



**A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN**

I hope you had a good summer, and were able to enjoy the frequent spells of warmth and sunshine. Unfortunately, our gardens have struggled with little rain over an extended period.

I have continued to attend Thames Valley Network meetings as well as more localised u3a groupings. These give us the opportunity both to learn from each other and to offer broader benefits to you, our members. For example, you will have seen the recent invitation to attend a talk on zoom about the Thames Valley Air Ambulance service. You will have to sign up a few days before the event, which takes place on 26 September, if you wish to participate.

We have seen a number of new groups formed, covering both extensions of existing interests and introducing new opportunities. This is an encouraging development and reflects the vibrancy of our u3a. However, as mentioned previously, the lack of volunteers puts some activities at risk.









**The monthly meetings will cease at the end of the year unless some members come forward very shortly, by 10<sup>th</sup> October, to help organise speakers.**

We have received an approach to link more closely with Marlow Town Council and, as a first step, will be attending some of their meetings, with other local groups, to explore how we might be able to work more collaboratively together.

Finally, your committee is aware this is your u3a. Please let us have any comments or suggestions which would enhance your experience of membership.

**Roger Shipton**

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

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

## MARLOW U3A 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Next year in September we will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Marlow u3a.

Your committee would like to involve you and like some volunteers to help organise the celebration.

If you can help, please contact [secretary@marlowu3a.co.uk](mailto:secretary@marlowu3a.co.uk)



## MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:

Sylvia Shaw, Judith McDonald, Janet & Roger Gould, Vic Ware, Debbie Farnfield, Lesley Frost, Jennifer Weeks, Julie Brown, Elizabeth Bailey, Jane Cotton, Patrick & Julie Legge, Tasha Prior, Ruth Obank, John Richardson, Kevin Bennett, Alan Chant, Judy Standring, Ernest Line and Christine Haythornwaite.

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

**Barbara Lawrence**



## MONTHLY MEETINGS

Liston Hall 2.30 on the 4th Thursday of the month

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September**

**John Kinory**

**My Life and Times as a Film Extra**

John Kinory, formerly a photography and physics lecturer, will give us a light hearted talk about the ups and downs you can expect as a film extra He has appeared in many feature-length and short films, playing comedy and dramatic parts. He will describe a typical day on set from early starts, to make up, wardrobe and waiting around. John has many anecdotes about filming locations, meeting stars etc.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

**Amanda Bryett**

**Windsor Blue Badge Guide**

Amanda Bryett will give us an insight on the Perils and Pleasures on being a Blue Badge Guide

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**National Trust Guide on Cliveden**

A talk from an NT volunteer guide on Cliveden: Canadian Red Cross Hospital. The story of the wartime hospitals, its patients, the Astors involvement and how it came under the wing of the NHS.



## GROUP NEWS

[groups@marlowu3a.co.uk](mailto: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.

**FRENCH CONVERSATION – INTERMEDIATE** This group meets every Thursday morning. A small friendly group who are enthusiastic about improving their French conversation who meet in their houses, it has space for someone at a similar level. For more information, please contact [paulinepearsonmarlow@gmail.com](mailto:paulinepearsonmarlow@gmail.com).

**RUMMIKUB E** – a new group! starting in September. 4th Monday each month. 2pm at The Britannia. A good number of existing, and new, players have already signed up to join. All welcome. Dates - 22nd September, 27th October, 24th November. - **Sue Irwin 487292**.

### ART APPRECIATION

Art Appreciation B on the second Tuesday of the month – **Diana Curry 07547 941044**

Art Appreciation C Last Thursday in the month – **Pippa Harrison 488120**

### HOLIDAYS

A brainstorming Holiday Meeting will be in the Garden Room in Liston Hall on Tuesday October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2.30.

### GROUPS IN THE PIPELINE FOR THE FUTURE

Beginners Bridge

French Conversation Advanced

If you have any suggestions, please let either Helen or Sue know, email [groups@marlowu3a.co.uk](mailto:groups@marlowu3a.co.uk)

## MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

### July

#### **NORMAN BRICE – Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

July's monthly meeting welcomed Norman Brice from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. His talk about the work of the organisation revealed the real extent of its role, internationally, in caring for the remains of those Commonwealth participants who died in the First and Second World Wars as well as those who have died in conflicts since then.

This amounts to caring for 23,000 war cemeteries worldwide and commemorating the lives of 1.7 million Commonwealth casualties across 150 countries.



Norman opened up new channels of information with his description of the many features of the commission's responsibilities.

Marlow's Commonwealth War Graves have a sizeable number of interments, including Commonwealth nationals from all over the world.

The work of reburials, rededication and identifying the missing, continues, as does the amendment of records, the search for missing names, the building of new memorials and the revision of historical inequalities. This

continues the practice of ensuring all those who fell being equally remembered.

From a personal point of view, I would recommend that every adult visits at least one Commonwealth War Cemetery in their lifetime and experiences the respect that is afforded to every visitor, from the time that they may look up a name and location, for someone they have known or of a relative.

Nowadays, with WW1 records having been digitised by the National Archives and WWII about to follow, never before has it been a more simple process for members of the public to investigate.

**Dave Part**

#### **August – Afternoon Tea at the Flackwell Heath Golf Club**

Flackwell Heath Golf Club was the venue for the members who attend the Monthly Meetings to enjoy a social afternoon, on August 28<sup>th</sup> with a fine view over the golf course from the bar area. Over 40 members attended and they were served with a wide variety of sandwiches. For me and others, the smoked salmon beignets presented a rather tasty choice leading up to the popular cake and fancies that followed, not forgetting a traditional cuppa to bring further cheer.

It was an opportunity for new members to spend time with regular monthly talk attendees as the whole event took on a jolly time which was had by all. Thanks

were proposed

by Helen Glover

to Jackie Willis

and Sue Mayne

who have done

so much to keep

this August tradition alive and who have steered the monthly meetings through recent times and guests applauded appreciatively.

**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**

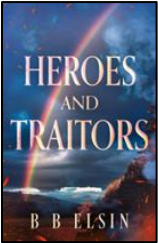
## CREATIVE WRITING

Beth Rogers turned to creative writing in 2023 after sudden hearing loss affected her ability to work and socialise. She started crafting characters based on historical figures in early modern Europe, and with the help of an online course, the novel started to take shape. She says that the editing and re-editing of the manuscript was so hard, it reminded her of doing her PhD!

Nevertheless, she is keen to encourage fellow retirees to write, whether it is fiction or a memoir. She explains that the traditional publishing industry overlooks older authors, but self-publishing has opened up opportunities for us. Beth asserts that what we have to say has literary and historical value, and we should celebrate it and share it.

Her author website is [www.bbelsin.com](http://www.bbelsin.com). "Heroes and Traitors" is published by Troubador on October 28th.

Guilt and shattered expectations fuel conflict in the aftermath of a revolution, but the ruthless General who secured the military success sets out on a quest for peace. Set in a fantasy world based on early modern Europe, the novel "Heroes and Traitors" by new member Beth Rogers (pen-name B B Elsin) is available to pre-order from local bookshops and online. Beth is better known for business textbooks and this is her first long-form fiction. She has had haiku poems published in the anthologies of an award-winning US publisher and short stories featured.



## 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](mailto:ett@marlowu3a.couk)

### ETT Programme:

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> 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**



Stealing someone's coffee is called mugging.

The other day I held the door open for a clown. It was a nice jester.

I put my Grandmother on speed dial. I call that Instagan.

Pasteurize: too far to see.

Whoever invented the 'Knock-Knock' jokes, should get a No-Bell Prize

## FAMILY HISTORY

The Family History / Genealogy group continues to meet on the first Thursday of the month in the Garden Room, Liston Hall at 10.00.

We are an open friendly group and always pleased to welcome new members, be they new to family history or experienced researchers. Our belief is that everyone has a story to tell. And in sharing your story you might help another member overcome a 'brick wall' in their own research, and in hearing the stories of others, you may learn something that furthers your research.

Since the beginning of the year, we have had a varied program of talks and discussions to help members develop their own family trees, and welcomed a number of new members to the group. The following is a summary of some of our meetings.

The year started with a talk entitled 'From Rags to Riches' presented by the Chalfont u3a convenor who showed how her researches had revealed this extraordinary story. In March, we considered Probate and Wills as a source of information and in May we celebrated VE Day with members talking about their families' experiences. In June we considered the English Poor Laws and how they would have impacted on our ancestors, whilst in July we held an Ancestry/FindMyPast workshop to help newcomers start and progress their family history journey. In September, we explored in simple terms how DNA can enhance and confirm your research.

Our program for the rest of the year is as follows:

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** **Colin Chapman** (Guest speaker) will talk about how you can use Newspapers to help your family history research.

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November** **Jim McMaster** (a Marlovian) presents "McMaster; Across the Water; 1802-2024" which is the final episode of his research into his Irish family history.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December General Discussion** when we talk about how we've progressed with our new year's family history resolutions and what our research plans are for the upcoming new year.

**Adrian Spearman** [adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com](mailto:adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com)



### BREAKING NEWS

There has been a fight in the biscuit tin. A lad called Rocky hit a Penguin over the head with a Club, tied him to a Wagon Wheel with a Blue Ribbon and made his Breakaway in a Taxi.

Police say Rocky was last seen just After Eight in Maryland with a Ginger Nut known to police as Rich T.

They didn't leave a crumb of evidence so the Jammi Dodger got away with it!

## GERMAN CONVERSATION AND READING

Our long-standing German conversation group continues to flourish with two 'live' meetings a month. As older members inevitably drop out, we somehow manage to find new recruits with a sound grasp of German. Anyone interested can find an account of our meetings here: <https://marlowgerman.blogspot.com>

Meanwhile our German Reading Group (der Leserkreis) has grown from a solid but low-key start with just five local participants to nearly 50 members from u3as around the country. Being forced onto Zoom during Covid was the game-changer. A brief mention of our Marlow group on the national German forum led to a surge in requests to join, allowing us to connect living rooms across the country, from Cornwall to the Highlands. To cope with numbers our monthly sessions need to run two sittings, Wednesday at 10am or Thursday at 4pm. The stories we read are as varied as our members: from contemporary tales to classic works, each selection sparks conversation — not just about language, but about history, culture, and the universal themes that connect us all. Our February session marked the 50th meeting and the 100th short story that we have tackled.

**Alan Crease**



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> October**

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November**

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

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

### July meeting

The whole session was spent learning about Chopin's Mazurkas and Polonaises. John talked about and played some Mazurkas and Polonaises and explained what these Polish folk dances meant to Chopin. He illustrated the talk with many colourful and entertaining video clips.



[mag@marlowu3a.co.uk](mailto:mag@marlowu3a.co.uk) [john@johnlenehan.co.uk](mailto:john@johnlenehan.co.uk)



## POETRY

We have rested over August, and will be back in harness again in September. We are a thriving group, and have had the pleasure of welcoming three more members. We meet, explore and enjoy many different genres of poetry.

**Rosie Field**



## 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 1<sup>st</sup> October**

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November**

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

**Niki Ralfs 473377**



## SPANISH FOR BEGINNERS

Do you know a little Spanish, and would like to share it? Or would you like to start from scratch (empezar de cero – I had to look that up!)? It's fun, a challenge for the old grey cells, and we don't have to take an O-Level (remember them?). Please get in touch.

(The current leader of the Spanish Beginners group is no longer able to continue teaching. Unfortunately, we have been unable to find another teacher as yet, but Yvonne has stepped in to be our convenor.)

If you are interested in learning Spanish, please do come along and introduce yourself to us! We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of every month ... at the moment our venue is Harleyford, but this may have to change, so we suggest you ring Yvonne for confirmation!

**Yvonne Abbott 07528 500164**



## SPANISH CONVERSATION

The Wednesday Spanish conversation group continues to thrive and is at full capacity. Many people have been members for twenty years and it has been a pleasure to be part of the group. Our newer members have also made tremendous progress through their application to the language. The hard work put in by everyone allows the group to converse with confidence both at home and when in Spanish speaking countries. I have to say we also have a lot of fun!

**Linda Roberts**

## SPANISH INTERMEDIATE

This lovely photo was taken at a recent event



Patricia Hall



## 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.

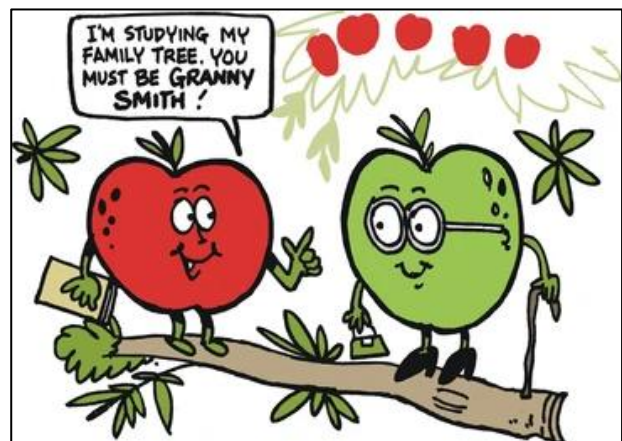
**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September**      **Judy 474031** will lead a walk round Little Marlow Lake. Meet and park in Church Road by the church in Little Marlow SL7 3RU. We will lunch afterwards at the King's Head SL7 3RZ

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October**      **Jill 416998** will lead a walk by the river from Boveney, as the last one was cancelled due to the heat. 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 22<sup>nd</sup> October**      **Sue 485275** will take us on a walk towards Ray Mill Island from H&W. Take the A4, Bath Road from Maidenhead over Maidenhead Bridge. After a few hundred yards turn left at the mini roundabout into Jubilee Lane. Continue and bear right into Mill Lane where H&W will be on your left and where we will park and lunch afterwards. SL6 0AA

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November**      **Jill 416998** will lead a walk on the Green Way from Cookham towards Maidenhead. Meet and park in the car park (narrow entrance) of the King's Arms SL6 9SJ in Cookham High Street where we will lunch afterwards.

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November**      **Geoff and Christine 01494 881122** will lead a walk following public footpaths through woods and fields from Lane End. Park at Lacey's Farm Shop HP14 3LP on the left outside the village. We will lunch afterwards at the Grouse and Ale pub in the village.



## WALKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

Jane Statham 01494 881634 [jes@withurst.co.uk](mailto: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 walks. 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](mailto: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

24 <sup>th</sup> September	Clive and Olivia
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Isobel
8 <sup>th</sup> October	Liz
15 <sup>th</sup> October	Win and Chris
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Lorraine and David
29 <sup>th</sup> October	Mary Bunker
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Tim and Jenny
12 <sup>th</sup> November	Richard
19 <sup>th</sup> November	Christine and Mary
26 <sup>th</sup> November	Geoff and Jeanette
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Jane
10 <sup>th</sup> December	Jeff Short
16 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Laurence

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

#### LONG LOOPERS 5<sup>th</sup> of each month

5 <sup>th</sup> October	Jeff
5 <sup>th</sup> November	Graham and Mary
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Liz

#### LONG LEGGERS 21<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk)

**DECEMBER 2025 AND JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER** The deadline for your contributions will be **27<sup>th</sup> October 2025** Please send your articles and photos to [newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk) by then.

Thank you.

## WEDNESDAY WALKERS' PHOTOS



## STROLLERS' PHOTOS



Field of Sunflowers  
in Stonor

