



MARLOW AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JUNE AND JULY
2024



A MESSAGE FROM OUR ACTING CHAIRMAN

As Acting Chairman of Marlow & District u3a, until the Annual General Meeting and election of a new chairman on June 27th, I take great pleasure in reporting on what has happened within Marlow's largest organisation during the last few weeks. May I join you all in thanking Isobel for the dedication and hard work that she has put in, on our behalf, by stabilising and developing our membership in that uncertain post-Covid period. My role as Vice Chairman was made both straightforward and easy with her at the helm.

I feel that I have taken on this temporary responsibility on strong and growing foundations and that we are in a healthy position for the future. It is heartening to see new members joining and this was particularly evident at our April monthly meeting when a sizeable number of recruits bolstered the numbers of those who attended.

It is pleasing to see that initiatives are now underway to protect and safeguard the security of our u3a membership, particularly over the internet and in financial terms. This pilot, undertaken by our influential ETT group, has made an encouraging start to its course as I witnessed when I recently attended a session in April.

I also feel that, not just in my short term of office, every member should be encouraged to attend our meetings and that all those joining us, with varying needs, is listened to and accommodated, thriving comfortably within our friendship.


The installation of a defibrillator (on Isobel's initiative) outside the Liston Hall, provided by Marlow & District u3a has been an additional statement of intent in terms of our good reputation with Marlow. Of course, it is hoped that it's there 'just in case' the Marlow community and its visitors need it.

Dave Part

YOUR COMMITTEE

David Part Acting Chairman chairman@marlowu3a.co.uk	711626	
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Niki Ralfs Joint Groups Convenor groups@marlowu3a.co.uk	473377	
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Pauline Pearson Secretary and Safeguarding Officer secretary@marlowu3a.co.uk	483717	
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Barbara Lawrence Membership Secretary membership@marlowu3a.co.uk	486734	
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Chris Eyles Treasurer finance@marlowu3a.co.uk	487295	
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Helen Glover Joint Groups Convenor groups@marlowu3a.co.uk	484074	
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Roger Shipton Co-opted Committee Member chairman@marlowu3a.co.uk	478968	
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MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:

Linda Saunders, Adrian Ayres, Susan Leyden, Derek Ansdell, Gerald Platten, Ann Hawkins, Carol Evans, Celia Ridley, Jane Wilson, Michael Jones, David Banks, Jennifer Morris, John Wheeler, Richard Griffith, Wendy Turnpenny, Susan Wagland, Jules Guy and Liz Harley

For any queries regarding membership please contact the membership secretary either by email: membership@marlowu3a.co.uk or phone **486734**

Barbara Lawrence



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Liston Hall 2.30 on the 4th Thursday of the month

Thursday 23th May

David Letts

New Meanings

Our speaker this month is David Letts who will talk to us about New Meanings. At New Meaning Training, High Wycombe, they support young people aged 16-24 in their self-development, training, education and employment.

Thursday 27th June

AGM 2pm

Regular Monthly Meeting will follow:

Alan Brewer

My Career as an Airline Steward

To describe Alan Brewer as "well-travelled" would be something of an understatement. During a 38year career with British Airways, (formerly BOAC) as an airline steward, this former BBC chef has travelled the world many times over and looked after Royalty, Prime ministers, Pop stars and Celebrities. In this light-hearted presentation, Alan shares with us some of his interesting encounters and anecdotes.



MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

March

John Caldicott – The History of the Foundling Hospital



John with a suit designed by Hogarth which Foundling Boys wore. It was very heavy!

John Caldicott's talk on the fascinating history of Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital, the UK's oldest children's charity, was delivered from a truly personal perspective as a former governor, the secretary of the Old Coram Association and as a foundling child himself. This story resonated, too, with those who were fortunate enough to have enjoyed the 2018 Days Out visit to the Foundling Museum.

Tracing the history of the hospital as a compassionate shelter and lodging for needy (and often abandoned) children and the renowned inspirational benefactor, Thomas Coram, as founder, John's powerfully moving slide show and accompanying references illuminated a social history that took us back to the reign of George II when the royal charter that he granted, accelerated plans for the construction of the new hospital.

This initiative drew the attention of people who we might now refer to as 'influencers' initially, 'ladies of distinction' and luminaries in the arts, such as George Frederick Handel and William Hogarth ... and the rest became history.

We learned of the daily routines and organisation, littered with anecdotes such as mothers leaving 'tokens' in case their child may be reclaimed in the future, and details of 'wet nursing' and fostering of the very young. Such was the interest that a ballot system for admissions was introduced as the fairest solution.

New branches of the hospital followed and in the 19th century, social reform brought in changes in living conditions affecting education, music training and preparation for apprenticeships. Few children were ever reunited with their mothers.

By the 20th century, significant change meant that family-based care became the trend. By 1925 the hospital had moved out from its Coram Fields location into the healthier countryside and a new school in Berkhamsted. As post-war social care approaches developed, this led to the Foundling Hospital becoming the Thomas Coram Foundation for Children.

At this point, John disclosed that he himself had been a foundling child. He'd been musically trained but received only a rudimentary general education, notably lacking in mathematics which became abundantly evident in his first job. What I didn't get to know at the time, from this poignantly informative talk, was that John later disclosed that he, eventually, went on to meet his birth mother.

The Westerham Foundling Hospital in Kent from 1760-1769, called Wellstreet, is now known as Chartwell, the home of Sir Winston Churchill for 40 years.

Dave Part

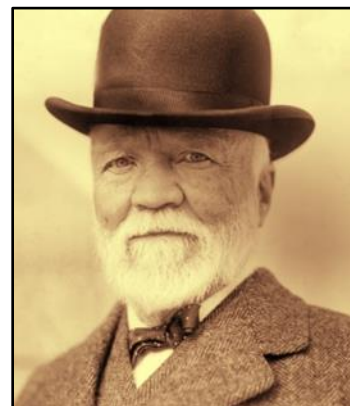
(Monthly Meetings continued)

April



April's monthly talk by Jeremy Holmes, a former trustee of the Carnegie UK Trust, turned out to be well attended by an encouraging number of new members. They were entertained by the fascinating story of a most extreme story of 'rags to riches' featuring the acclaimed Scottish/American tycoon and philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie, who became, arguably, the world's richest man.

We were guided through his early life expertly by Jeremy, who started with a vivid reference to the poverty existing within the textile industry in Scotland at the time of



Carnegie's childhood. His father, a hand loom weaver, tried to ply his trade in the upstairs room of a small cottage which housed a neighbouring family as well as his own. As the situation developed, the option of moving to the USA presented a challenging but rescuing solution to their impoverished state.

Just surviving the long sea journey was an immense hardship and the conditions on arrival were very much on a survival basis. As Andrew Carnegie grew, his first job, as a piecer, looked to be impossibly remote from his eventual prominence as the all-powerful steel industrialist.

Jeremy described Carnegie's career, aided by a collection of fascinating slides, depicting of his life from child poverty, through his breakthrough as a quick-witted telegraph operator, who progressed, through the massive period of nationwide railway development, to his monopoly of the USA's steel industry, which placed him at the top of the social and economic tree of his adopted country.

For this opportunist, the building of over 3,000 public libraries in the USA, and so many other worldwide humanitarian institutions, is a huge legacy and testament to the good work of a man who, for many, had been a ruthless, dictatorial boss, yet a great promoter of democracy and colonial independence.

When Carnegie managed to accrue his immense fortune, as a hard-line businessman, he decided to apply the philanthropic nature of his character to launch into major charitable work. This was, at first, most noticeable in the great number of libraries, funded in the name of his foundation, throughout the USA and beyond, notably in his native Scotland.

His world-famous Carnegie Hall attracted huge attention when Tchaikovsky conducted there on its opening night. He didn't do things by halves! Carnegie's philanthropy can also be measured in the influence he had on international peace initiatives, in education and ethical pursuits.

Dave Part



GROUP NEWS

groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

FRIDAY BRIDGE

This group meets on a Friday afternoon at 2.30pm in Liston Hall. Contact Helen Glover glover.marlow@yahoo.co.uk.

FAMILY HISTORY

The Family History Group meets on the first Thursday of the month at 10.00am in Liston Hall. **It is open to all members** of Marlow u3a. Contact Adrian Spearman adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com.

MATHS

The Maths Group meets every Tuesday at 10.00am. Why not give it a try, contact Terry Bowman terry@tbowman.co.uk for more information.

NEW GROUPS

The following groups are full but as we have members who wish to join them, it is time to start new/duplicate groups:

- Canasta
- Discussion
- Spanish Conversation

Already progress has been made and a new discussion group has been formed. However, there is sufficient interest in starting another.

If you are interested in joining any of these new groups, email groups@marlowu3a.co.uk and either Helen Glover or Niki Ralfs (the group co-ordinators) will get back to you.

COFFEE AND CHAT

This group was originally started by Barbara Shaffer many years ago.
It meets on Friday mornings at Da Luca in Marlow Bottom at 10.30 until 11.45.

Dot Jaques 07767 703552



ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT (ETT)

The ETT group holds its regular Monthly Meetings on the first Tuesday of Every Month at Christ Church (URC), 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL commencing at 2.00pm (Doors open from around 1.30pm and there is no admittance after 2.00pm). New Members are welcome to come along.

ETT Membership

Many thanks to all those Members who have taken out an Annual Subscription to attend our Monthly Meetings. The ETT greatly appreciates this show of confidence in our Group. Annual Subscribers benefit from a substantial discount on the entrance to the Monthly Meetings with fast-track entry plus priority booking on visits and other ETT events.

The ETT still offers a Pay-As-You-Go arrangement for those attendees who wish to attend on a Month-By-Month basis. The Monthly Meeting Attendance Fee has been held at £3.00 per person per meeting for this year. Please remember that all payments are now cashless and must be made by Debit or Credit Card.

ETT Monthly Meetings

Many thanks must go to both Alec Barron and Alan Fitzgerald for their sterling efforts in putting together such an appealing and balanced selection of future ETT Monthly Meetings.

The meetings for 2nd April (How to take good Photographs by Peter Davis, and for 7th May (Net Zero by Peter Carson) were well attended and proved to be most interesting, informative and enjoyable.

Programme:

Tuesday 4th June

Bird Flu, Man flu and Seasonal Flu

Jane Sellwood (Science Group, Reading u3a)

Tuesday 2nd July

Jesse Hartley – Civil Engineer to the port of Liverpool

Harvey Dodgson (Marlow u3a)

Tuesday 6th August

TBA as scheduled speaker not able to attend

Please note that for personal or operational reasons the program may need to be altered from time to time.

ETT Initiative

The Digital Literacy and On-Line Security Tutorial (DLOLS) Course for around 24 ETT Members has now held two formal tutorials on 9th April and 14th May with a further two tutorials scheduled for June and July.

This (already-full) course has proved to be very successful in advising on the advantages of using new digital technology that is leaving many of its older members behind to their detriment. The first part of each tutorial offers advice on digital devices (computers, laptops, tablets, and smartphones), home and mobile networks, software, applications and useful websites.

The second part of each tutorial is aimed at increasing awareness and be better prepared against cleverly thought-out and plausible confidence tricks, scams and fraud whether it is on the doorstep, on the telephone or on computers or smartphones.

Feedback from course attendees has been most encouraging as everyone has expressed their appreciation and thoroughness of the course content.

Members' Health, Safety and Well-Being

Like all other Groups, the ETT is taking its members' well-being very seriously and is continuing to monitor the situation in respect to Flu, Coughs and the latest Covid Variants. For the time being, the ETT is continuing to implement a couple of simple hygiene measures such as providing hand-sanitisers and ensuring better ventilation through the hall. However, and perhaps most importantly, members planning to go to ETT Meetings are requested not to attend if they show any signs of an illness in order to safeguard and protect others.

Nigel Cornish

FAMILY HISTORY

The family history group meets at 10.00 on the first Thursday of month at Liston Hall.

New members always welcome...

Over the last few meetings, we have welcomed a number of new members to our group and, with our help, they have all started their family history journeys. Q&A sessions in the second half of meetings will help them continue to build their trees.

We are an open group, please come and join us.

Upcoming meetings:

June 6th 'An ancestor who has made me proud' members invited to bring along their stories.

July 4th **New members follow up.** New members to show how their family trees have progressed and raise any queries which may have been uncovered during their research.

August – no meeting

September 5th 'Wills & Probate' Member, Karen, has prepared a presentation on this topic.

October 3rd 'Beginning Your Family History'. A presentation by outside speaker, Debbie Bradley

Adrian Spearman adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com



INTERMEDIATE ITALIAN

We are a group of seven, all with some knowledge of Italian. Recently we have gone back to revise our grammar book, 'Chiaro'. 'Easy Italian News' is something we listen to. It helps with our pronunciation as well as our understanding of oral Italian. We also have an Italian reading book called 'La Ragazza di Bube' which is set in Tuscany. We always find time to converse in Italian.

We have space for one more if anyone fancies joining our Zoom meeting and has some knowledge of Italian. Please contact Chris Elam at elamchris900@gmail.com if you would like further details.

Chris Elam



KNITTING GROUP

The knitting group has been busy as usual meeting more or less twice a month. We regularly knit simple very tiny blankets for premature babies at Stoke Mandeville and respond to other requests as well. Recently we heard that Marlow Age Concern would like some knee blankets for their passengers. Of course we were delighted to respond. This meant we didn't have to restrict the yarn to soft baby yarn, so could use up more of our other stash. We enthusiastically knitted 12" squares and then had a happy time designing them into pleasing layouts, including a subdued blanket we thought would appeal to gentlemen passengers. We decided 36" completed size would be just right for knee cover.



With amazing timing, we heard that the Faith, Hope and Stitches 4U-Team Church Group were looking for a good home for a beautiful larger blanket they had made so we added that to our collection.

Now all the passengers in the Marlow Age Concern bus are catered for - the hot blooded don't take a blanket, the coolish customers can have just a knee blanket, and if someone wants to feel really cosseted, they can have the larger one and snuggle down! With our English weather the blankets are going to be a year-round asset.



Now gardens need more attention, and holidays and outings planned, we will not be quite so productive during the summer months, but it is surprising how many small blankets can be knitted whilst watching TV. Of course, we will still meet up when we can - someone has to put the world to rights!

Jill Brownjohn



LUNCH GROUP

Friday 21 st June	The Bull, Bisham Ring Carole on 483903 to book	12.00 for 12.15	£3 for tip
Saturday 27 th July	Huntswood Golf Club, Taplow Ring Val on 524561 to book	12.00 for 12.15	£3 for tip

Carole Thorpe



MOTO GROUP

This group is for members on their own who wish to meet others in a similar position. We meet for coffee and a chat at The Old Brewery Public House in the middle of Marlow High Street on the third Tuesday of every month at 10-30

Tuesday 21st May
Tuesday 18th June
Tuesday 16th July

If you would like to join us but do not wish to come alone, please call **Carole** on **483903**

Carole Thorpe



**It's never too late to
start exercising.**

**That's why I'm
waiting until later.**

**Car and Driver says 95%
of electric cars are still
on the road. The
remaining 5% made it all
the way home.**

MUSIC APPRECIATION (MAG)

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday every month at Christ Church (URC), 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL starting at 9.45am. The group is open to all members of Marlow u3a. The Attendance Fee is £3.00 (cash payments only).

March

Rhidian Jones is one of the organists who plays regularly at All Saints church. He talked generally about the organ (built by Henry Willis and Sons and installed in 1898) and the specific features of this instrument in the URC. He then demonstrated playing music by William Byrd, Ralph Vaughan Williams and as you would expect, Johan Sebastian Bach.



April

Our favourite cellist, Elizabeth Corbett was with us. This was her fourth visit and again, she didn't disappoint us. She and John played: **Beethoven 12 variations on a theme from Handel's "Judas Maccabeus"** and **Chopin Sonata for cello and piano op. 65.**

After the break John talked about orchestral seascapes. Many Composers have been inspired by the sea and have written incredibly effective orchestral responses. Among other pieces we looked at Debussy's "La Mer" and

Mendelssohn's "Calm Sea and Prosperous Voyage". The session finished off with Khachaturian's ballet music Spartacus perhaps better known as the music from The Onedin Line.

Dates for the next meetings are:

Thursday 20th June and 18th July

mag@marlowu3a.co.uk john@johnlenehan.co.uk



RUMMIKUB D

This group meets in The George and Dragon on the **first Wednesday of each month at 2:30pm**. Everyone is welcome – members who can already play and those who wish to learn. Our grateful thanks to Niki for organising us so well. Long may it continue.

Meeting dates:

Wednesday 5th June

Wednesday 3rd July

Wednesday 7th August

Niki Ralfs 473377



STROLLERS

Jill Kemp 416998, Carole and John Battersby 474366

All walks are 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month unless stated otherwise, which start at 11 am

Please wear suitable footwear for the ground conditions. The walk leader should be contacted the day before to confirm attendance. If you need a lift or have any transport needs, please contact the nominated walk leader.

Wednesday 12th June Carole and John 474366 will take us on a walk in Cowleaze Woods, Stokenchurch, OX49 5HX. Take the A40 out of Stokenchurch towards Oxford. Turn left towards Christmas Common and Aston Rowant Nature Reserve. Go past the nature reserve and Cowleaze Woods will be on the left with ample parking. We will lunch at the Fox and Hounds further down the road - OX49 5HX

Wednesday 26th June Judi 474031 will lead us along the Jubilee River. Take the A4 Maidenhead Road in the direction of Slough. At the Sainsbury's roundabout turn right onto the B3026 signposted Dorney and Eton - this road goes over the M4. As you approach the Jubilee River look out for the car park on the left, JUST PAST THE RIVER, where we will meet and park. We will lunch later at the Dorney Kitchen Garden Centre Cafe.

Wednesday 10th July Carole and John 474366 will lead a walk along the river towards Bourne End, with lunch after at the Marlow Donkey. Drive down Station Road from Burgers, turn right into Lock Road, passing the pub, to the end of the road, then turn left into Gossmore Lane. Park in the car park near the river (down the lane opposite no25)

Wednesday 24th July Jill 416998 will lead a walk around Boulters Lock Island, Boulters Lock parking SL6 8JN. Take A4155 out of Marlow to Bourne End. At the roundabout past the shops take second exit towards Bourne End station and A4094 towards Maidenhead. Continue for about 3 miles and the car park will be on the right before the lock. We will lunch later at Ray Mill Island Cafe.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

THANKS! Many thanks to all the people who have provided input to this Marlow Newsletter – without you our members would be looking at just a list of events or even just blank sheets. Your Committee and Editor work hard to make the newsletter both informative and interesting, but we can't do it alone. **We need your help!**

We will be even more grateful for contributions that come unprompted – i.e. ones that arrive without the originator being cajoled – or even bullied a little – into writing a few words for the newsletter.

HOW DO I PROVIDE MY CONTRIBUTION? In any way you like! Email it; scribble it down on a sheet of paper – whatever comes easiest to you. Ideally, Email to newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER The deadline for your contributions will be **2nd July 2024**. Please send your articles and photos to newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk by then. Thank you.



WALKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

Jane Statham 01494 881634 jes@withurst.co.uk

Finally, the weather is improving and the mud is drying up, the blue bells are out and we are looking forward to some beautiful spring walks.

If you would like to join the walking group, please e-mail Jane Statham jes@withurst.co.uk

Details of walks will be e-mailed to members of the walking group about 10 days in advance and only members can join the specific walk by contacting the walk leader by email. Please arrive 10 minutes before the start of the walk. The numbers of walkers are restricted for any one walk. No dogs please. These are the dates of the walks and leaders for the next few months.

Wednesday Walks – Circular walks of around 5 miles

8 th May	Mary Bunker
15 th May	Richard
22 nd May	Stuart and Sandie
29 th May	Ed and Sandy
5 th June	Clive and Olivia
12 th June	Isobel
19 th June	Rob and Pam
26 th June	Arthur and Mavis
3 rd July	Norma Baker
10 th July	Marianne and Anne
17 th July	Christine and Mary
24 th July	Win and Chris
31 st July	Mike Basnett
7 th August	Ivan and Teresa
14 th August	Richard
21 st August	Lorraine and David
28 th August	
4 th September	Isobel

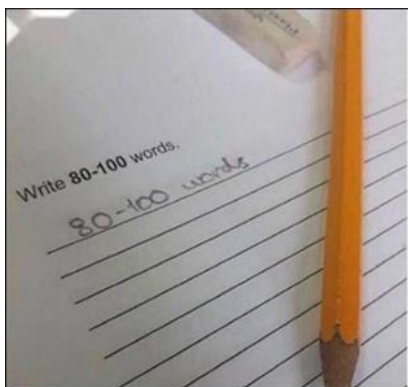
Long Loopers (Circular) and Long Leggers (from point to point) – Walks of between 8 and 10 miles

LONG LOOPERS

5 th June	Jeff Short
5 th July	Laurence
5 th August	Anne and Marianne
5 th September	Mike Basnett
5 th October	
5 th November	Jeff Short
5 th December	

LONG LEGGERS

21 st June	TBC
21 st July	TBC
21 st August	TBC
21 st September	TBC
21 st October	TBC
21 st November	TBC
21 st December	TBC



PHOTOS TO ENJOY
Walkers Walks



And from Jon Perry

