



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I hope you have been able to enjoy the longer days, warmer weather, and fabulous countryside in which we live. Haven't the bluebells been magnificent this year!









We held a meeting for new members in early April. It was good to meet some of those who have recently joined us. Several suggestions were made for new groups to cater for their interests, and our group coordinators will be following up on that. Over the years some activities have been added to the list which are available to you but some (like the days out or theatre trips) have lapsed, largely due to a lack of someone willing to help organise these. We are a self-help organisation and we rely on members offering to help; if this doesn't happen some activities will simply cease to operate. Your committee is able to help establish groups for those with particular interests and, importantly, ensure that tasks are shared wherever possible so that no one is over-burdened.

I am pleased to announce that Rachel Bartlett has agreed to be co-opted onto your committee. She will focus on new members, together with Helen Glover. One of the ideas we have is to identify younger people who may have time and interest in benefitting from membership so, if you know anyone who might be attracted to u3a but nervous about not meeting people of their own age, do encourage them to get in touch. We are sure from other u3as' experiences that this can be an exciting development.

Your committee is interested to get your feedback on what works and what could be improved. You may also have ideas which are 'outside the box'. Do get in touch and let us have your views. By the size of our organisation we know we are satisfying many of your needs, but we aren't complacent – and want to see how we can further improve the membership experience for you.

Roger Shipton

YOUR COMMITTEE

<p>Roger Shipton 478968 Chairman chairman@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>		<p>Helen Glover 484074 Joint Groups Coordinator groups@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>	
<p>Pauline Pearson 483717 Secretary and Safeguarding Officer secretary@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>		<p>Rachel Bartlett 290824 New Members groups@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>	
<p>Chris Eyles 487295 Treasurer finance@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>		<p>Sue Irwin 487292 Co-opted Member groups@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>	
<p>Barbara Lawrence 486734 Membership Secretary membership@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>		<p>Niki Ralfs 473377 Newsletter newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk</p>	

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:

Roseline Birtles, Ann Mary Ware, Jennifer Fray, Elizabeth Howell, Valerie Bailey, Ann and Alan Savell, Ann Hilton, Terry Griffiths, Sara Symons, Stuart Hall, Jackie Morris, Andrea Maddison, James Barrett, Robert Newton, Elizabeth Dudley, Fumei Williams, Yvonne Abbott, Valerie Parry, Ann Eagleton, Mari and Ian Singleton.

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 22nd May

Denise Beddows No Job For a Woman

Told that hers was 'no job for a woman' and that she 'would not last', the speaker looks back on a career which spanned 37 years. Engaged as the first female Immigration Officer in the North West District, she has lived, worked and played in various countries during a career which saw her twice arrested, tear-gassed, mortar-bombed and briefly taken hostage, as well as being mistakenly presented to a US president. The amusing highlights and hair-raising incidents of her career are illustrated by some unique images. She now writes true crime and spy thrillers as Denise Beddows and biographical fiction and local history as D J Kelly.

Thursday 26th June

Brian Greenan "Frank Sinatra and the Mafia"

Brian is a very experienced toastmaster and an ex-Scotland Yard detective. We will hear all about Frank Sinatra and his alleged connections to the Mafia.

Brian will present the facts so that we can decide for ourselves whether or not Frank had any real connections to the world's biggest crime syndicate.

Was Ol' Blues Eyes really involved or was it just rumours?

Thursday 28th August

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!

Afternoon tea at Flackwell Heath Golf Course - cost £20

Full details will be in the next newsletter.

Jackie Willis



GROUP NEWS

groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

We had a successful meeting for new members in April. Some of the issues raised have been dealt with however, more new groups are required.

Spanish. Several new Spanish groups have started but there is room for more especially a new beginner's group.

Portuguese. One new member and her husband wish to learn Portuguese. Are there any more members who would like to learn, and do we have any members who are already fluent and would be willing to help organise a group?

French conversation. Do we have any members who are already fluent in French and would like to practise their conversation with other members who, perhaps, are not quite so fluent?

If you are having problems joining a group, please email groups@marlowu3a.co.uk and one of 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.

MEETING ROOMS

Since the loss of Waitrose in Marlow with its Community Room we have had a problem finding locations for our groups to meet that do not involve room hire. We have a Rummikub group that meets in the Library once a month on a Wednesday afternoon. However, the Library is now organising its own activities, and, on a Wednesday, it is available for Scrabble. This hasn't been a problem so far as there only appears to be one Scrabble board!

If you have any suggestions, please let either Helen or Sue know, email groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

March

ANDY SMITH – Prosthetic Perils



Our March guest speaker, Andy Smith, from Harpenden, arrived accompanied both by his wife, Hazel and, also, Tamba, their pet West African whippet. An original speaker, poet and raconteur, Andy wasted no time in describing the reasons for giving such an intriguing title to his delivery.

For, being someone who had been unfortunate to have lost his right arm and right leg, in an accident, at the age of 30, Andy launched into a fascinating talk, focusing on the way he adapted to the kind of enforced lifestyle that his amputations brought. While not making light of his horrific injury, and the major life decisions that he's had to cope with, Andy charmed his audience with his 'matter-of-fact' tales of the experiences which he has found a positive way through. His poems such as 'Bedsore Blues'; 'Top Spin'; 'Carpe Diem'; 'What's Been Lost' and 'Rallying Call' highlighted, in rhyme, his positive and, on occasions, hilarious approach to otherwise foreboding situations.

His humorous anecdotes brought home the trials that Andy had to go through when faced, too, with serious setbacks and absurd circumstances. Living with the daily prospect of Covid-19 had been another, additional, huge challenge to take on. Seeking inspiration from heroic amputees of the past, his Christian faith and the sterling work of the NHS, Andy emerged out of that global crisis with determined zeal.

His work with Hazel on their numerous visits, supporting aid projects in Sierra Leone, particularly those connected with the horrific outbreak of Ebola, has been a truly worthwhile avenue of interest for them to pursue and follow, in this other dimension of their inspirational lives.

Dave Part

April

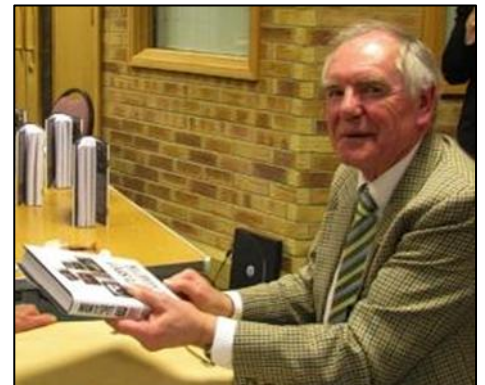
BILL HAMILTON – Oh No, Not You Again!

Bill Hamilton, the guest speaker, at the April monthly meeting, returned, for the third time and his humorous introduction reflected how much he and our members have valued and continue to relish these presentations. He has such a rich seam of experiences of the world stage, from his early days as a reporter in Scotland then a huge back catalogue of assignments, from major international conflicts to the appalling conditions of human suffering, that he has witnessed in his widespread charity work.

For the most part, though, we were treated to a whole host of 'laugh out loud' tales of absurdities and bizarre events, which went a long way towards illustrating a colourfully rich and varied life. Alongside Bill's presentation skills – and, at one point, we thought he'd collapsed on the Liston Hall floor (his representation of someone who had been involved in one of his stories) - Bill milked every anecdote, for everything that it was worth.

Accompanied by a selection of his vast personal record of career moments, Bill came up with surprising, sometimes shocking, but always, interesting snapshots of his professional life. Delivered in breath-taking style, throughout, with immaculate timing, Bill led us through what is what it's like to be the 'man on the spot', at world shattering landmarks, in his roles with Tyne Tees TV and the BBC.

Bill has been an amazing presenter, and his enthusiasm will have left another deep impression of his remarkable journey. I'm sure he'll be a most welcome guest in the future, if the audience's appreciation is anything to go by.



Dave Part



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

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).

The ETT 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 must be made by Debit or Credit Card.

New Members Welcome

New Members are welcome but, prior to coming along, please contact us through the Marlow & District u3a website for details on how to join the Group.

ETT Monthly Meetings

April

The meeting on 1st April we had guest speaker Martyn Baker who is Manager of the National Radio Centre located at Bletchley Park, which showcases the development of, and the current use of, essential radio communication technologies in our busy everyday world. His presentation described the different uses of radio to communicate and explained how signals are propagated including features of the various transmission frequencies. He also described the influence of the sun on the ionosphere.

May

The meeting on 6th May was on "Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust" presented by Colin Billingham. The talk described how the Great Western Railway expanded its field of operations between 1900 and 1933 by providing buses and coaches to transport travellers from its railway stations out to the smaller towns and villages as well as to the countryside including Lands End. The Trust has a collection of heritage vehicles from this period including one that has been recently restored. Colin described how this coach was found and the painstaking process of it restoring it to pristine condition.

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 is a visit to Bletchley Park on 31st July in the pipeline.

ETT Program 2025

Programme:

Tuesday 3rd June*	Le Mans 1955 – Motor Racing’s Darkest Day Rod Greygoose (Marlow u3a)
Tuesday 1st July	A Year in AI Andrew Rogoyski (Guest Speaker)
Tuesday 5th August	London Underground and Transport Museum Barry Le Jeune (Guest Speaker)

** Celebrating 10 years of the ETT (See separate feature)*

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



MAHJONG

Oh, how quickly this year is going by, but we at Mahjong seem to be still enjoying our game and are extremely grateful to the Everyman staff for allowing us to play there, especially as we seem to attract passersby who stand watching us play the game through the windows.

We have people coming in to enquire "what is the game" and others who relate tales of long ago when they played in the Far East., which all adds up to a friendly atmosphere.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept any more people as we only have 4 sets to play with but enquiries are welcome as the Thursday group has vacancies, and they play in the Ark Cafe from 9.30am

Pam Dawes 440808

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 off Marlow High Street, on the third Tuesday of every month at 10:30

Tuesday 20th May

Tuesday 17th June

Tuesday 15th July

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

Carole Thorpe



MUSIC APPRECIATION (MAG)



As Christ Church (URC) is no longer available on a Thursday morning we have had to change our meeting day. In future, our meetings will be held on the third Monday every month at Christ Church (URC), Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL starting at 10.30am. The group is open to all members of Marlow u3a. The attendance fee is £3.00.

March

We were expecting young violinist Madeline Grambow but she had injured her hand. Instead, Cristian de Sa agreed to come and played sonatas by Debussy and Brahms which was great!

Have you ever wondered if composers get bored writing for the same forces all the time? After the break we explored some unusual instruments, and which composers wrote for them. Haydn, Mozart and Beethoven all found new sounds that inspired them and so did the beach boys! Along the way, we discovered an instrument that you play without touching it, and another that, it was believed, drove people insane.

A most enjoyable and informative morning.

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



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 4th June

Wednesday 2nd July

Wednesday 6th August

Niki Ralfs 473377



PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Group was established earlier in the year with the aim to help people take better photographs and to have some fun. For us 'better' is not defined by a set of rules but by what the individual wants to achieve. There are no competitions and no judges.

We meet every two weeks, and the first meetings have been practical sessions focussed on learning about the different functions once you take the camera/phone off automatic. The meetings are very informal with more emphasis on taking photographs than chalk and talk.

Between meetings members can take photographs with a particular theme which are then discussed at the next meeting. There is no obligation to submit anything, but the discussion is an opportunity to learn from other people's ideas. Topics have included the moon, close-ups and moving water. Here are some of the members' photographs.



Steve Illman

steveillman@tiscali.co.uk



STROLLERS

Jill Kemp 416998, Carole and John Battersby 474366

All walks are 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month unless stated otherwise and start at 11am. Please wear suitable footwear for the ground conditions. The group leader should be contacted the day before to confirm attendance and if you are staying for lunch. If you need a lift please contact the nominated walk leader.

Firstly don't forget **Jill's 416998** walk on **Wednesday 28th May** from Hurley. Details in the last newsletter.

Wednesday 11th June **Sue 485275** will take us to see the Oxeye Daisies and Pyramid Orchids in the field opposite Pinkneys Drive Car Park SL6 6QG. Take the A308 Road from the Bisham roundabout towards Maidenhead. Pass the large green area of Pinkneys Green. Turn right into Pinkneys Drive, past the Cricket Club, through the village and then look out for the entrance to the car park on the right amongst the trees. (If you get to the T junction at the Henley Road you have gone too far). We will then lunch at the Stubbings Garden Centre Cafe SL6 6QL

Wednesday 25th June **John and Carole 474366** will lead our walk today. Meet and park at the end of Pound Lane near the Henley Road. We will then walk towards Harleyford and lunch afterwards at Hillier Garden Centre SL7 3RB.

Wednesday 9th July **Jill 416998** will lead a walk by the river from Boveney. Take the A4 towards Slough. Turn right at the Sainsbury's roundabout onto the B3026 signed Dorney and Eton. Continue through Dorney village, across the cattle grid onto the Common and turn right down Boveney Road, where the car park is on the right between the trees. We will then lunch at the Dorney Court Garden Centre SL4 6QP.

Wednesday 23rd July **Judy 474031** will take us to see the Cow Pond Water Lilies in Windsor Great Park. Drive through Old Windsor. Turn Right at Mini roundabout at the end onto A328 (Priest Hill) to Englefield Green. Towards top of hill bear right onto Castlehill Road, then right onto Bishopsgate Road and then left onto Wick Lane. Turn right into the Saville Gardens car park (TW20 0UU) off Wick Lane. We should share cars as parking is expensive. We will lunch afterwards at the Bells of Ouzeley Harvester in Old Windsor SL4 2SH.

WALKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

Jane Statham 01494 881634 jes@withurst.co.uk

The walking group is as popular as ever and we have had some new members join us. The mud has finally dried up and spring has arrived! Walking in the Chilterns is glorious in the spring.

The group is rightly proud at the installation of our eighth gate! As usual, we had a little celebration at the gate followed by a walk through the bluebell woods. Look out for the plaques "Donated by Marlow u3a" as you go through gates in the Chilterns.

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

21 st May	Mike Basnett
28 th May	Mary Bunker and Jill
4 th June	Jeff
11 th June	Richard
18 th June	Norma
25 th June	David and Lorraine
2 nd July	Tim and Jenny
9 th July	Isobel
16 th July	Stuart and Sandy
23 rd July	Ivan and Teresa
30 th July	Liz

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

LONG LOOPERS 5th of each month

5 th June	TBC
5 th July	Laurence

LONG LEGGERS 21st of each month



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 2025 NEWSLETTER The deadline for your contributions will be **30th June 2025** Please send your articles and photos to newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk by then.

Thank you.

ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY & TRANSPORT GROUP



The prospect of an ETT Group was first mooted in December 2014 when a group of four individuals (comprising Nigel Cornish, Mike Davis, Brian Humphries and Len Ladd) held a meeting to discuss the concept.

From the outset, this new Group was to be aimed at providing a broad range of subject matter that would be of interest to as wide an audience as possible whilst having sufficient engineering detail to be informative, interesting and entertaining.

The Inaugural Meeting was held in the Garden Room (Liston Hall) on 2nd June 2015 with some 24 members in attendance. From this humble beginning and within just a couple of months, the number of attendees rapidly grew, so much so, that the meeting venue had to be moved to Christchurch (URC) to accommodate everyone.

Over the past 10 years, there have been around 120 presentations including some notable talks that include 'The Royal Clocks of Windsor' (which attracted a record 100 attendees), 'Early Railway Disasters and Lessons Learnt', 'Global Warming', 'Constructing Cross Rail', 'Volcanoes and the Environment', 'Computing and Artificial Intelligence', 'Medical Diagnosis and Procedures', 'Lidar Technology', 'Thames Bridges' and 'Observing Earth from Space'.



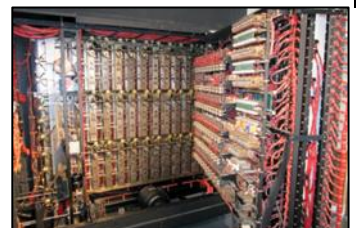
In addition, the ETT has organised around 20 Visits to places of interest including 'RAF Bunker Uxbridge', 'Submarine Museum Gosforth', 'Aerospace Filton', 'Bletchley Park', 'BMW Cowley', 'Bremont Watches (Henley)', 'Farnborough Airport', and 'Fawley Hill' to name but a few.

Throughout the Covid Epidemic the ETT maintained regular contact with its members by providing a weekly newsletter or quiz as well as continuing ETT Meetings via the Zoom audio / visual platform.

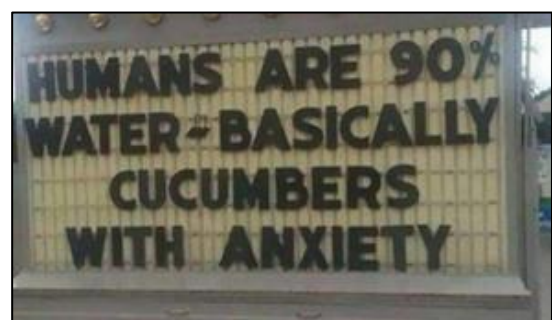
Another major success was the six session Digital Literacy and On-Line Security Course run exclusively for ETT Members pioneered by Rod Greygoose and Robin St. John Smith and supported by Nigel Cornish.

The ETT is proud of its many achievements and is celebrating its 10th anniversary in grand style at the Monthly Meeting on 3rd June 2025. After ten years of service, this will also be the last meeting that I will be undertaking as the Convenor. This role will now be undertaken by Alan Fitzgerald (Convenor) and Jackie Vaughan (Deputy Convenor).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved for their support and to wish the new team every success in the future.



Nigel Cornish, Convenor



WEDNESDAY WALKERS' PHOTOS



A new gate!



STROLLERS' PHOTOS



How wonderful Nature is – the regeneration of this old tree stump!



Cowslips ... in abundance



Walkers beware!!!

