



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

I often only briefly read 'u3a matters' - lots of excuses! - but I gave the latest edition my full attention. I was struck by the variety of articles and the number of ideas they provoked. It was particularly interesting to learn what other u3as were doing. I wonder whether you have also been provoked into considering ways in which your u3a experience could be enhanced? We'd be very interested to hear of any ideas you would like to pursue.

As you know, we are a self-help organisation. Many of you already are involved in a number of activities to support our organisation and we are extremely grateful for your involvement. However, we need help to fill a number of positions. Are you able and willing to help? We are not expecting major time commitments, and your committee will endeavour to help with guidance and advice wherever possible. Currently the following roles need volunteers:

Independent Examiner. Someone with accountancy experience is needed to be our independent examiner.









Vice Chairman. An individual is sought to join our committee to contribute to the smooth running of our organisation.

Speaker Organiser. Two or more people are needed to **organise speakers** for our monthly meetings. Without volunteers for these roles, it is likely we will no longer be able to hold monthly meetings after the end of the current calendar year.

I hope you were able to enjoy the sunny weather we experienced last month, and avoided any adverse effects of the heat. Have a very good summer!

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 Joint Groups Coordinator 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:

Jean Hodes, Deborah Poole, Carole Palmer, Carol Horne, Audrey Backer, Sean Nash, Andy Kinnear, Penny Goalby, Tricia Hylton, Bena Wilkins, Lynne Nicoll, Jeffrey Wagland, Tim Gigg and Elizabeth Rogers.

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 24th July

Nigel Brice

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

This presentation is about the history of the CWGC and its work today. The presentation starts with how the Commission began, its work during the First and Second World Wars and concludes with its work today in maintaining and preserving their historic estates around the World.

The presentation will also focus on the war graves in our local area and tell the stories of some of those we commemorate.

Thursday 28th August at 2.30pm AFTERNOON TEA AT FLACKWELL HEATH GOLF CLUB

If you would like to join us, please phone Jackie Willis on 482181 **from 24th July between 10am – 6pm only**. Alternatively, give her your name at the next monthly meeting. **The cost is £20**. Please make your cheque payable to Marlow u3a and write in black or dark blue ink with no mistakes. Early booking is essential as numbers are limited.



Directions to the golf course – use Postcode HP10 9PE

Take Marlow to Bourne End Road and at the roundabout beyond Hilliers garden centre, take 1st exit onto Sheepridge Lane, passing Crooked Billet P.H. on your left. At the road junction turn right and at the roundabout, by the shops go, straight over, passing Sainsbury's on the right. Take the first left onto Common Road, just before The Cherry Tree P.H. (one way system). This leads onto Treadaway Road and the golf club will be on your right.

Please car share where possible and let Jackie know if you are able to give a lift to others if required.

Jackie Willis



GROUP NEWS

groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

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.

ART APPRECIATION

The response to forming a new Art Appreciation group, has been very positive! Now we need to set this up and run with it, so we will be meeting with Marilyn Short, convenor of the original Art Appreciation group, for a few guide lines as to how we go about this!

The start-up meeting will be held on Wednesday 23rd July in the Garden Room at Liston Hall at 2.30, and if you are interested to be a part of this group, please come and find out what it is all about. We look forward to seeing you there!

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

May

DENISE BEDDOWS – No Job for a Woman



Dave Part with Denise Beddows

Now living in the Chilterns, a long way from her native Manchester, Denise Beddows, in her career, became the first female immigration officer in the North-West District, rising to the rank of Chief Immigration Officer

She developed her language skills into a knowledge of German, French, Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and Portuguese, all put to good use, in the service of the UK government. This helped her to gain a solid background for research, investigation and intelligence analysis.

Currently, she enjoys her retirement pastime of being a writer and author and, as well as producing true crime, spy thrillers and biographical fiction, under her own name, in addition to local history, as

DJ Kelly, in which she explores, in her writings, the famous and infamous characters around the Chalfonts, along with the wartime history of the area. Denise is a Member of the Society of Authors and Chiltern Independent Authors. She is a founder of the 'Chiltern Kills Crime' Writing Festival.

Having been told that her career as an immigration officer wouldn't last, she survived 37 years in the role, having married the one work colleague who encouraged her to succeed. She was to spend 31 years as a UK diplomat. Denise's career took her to 20 countries and 4 continents, and she regaled us with numerous tales of her experiences, quirky stories and anecdotes along the way.

Twice arrested, tear-gassed, mortar-bombed and briefly being taken hostage, in her amazing adventurous daily life, representing the UK abroad, Denise told us how she was once mistakenly presented to a US president, in a succession of serious security errors.

All in all, a life well spent and a story that's continuing to interest our members in revealing the kind of experiences that only a few will have ever encountered

Dave Part

June

BRIAN GREENAN – Frank Sinatra and the Mafia

Brian's presentation of his research on the history of the Mafia across the USA and its links with Frank Sinatra took the audience for the June monthly talk right back to the 1880s when migration from Sicily became a significant influence and which eventually ended up with a domination of North America's gangland, financial institutions and political influence.

Frankly, we'd been given an offer we couldn't refuse – Brian's enthralling story behind the Mafia's, and what became obvious of Frank Sinatra's connections with them, were fired at us, with machine-gun-like rapidity, by this maestro of the delivery.

Brian 'The Boss' Greenan's background as a detective showed up in its riveting slide show, attention to detail punctuated, with a wealth of comments, from his thorough research. He led us to the key cities of the USA and Canada where the mafia had its headquarters and right to Cuba where an offshoot of their power emerged in the nightclubs and casinos.

Covering major unanswered questions from the USA's social and political history from the early days of gangland, with the Italian, Jewish and Irish migrant communities, particularly, and their interaction, leading all the way through family connections to a convincing conclusion as to the true story, Brian explained his complete analysis of how the organisation supported the wide network of the singer's connection with the Mafia.

For all his efforts, I promised Brian safe passage home from our very own heartland of cosy crime.

Dave Part



Brian Greenan with new member, Elizabeth Gardner



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

DISCUSSION GROUP

Our discussion group continues to thrive, with lively debates and thought-provoking conversations. Recent topics have sparked interesting discussions, including our exploration of the prison system. One highlight was Jim's creative and thought-provoking take on potential civil war scenarios, complete with invented flags for different factions! What stands out is the group's ability to engage with diverse perspectives, respectfully navigating our differences, with lots of raised eyebrows and eye rolls of course!!! This spirit of open-minded discussion is what makes our group important to us, we meet on the first Wednesday of the month and most of us do try and make it!

We're grateful for the opportunity to explore complex issues together and look forward to many more stimulating conversations. If anybody would like to join, I may have one or two places, please get in touch with Lynne 07714 030003

Lynne Leighton Hare 07714 030003



DAY TRIP TO ELY ON 29TH MAY 2025

What a wonderful opportunity Sue gave us to visit a special exhibition - 'Threads through the Bible' at Ely Cathedral. It was well worth the long coach journey. The Cathedral itself was magnificent and a fitting backdrop to the splendid work we had come to see. 44 large panels themed Creation, Cross and Revelation, each story told on a single bedsheet by Jacqui Parkinson, a textile artist who took 10 years to complete it and 25 million stitches "thanks to a wonderfully reliable freemotion sewing machine". She certainly had vision. The panels were in groups around the cathedral - vibrant and stunning, with so much to admire.

A quick wander round Ely and a welcome break at 'Marmalade & Jam' cafe for a cream tea with the best scones and an interesting chat with a local provided entertainment. A very memorable day out.

Linda Niven & Jill Brownjohn



These are just a few examples



If anyone would like to go and see this exhibition it will be at Guildford Cathedral from 24th September until the 24th November 2025.

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 beginning 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 or email ett@marlowu3a.couk

ETT Monthly Meetings

June

At the meeting on 3rd June we had one of our popular members, Rod Greygoose, presenting a moving tribute to F1 Motor Racing's darkest day. The presentation told the story of the race, referred to at the time as "World War 2 on The Track", between Jaguar and Mercedes-Benz, which resulted in an unimaginable loss of life. He examined the factors underlying the tragic outcome including the teams, the drivers, the cars, the track and the intense rivalry stemming from the European conflict which had ended scarcely a decade beforehand.

July

The subject of the meeting on 1st July was "How AI is beginning to be used in transportation today?"



presented by **Glenys Hart and Robert Sprigge**. Their talk ranged over many modes of transport (Automotive, Ships and Planes) and how AI technology was being used there and the benefits (?) it's bringing. Although not a particularly new technology (at least 40-years old) the last decade has seen enormous improvements in its capabilities. At the same time, it has become a huge energy user as vast stores of data are needed continuously to improve AI's abilities to 'learn'.

As well as the "AI" presentation, ETT also celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its formation. Nigel Cornish was retiring as Convenor, and we marked the occasion with an engraved clock commemorating his dedication and long service.

ETT Program 2025

Tuesday 5th August	London Underground and the Transport Museum Barry Le Jeune (Guest Speaker)
Tuesday 2nd September	HS2 Keith Hoffmeister
Tuesday 7th October	Trackside in Formula 1 Ben Simpson

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.

Alan Fitzgerald



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 19th August
Tuesday 16th September
Tuesday 21st October

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

Carole Thorpe

MUSIC APPRECIATION (MAG)

Our meetings are now held on the **third Monday** every month but at the same venue, Christ Church (URC), 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL. We start at 10.30am and the group is open to all members of Marlow u3a. The Attendance Fee is £3.00 (payments cash or card).

June meeting

A return visit of Alice Chadwick-Jones. This was Alice's third visit but since the last she has formed **The Wigmore Trio** with fellow students of the Royal Academy of Music.

Alice Chadwick-Jones - violin

Yash Saran - cello

Lia Matos-Wunderlich – piano

Initially they played a dramatic early trio by Beethoven.

Beethoven Piano Trio 3 in C minor, op 1. no. 3

Allegro con brio,

Andante cantabile con Variazioni,

Minuetto quasi Allegro, Prestissimo

Alice then played, with the enthusiasm that we associate with her, a couple of virtuoso pieces. She was accompanied by her mother Olivia Travers.

Kreisler - Tambourin Chinois

Wieniawski - Polonaise de Concert op 4

The programme then concluded with the trio playing the theme music from Ladies in Lavender.

After a break, John talked about Fritz Kreisler - the fascinating story of the Viennese violinist who played to Brahms, had lessons with Bruckner and, after making early 78 rpm recordings, became the first real "pop star" (along with Enrico Caruso). He tricked the musical establishment for decades unearthing lost 18th century music, which it turned out he had written them himself! He died in 1962 aged 87.



There will be no meeting in August, the next meeting will be Monday 15th September

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



FOOD SCULPTURES

A good excuse for someone to play with their food, methinks!

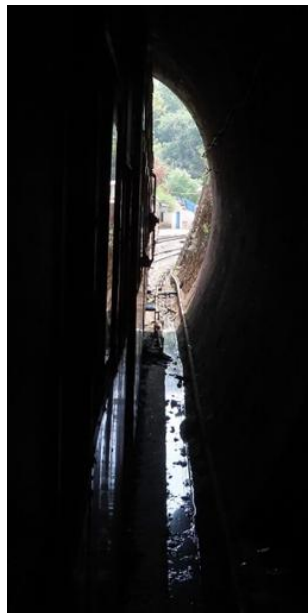


- I'm obsessed with telling airport jokes. My doctor says it is a terminal problem.
- Did you hear about the actor who fell through the floorboards? He was just going through a stage.
- I was told I needed to stop acting like a flamingo. So I put my foot down.
- Just burned 2,000 calories ... that's the last time I leave brownies in the oven while I nap.
- What do you call a fake noodle? An im-pasta.
- RIP boiling water – you'll be mist.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Group continues to meet every two weeks with the meetings being informal with more emphasis on taking photographs than chalk and talk. We focus on the different camera functions as well as composition and techniques. There are no competitions and no judges.

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. Since the last newsletter themes have included composition, shadows, panoramas and black and white. Below are some of the recent member's photographs.



Steve Illman steveillman@tiscali.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 Marlow Donkey**.

Meeting dates:

Wednesday 6th August

Wednesday 3rd September

Wednesday 1st October

Niki Ralfs 473377



SPANISH INTERMEDIATE

We are a friendly group which meets at Cote at 10am on the second and fourth Friday of every month. If you want to practise your Spanish, whilst having fun, please join us.

Friday 8th August

Friday 22nd August

Friday 12th September

Friday 26th September

Pat Fricker pat.fricker@btinternet.com



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 Judy's 474031 walk on Wednesday 23rd July from Saville Gardens Car Park. Details in the last newsletter.

Wednesday 13th August **Sue 485275** will take us on a walk round Roach Pit Lake where the Dido Film Studio may be. Meet and Park in Church Rd by the church in Little Marlow SL7 3RU. We will lunch afterwards at the Britannia in Marlow SL7 1HL

Wednesday 27th August **Marian 481417** will take us on a walk in Wycombe's Rye Park HP11 1QX. From Handycross roundabout take A404 towards High Wycombe, right at the bottom into Abbey Way, veer right into London Road A40 (towards Beaconsfield), with the park on your right. Go straight on at the Gordon Road roundabout and pass the cricket ground on your right. Immediately turn right into Bassetsbury Lane and soon right into Rye Park leading to the Car Park near the LIDO swimming pool, HP11 1QX. Meet and park there. We will lunch afterwards at the Britannia in Marlow SL7 1HL.

Wednesday 10th September **Jill 416998** will lead a walk from Boulters Lock Car Park SL6 8JN along the river towards Cookham. Take A4255 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 the Ray Mill Island Cafe.

Wednesday 24th September **Judy 474031** will lead a walk round Little Marlow Lake. Meet and park in Church Road by the Church in Little Marlow SL7 3RU. We will lunch afterwards at the King's Head SL7 3RZ



WALKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

Jane Statham 01494 881634 jes@withurst.co.uk

Co-ordinator Jane Statham 01494 881634 jes@withurst.co.uk

Summer is a fabulous time for walking. When it is hot, we try to do mainly woodland walks and make frequent drink stops. Generally, the mornings are cooler and we are back before the heat of the day.

Though the walking group continues to be really popular for the 5-mile Wednesday walks, we recently have had less walkers participating in the longer walkers. Please let me know if you fancy stretching your legs for a walk between 8 and 10 miles, we would love you to join us.

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

30th July	Liz
6th August	Norma
13th August	Christine and Mary
20th August	Richard
27th August	Jane
3rd September	Mike Basnett
10th September	Jeff
17th September	WALKERS' HOLIDAY
24th September	Clive and Olivia
1st October	Isobel
8th October	Liz
15th October	Win and Chris

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

LONG LOOPERS 5th of each month

5th August	Laurence
5th September	TBC
5th October	Jeff

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

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER The deadline for your contributions will be **31st August 2025** Please send your articles and photos to newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk by then.

Thank you.



WEDNESDAY WALKERS' PHOTOS



Archangel Nettle



STROLLERS' PHOTOS



Pre internet chat room using
An old version of windows.



Benedictine punks

