



MARLOW AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2025



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you enjoyed the festive season with family and friends and are geared up for the New Year. We seem to have begun with wintry weather!

Our new website has been launched. Have you had the opportunity to look at it? We would be interested in any comments you may have.

Our groups, which are key to our organisation, are continuing to offer a wide variety of activities for you all to enjoy. Recently two additional discussion groups were started, and a chess group was formed. If you think other interests could be catered for, please let us know; we are able to help form new groups where there is sufficient interest.

We have become aware that, due to the changing patterns of work, there may well be people who have time and interest in pursuing leisure and learning activities as well as meeting new people, although they are still in employment. If you know of anyone who falls into this category, please let them know that they can join u3a. We would welcome this new cohort.

Keep well and safe over the winter. The good news is that the days are finally getting longer again...







Roger Shipton

We need your help!

Please would you consider joining our committee or undertaking specific roles within the Marlow u3a!
For further information please get in touch with any of the committee members.

YOUR COMMITTEE

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

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:

Kathleen Blake, Noelle Butler, Elizabeth Diss, John Pearce and Lucie Foster.

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 23rd January **Tom Chambers** **Actor and Dancer**

Tom is a very well-known actor and dancer who lives locally. He has appeared in stage shows, such as **Top Hat, Dial M for Murder, Murder in the Dark.**

His numerous TV appearances include **Strictly Come Dancing, Waterloo Road, Holby City, Father Brown, Midsomer Murders** and many more.

Thursday 27th February **Tom Hartwell** **Wildlife and Documentary Cinematographer**

Tom, is a renowned local wildlife and documentary cinematographer. His many credits include **Springwatch, A Year on Planet Earth, Countryfile, The One Show** and Attenborough's **Life in Colour.** For **A Year on Planet Earth** he spent 8 months on Marion Island filming the King Penguins.

Thursday 27th March **Andy Smith** **Prosthetic Perils**

Andy is a double-amputee who suggests that life with a disability – whilst often challenging – can have its lighter side! Since losing his lower right arm and leg in an accident three years ago, he has had many adventures at home and abroad – though some adventures were best avoided!

During this presentation of pithy, entertaining poetry and commentary, Andy will tell us about childhood years when, in an extraordinary way, recollections of a WW1 soldier and a WW2 fighter pilot helped him to prepare him for personal trials to come.



GROUP NEWS

groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

CHESS

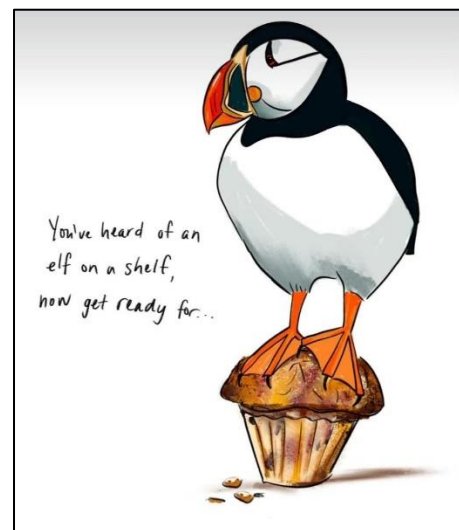
A Chess group has been formed. For more information contact either Roger Shipton rogershilton@gmail.com or Terry Bowman terry@tbowman.co.uk.

If you are having problems joining a group, please email groups@marlowu3a.co.uk and either Helen Glover or Niki Ralfs (the group co-ordinators) will get back to you.

LET'S TALK continues to meet in The Marlow Donkey every Monday at 11.00am for anyone to come along and meet a committee member and other members.

Where do bad rainbows go?

To prism. It's a light sentence, but it gives them time to reflect.



MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

November

PETER ELLIS – Mountain Explorer



On Thursday, November 28, our members were treated to a fascinating afternoon with Peter Ellis, mountain explorer extraordinaire, who focused the talk on his climb up Mount Everest in 2012. This universally most famous peak was, indeed, named after distinguished geographer, cartographer, Sir George Everest (pronounced 'Ee-ver-est'), Surveyor General of India, who was educated at the Royal Military Academy (Cadet Branch) at Remnantz in West Street, Marlow.



Peter went on to introduce us to the highest

mountains across the world's continents, which he had climbed, before the pinnacle of his exploring career, through a hugely impressive slideshow. Along the way, he introduced us to many aspects of such an expedition which were needed to complete tasks, facilitating both safety and maximum efficiency.

His description of the strategies involved, and the resources needed, was an eye-opener and enhanced the complexity of how to ascend over the terrain that besets anyone trying to complete such a climb.

The slow pace of the exercise and the amount of gear involved was a particular feature, along with the bravery and patience of the Sherpa guides, in ensuring that equipment, altitudes and temperatures could be dealt with confidently.

It came as no surprise when one audience member posed the question 'Why?' to start off a lively 'question and answer' session, following the talk. Significant, too, was the audience's need to be comforted by a 'nice cup of tea,' at the end, as we breathed in the non-rarified atmosphere of the Liston Hall, far removed from the problems of dehydration, malnutrition and stress, accompanying Peter Ellis's epic journey.

Dave Part

December



The Children from Marlow CofE Infants School gave us a lovely rendition of some carols!

DAVID ALLEN – Merry Christmas, Mr Dickens!

If I was to identify two essentials for my Christmas, one absolute priority would be to see a choir singing carols and another, at the top of my tree, would have to revolve around

Charles John Huffam Dickens and his seasonal imagery.

Our December u3a monthly meeting very impressively revolved around both and involved the reception class children from Marlow C of E Infants school, just twelve weeks into their formal education, who touched the hearts of our members when they took to the Liston Hall stage with a most enthusiastic performance.

Their three songs, delivered with well-rehearsed actions, were followed by a joyous audience participation in their well-deserved encore. Well done, children, teachers, classroom assistants and parents!

A hard act to follow, yet David Allen, Dickensian enthusiast and storyteller extraordinaire, gave us a whirlwind account of the great social reformer, warts and all, vividly painting an unforgettable image of the hardship and peculiarities of Victorian life and culture.

From his childhood experiences to the characters who Dickens came across in those London streets and beyond, David gave us a highly polished performance, full of well-researched anecdotal facts about the man who reached out to the Victorian masses through his writing and public speaking.

The talk featured not only how Dickens reached national and worldwide popularity but also delved into other sides of his personality and how strained his family life and health became. David, in true Dickensian tradition, most definitely left us with that feeling of 'Please, sir, I want some more.'



Dave Part

ART GROUPS

Another productive year has passed in which my Art Groups have produced some really lovely paintings. Many of our members have been attending the small fortnightly gatherings at my home in Furze Platt, Maidenhead for many years but I now find myself able to offer one place in the Friday morning group and also in the new Tuesday group from 10.00am to noon.

If anyone is interested in joining us, please phone **Anne** on **06913 425649** for more details.



Anne Barrie 06913 425649



COFFEE AND CHAT

The group meets every Friday morning at Da Luca in Marlow Bottom at 10.30 until 11.45.

Dot Jaques 07767 703552



FAMILY HISTORY

The family history group meets at 10.00 on the first Thursday of month at Liston Hall. We are an open group, why not come along and join us?

Family History – *let us help you find those hidden stories*

Upcoming meetings:

Thursday 6th February **Rags to Riches** Marguerite Fletcher (Chalfont St Peter u3a)

Thursday 6th March **Wills and Probate** Karen (Marlow u3a)

Adrian Spearman adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com



LUNCH GROUP

Carole and Val have decided to have a break for a year in running the lunch group. If anyone else would like to take it on, these lovely ladies would be only too happy to give them any advice and support.

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 January 2025

Tuesday 18th February

Tuesday 18th March

Tuesday 15th April

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

Carole Thorpe

MAH JONG GROUP

After leaving the George and Dragon we went to play in The Ark which I have to say was comfortable and we were made very welcome. After several months we had some enquiries and new and past members asked to join us. I felt we were taking over valuable space in the Ark which after all is a cafe for the community, so I managed to find new accommodation.

Hopefully we are now settled in the Everyman – the staff were very welcoming, and we have the room to ourselves.

Unfortunately we cannot accept any more members to join us at this time.

Wishing everyone a Healthy New Year



Pam Dawes 440808



MUSIC APPRECIATION (MAG)

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday every month at Christ Church (URC), Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL starting at 10.15am. The group is open to all members of Marlow u3a. The attendance fee is £3.00.

November



We were so fortunate to have as our soloist Alexander Sahatci, a young Swiss pianist and violinist who is currently studying at the Royal College of Music. Only 18, he has already won first prizes in various national and international competitions. As a soloist he has performed with a variety of prestigious orchestras.

Alexander gave an absolutely brilliant performance. To quote one member "he is the most talented and exciting performer that I have yet heard at a MAG meeting".

Mozart' Sonata K333 (1st movement)
Beethoven's Pathetique Sonata (2nd movement),
Chopin Ballade no. 1
Scriabin Fantasie op. 28
Kreisler-Rachmaninoff Liebesleid
Grünfeld Soirée de Vienne.

This was followed by a talk by John entitled the "War of the Romantics" - a philosophical dispute over the future of German music which Beethoven inadvertently started, Schumann later stirred up and which climaxed in a head-to-head between Brahms and Wagner.

December

We now have an established programme for our December meeting.

We watched some festive *films* to which John provided the live accompaniment, invariably funny and quite amazing. We then adjourned for some restive refreshments and concluded with a Christmas themed quiz.

A joyous end to another year of truly wonderful music.

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

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 1.40pm and there is no admittance after 2.00pm).

The ETT still offers a Pay-As-You-Go arrangement (at £3.00) for those who wish to attend on a Month-By-Month basis. Please remember that all payments are now cashless and must be made by Debit or Credit Card. New Members are welcome to come along.

ETT Monthly Meetings

December

The meeting on 3rd December 2024 was very well served with well over 40 members attending. To kick proceedings off, there was a Visual Quiz that was much appreciated by the audience as they waited for the meeting proper to start. The presentation entitled "Bridge Hydro" was co-presented by Pete Barber and assisted by Rob Olney. The overarching aim of Bridge Hydro is to implement a low impact hydro-power scheme to generate clean energy from the Thames. The aim is to use this resource to create a not-for-profit sustainability focused fund with the aim of benefiting the community with further sustainable initiatives. This will in turn help accelerate Marlow and Bisham's move towards becoming leaders in actively moving to net zero. The project is still very much embryonic with design and development on-going. The main problem appears to be securing sufficient funding and we wish the project team every success in this venture.

January

The first meeting of 2025 was held on 7th January with ETT Member, Alan Fitzgerald, giving a presentation on Britain's Early Trading Companies. It was fascinating to learn that some businesses were created as long ago as the 12th Century including many Guilds and Livery Companies. Today, for example, there are 111 Livery Companies around. In addition, a few notable companies were established from the 16th Century including the Muscovy Company (1556) which began trading with Russia and the East India Company (1600) which had a monopoly in India, Bangladesh and Pakistan. At one time this company accounted for half of the total world trade. The Hudson Bay Company (1670) controlled some 1,000,000 square miles in Ruperts Land (now part of Canada). All of these Companies were given exclusive Charters and were supported by the Government.

Interestingly, other early companies included the Royal Mint which was established as early as 886, Trinity House in 1514 and the Royal Mail in 1516. The talk was very well presented and illustrated and, most importantly, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The ETT then hosted its annual Christmas Social Event with lots of festive goodies for everyone to enjoy.

ETT Future Events

There is much to look forward to at the ETT in the coming months with several speakers already planned for the year plus there are a number of Visits in the pipeline which we will send details as soon as they are ready.

ETT Program 2025

Programme:

| | |
|----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 7th January | Britain's Early Trading Companies Alan Fitzgerald (Marlow u3a) |
| Tuesday 4th February | History of London's Airports Paul LeBlond (South Bucks u3a) |
| Tuesday 4th March | Water Quality – Use and Abuse Jane Sellwood (Reading u3a) |
| Tuesday 1st April | Radio Society of GB Martyn Baker (Guest Speaker) |
| Tuesday 6th May | Thames Valley and Great Western Omnibus Trust Colin Billington (Guest Speaker) |

ETT Member Well-Being

The ETT is keen to safeguard the health, safety and well-being of its members and requests that potential attendees do not come along to the Monthly Meetings if they have, or show signs of having, any illness.

Nigel Cornish

RUMMIKUB D

We meet 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 venue is now the library in Institute Road. We take our own drinks and the staff are very pleasant and welcoming. Even the Scrabble group have moved so we can be accommodated together.

Meeting dates:

Wednesday 5th February

Wednesday 5th March

Wednesday 2nd April

Niki Ralfs 473377



STROLLERS

Jill Kemp 416998, Carole and John Battersby 474366

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 leader.

Wednesday 12th March **Carole and John 474366** will take us round Burnham Beeches. Take the A355 from Beaconsfield towards Slough. Once in Farnham Common (before shops), turn right into Beeches Road, signposted Burnham Beeches. Follow along to the Visitor Centre and Car Parking. We will lunch at The café afterwards. SL2 3PS

Wednesday 26th March **Jill 426998** will take us for a walk towards Bray from the car park at the Toby Carvery Maidenhead. Take the A308 from Bisham roundabout through Maidenhead towards Windsor. Pass Maidenhead Railway Station on your right, under railway bridge and over roundabout. Soon turn left off dual carriageway signed Stafferton Lodge. Toby Carvery SL6 1BN is in front of you, park in their car park to the right and then left behind the Carvery where we will lunch afterwards.



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

APRIL AND MAY 2025 NEWSLETTER The deadline for your contributions will be

3rd March, 2025 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

Walking in the winter is always muddy but the beautiful views more than compensate. We have come across fallen trees, a result of the high winds but we have still enjoyed our walks.

The Walking Group Christmas lunch was held at Greenlands Hotel this year, organised by Roger and Sandie. It was most enjoyable.

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.

Wednesday Walks – Circular walks of around 5 miles

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 15 th January | Olivia and Clive |
| 22 nd January | John and Sue |
| 29 th January | Jeff Short |
| 5 th February | Win and Chris |
| 12 th February | Tim and Jenny |
| 19 th February | Sandie and Stuart |
| 26 th February | Isobel |
| 5 th March | Christine Young |
| 12 th March | Jill Cole |
| 19 th March | Richard |
| 26 th March | Jill and Jales |
| 2 nd April | TBC |
| 9 th April | Rob and Pam |



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

LONG LOOPERS

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 5 th February | Graham and Mary |
| 5 th March | TBC |
| 5 th April | Marianne and Anne |
| 5 th May | Jeff Short |

LONG LEGGERS 21st of each month

**Chocolate is vital for
our survival.
Dinosaurs didn't
have chocolate and
look what happened
to them...**

