwood Golf Club
French Conversation	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"	Clive Jones	Thornton Library
Gardening	3 rd Wednesday at 1.30 p.m.	Kathleen Smith	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Gentle Movement to Music	Every Monday 1.00-2.00 p.m.	Linda Porter	St. Hilda's, Carleton
History	2 nd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Susan Cox	Carleton Memorial Hall
Italian Group	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"	Clive Jones	Poulton Library
History of Art	2 nd Tuesday at 10.30 a.m.	Martin Johnson	Check with Co-ordinator
Line Dancing	Every Friday from 1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. 1 st hour beginners.	Kathleen Smith	Carleton Memorial Hall

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues

If unsure about any aspect of a Group meeting, always check with the Co-ordinator

Live Music	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 p.m.	Pauline Powell	Tee Time Golf Centre Fleetwood Rd Thornton FY5 1RN
Philosophy	4 th Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Linda Parkins	Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Graham Bannister	Carleton Memorial Hall
Poetry for Pleasure	1 st Thursday at 10.30 a.m.	Ann Fewson	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Quiz and Games	4 th Monday 2.00 p.m.to 4.00 p.m.	Cindy Potter/Jean Steele	Carleton Memorial Hall
Recycling	2 nd Tuesday	Kathleen Smith	Contact Co-ordinator
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Graham Topping	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.	Arthur Jones	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spain beyond the Costas	1 st Wednesday at 2.00 p.m.	Sue Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	Fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Enid Vindel	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Travel	3 rd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Mick Carey	Carleton Memorial Hall
Walking	Last Wednesday of each month.	Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.	Christine Cutts	Carleton Memorial Hall

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