

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Well, Autumn has truly arrived! Arguably it marks the period when our u3a activities are busiest.

I know I have raised the issue of needing more volunteers many times but, unless we reverse the pattern, we could move into a scenario threatening our very existence. While we are currently a very thriving organisation, the same group of people cannot be expected to continue in their roles forever. At present we lack a Vice Chairman, as well as an Independent Examiner, and our monthly meetings will have to pause from the beginning of 2026. We need people to offer a small amount of their time - to undertake specific tasks, to work with others to take responsibility for a given role, or to shadow an existing committee member. We are able to provide whatever training and support new volunteers need (to give them confidence and avoid putting too much of a burden on them). So please come forward, speak to one of the committee members, and explore what options might best suit your abilities and requirements.

We will be celebrating our 20th anniversary next September / October and that will be another opportunity to get involved in showcasing what we can offer to our community.

Two members of your committee attended the first meeting of Marlow Town Council’s initiative to work more closely with local organisations. This was an opportunity to get to know each other and will hopefully lead to greater cooperation between the various stakeholders.







At a recent meeting of local u3as we agreed to explore how we might better share resources between us. We will be exploring such opportunities in the coming weeks and months.

Finally, on behalf of your committee may I wish you and your families a very happy Christmas, and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

Roger Shipton

YOUR COMMITTEE

Roger Shipton Chairman chairman@marlowu3a.co.uk	478968	
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Pauline Pearson Secretary and Safeguarding Officer secretary@marlowu3a.co.uk	483717		Helen Glover Joint Groups Convenor groups@marlowu3a.co.uk	484074	
Chris Eyles Treasurer finance@marlowu3a.co.uk	487295		Sue Irwin Joint Groups Coordinator groups@marlowu3a.co.uk	487292	
Barbara Lawrence Membership Secretary membership@marlowu3a.co.uk	486734		Niki Ralfs Newsletter newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk	473377	

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:

Suzanne Simmons, Jennifer Burns, Ann Lazur, Jane Howell, John Creek, Karine Maillard, Jenny Young, Paul Goddard, Amanda Powell, Brenda Perry, David Elliott, Karen Hunt, Barbara Rodrigues, Daphne Aldred, John Morin, Heidi Johnson, Andie Kenyon, Kathleen West, Jill Amos, Deborah and Robert Behrman, Fritha Irwin, Barbara Turner, Andy Becker, Sue Weston, Sarah Baines, Carol Huntington, Helen Smith, Ruth Marshall, Anne Shaw and Sue Nicholls.

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 27th 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.

Thursday 11th December at 2pm – Please note the earlier time.

Sandygate Infant School children will again be entertaining us with some Christmas Songs

Followed by **Ian Keable**, who will be giving us a talk on “**The Birth of The Hoax in the Eighteenth Century**” In the 1700s, people were particularly gullible. They believed a woman could give birth to rabbits and a man could climb into a 2pint Bottle. In this entertaining talk, Ian will focus on 18th century hoaxes and delve into why they got away with it, the differing motives of the tricksters and he will demonstrate that when it comes to fake news nothing seems to change.

Afterwards tea will be served together with some Christmas fare.

NB: There will be no monthly meetings in 2026 unless a volunteer or volunteers come forward to arrange speakers. Jackie Willis and Sue Mayne are ready to give any help that is required.

Please contact a committee member if you can help.



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.

Well done to our new convenors for the very successful start of our 5 new groups: Rummikub at the Britannia, Art Appreciation B, Holiday Group, Beginners Bridge and Hand and Foot Group D.

We hope to have news of a new French Conversation Group shortly, Watch this space!

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



- ❖ What song is played in museums? You Can't Touch This.
- ❖ The Scrabble Museum was robbed last night. The curators are at a loss for words.
- ❖ Vandals have attacked the National Origami Museum in Tokyo... We'll keep you updated as the story unfolds...
- ❖ I visited the air and space museum today. There was nothing to see there.

MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

October

AMANDA BRYETT – Windsor Blue Badge Guide

They come in groups of about twenty, having travelled perhaps from Texas or Tunbridge Wells, from Germany or Japan. They might be tourists, students, corporate guests, Rotary or even the u3a. Some of them don't know about Maypoles and Morris Dancers. Some haven't even heard of Cooper's Hill Cheese Rolling, or the Dunmow Flitch. They come to find the capsule of times past and the profusion of pageantry that is little-old-England. Specifically, they want a tour in London. And they want it to be interesting; they want it to be fun.

Other guides are available, but exclusive sites like Windsor Castle prohibit independent guides unless they are Blue Badge. These guides have the knowledge, a thousand years of history and the quirky lore surrounding each special place. They have undertaken two years of training and rigorous exams.

It isn't mandatory to begin outside the railings of Buckingham Palace at age eight, with an audience dwindling to one pigeon, but this is the spirit that we're talking about. Calmly facing those who think that footguards and yeomen are Beefeaters, and that the statue of Queen Victoria is cradling a spherical bomb in her hand, and that Norman the Conqueror arrived in 1066.

Our intrepid Blue Badge Guide handles it all with the aplomb of a diplomat. She leads them to the surprising details, the eye-bewitching sights and even glimpses of royalty, things that they will remember. She charms them with the delights of our language: much of a muchness, wellies, argy-bargy, collywobbles. Amanda Bryett gives them a glowing sense of our proud country. And they go home with a smile.

As we did.



The child in the bottom right of this photo taken at Buckingham Palace is our speaker Amanda Bryett aged 8 together with her audience of one pigeon!

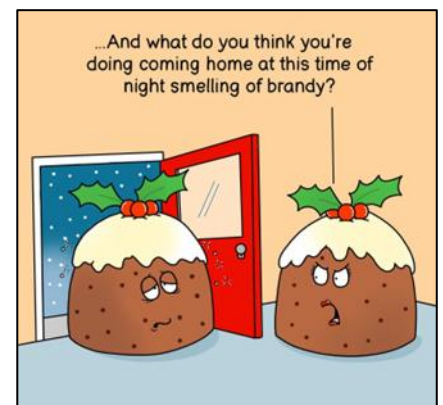
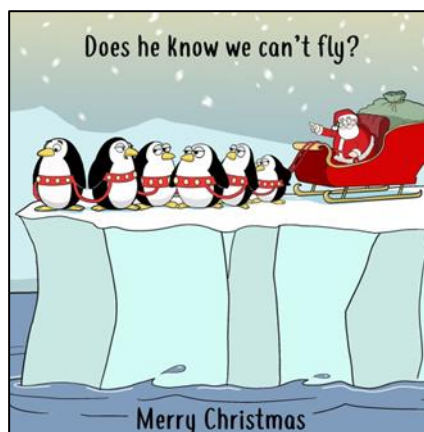
Graham Smith



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 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 Programme:

Tuesday 2nd December
At URC Oxford Road

Advanced Energy Technology
Keith Miller (Guest Speaker)

**NB: There is a change in the meeting venue for all future meetings to:
Marlow Methodist Church, 31 Spittal Street, Marlow SL7 3HJ**

Tuesday 6th January

LEDs
Alec Barron (Marlow u3a)

Tuesday 3rd February

Chalk Streams of England
Alan Fitzgerald (Marlow u3a)

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



FAMILY HISTORY

All meetings start at 10am and meet in the Garden Room, Liston Hall.

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

A reminder that we are an open, self-help group and are always looking for new members who share an interest in Family History Research. If you're new to Family History Research then we are happy to provide guidance when taking those first few steps.

Our program for the next few months:

Thursday 4th December Members to provide updates on how they have progressed with the 2025 New Year's resolution (Family History!) and then to let us know what their resolution will be for the upcoming new year. Any new members attending can let us know what they would like to achieve in the next 12 months, we may be able to help.

Thursday 8th January – PLEASE NOTE – this is the second Thursday of the month Websites available for family history researchers. Member Karen will provide details of the vast array of websites that you can use to help your research.

Thursday 5th February **Share, Show and Tell!** Members to bring either their oldest family document, oldest family heirloom, oldest photo, or a sentimental family item to show and tell us about them.

Adrian Spearman adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com



FRENCH IMPROVERS

The French Improvers Group has had a busy year, meeting each Monday. As the title indicates we continue aiming to improve. With guidance from a French tutor every third week we study articles and podcasts in French aiming to improve our speaking skills and understanding. As some light relief we dip into Tintin to read when we reach the stage in a session when our heads hurt! At this time of year we are looking forward to celebrating the festive season over a relaxing meal together.

Currently we have six members so the group is full but please do not hesitate to contact us if you are keen to join so we can contact you should the situation change

Valerie Griffith

HOLIDAY GROUP

Well, what a vibrant, energetic enthusiastic meeting we had. 45 members turned up, so we had to transfer to a bigger meeting room! Members were told that this was their chance to air ideas as to where they wanted to go to in 2027, for how long and at what cost. Every idea is a good idea, but the majority will win! From Vic and my points of view, we were overjoyed at the positive enthusiastic response from the group with many suggestions coming forward. We had to end quickly after only 1 hour as the meeting room we had adjourned to was going to be used by another group!



We went away to start looking into holidays in Scotland and the Isles of Scilly for a UK holiday and Vienna/Tyrol and Croatia for an abroad holiday in 2027. After quite a bit of research, involving tourist information, travel show and holiday company brochures, we are now actively liaising with a couple of holiday companies about a holiday in Scotland /Edinburgh/Fyfe /Cairngorms (with the most luxurious coach we have ever seen) and Vienna/Saltzburg/Tyrol. Both will involve flying to our start point, sightseeing in and around very cultured areas followed by scenic touring in beautiful countryside/mountainside with interesting excursions. The holiday companies will take about a month to work up the customised holidays for us, so we should be able to share an agreed output towards the end this year or early 2026.

Belfast Holiday 20-24th Sept 2026 – There is a twin/double room costing £935pp or two single rooms with a SS of £205pp available, so if interested, please contact Ann Mary annmaryware@gmail.com. **07775 733871**. Depending on when you contact me, the airfare might have increased as seats are being booked end October 2025.

Devon holiday 22– 26th June 2026 - has 6 people on the waiting list for single rooms. Deposits have been collected for both these holidays



MAHJONG

Our Mahjong group has become very popular at the moment with new members wishing to learn the game. Unfortunately, we have a steady input of “long term” members still playing so it has become difficult to accommodate new players as we have only 4 sets.

So I have introduced a solution, I hope, and that is that they must bring their own set to play with but we can all mix with each other, once they have learnt how to play.

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 of Marlow High Street on the third Tuesday of every month at 10-30.

Tuesday 18th November 2025

Tuesday 16th December 2025

Tuesday 29th January 2026

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

Carole Thorpe

- ❖ I don't need a hair stylist. My pillow gives me a new hairstyle every morning!
- ❖ I'm not lazy, I'm just in energy-saving mode.
- ❖ I actually sold the vacuum cleaner. All it was doing was gathering dust

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 at 10.30am and the group is open to all members of Marlow u3a. The Attendance Fee is £3.00 (payments cash or card).

September meeting

This was the first visit from Azaria Gerrie, a very talented young cellist. She played movements from three great cello pieces:

Haydn Cello Concerto in C (first movement)

Elgar Cello Concerto in E minor (first movement)

Brahms Sonata for cello and piano op.39 (first movement)

This was followed by John delving into the history of the tango. From the slums of Buenos Aires to the ballrooms of Europe, it's a surprising and fascinating journey against the backdrop of political events in both hemispheres.



October meeting



A return visit from another of our favourite young musicians. This was the fourth time violinist Cristian de Sa has played for us. As we have come to expect, his programme was lively and energetic and included Saint-Saens' Danse Macabre.

We then learned about J S Bach and his interest in Mathematics and Science. It was a shame that the connection between the computer and the large screen did not work. Not a disaster though as John was able to illustrate his talk by examples on the piano.

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



PAINTING GROUP

Having congratulated their tutor, Joanne Nicholl, on her 91st birthday the members of the Painting Group, which meets in the community centre at Flackwell Heath, were sorry to hear that she has decided to relinquish her teaching role.

Joanne has been instructing Art for u3a at various venues for over 20 years, helping many artists to blossom under her tutelage with great patience.

Happily, she will remain part of the Art group in a non-teaching capacity and inspire us with her lovely pictures.

Another member will attempt to fill Joanne's mentoring shoes, large as they might be, as the group continues to flourish.



2025 – the most striking feature of this number is that it is a perfect square – 45^2 , and it will be the only time this century that the year is a square number!

- ❖ It is the product of two squares – 9^2 and $5^2 = 2025$
- ❖ It is also the product of three squares – 40^2 , 20^2 and $5^2 = 2025$
- ❖ It is the first square after 1936 (44^2) and the next is in 2116 (46^2)!!!
- ❖ It is the sum of cubes from all the single digits from 1 – 9 = $1^3+2^3+3^3+4^3+5^3+6^3+7^3+8^3+9^3 = 2025$
- ❖ It is also the square sum of the first natural numbers ... $(1+2+3+4+5+6+7+8+9)^2 = 2025$

Aren't we all better for knowing about this wonderful mathematical genius of a year?

PHOTOGRAPHY

The Photography Group now meets once a month in the afternoon of the second Tuesday at the Methodist Church. The main aims of the group are to increase members' enjoyment of photography, improve their skills, and encourage them to take and share their images.

The format remains the same as before with the meeting split between looking at and discussing members' photographs submitted on a theme agreed at the previous meeting and a tutored session usually looking at either a technique such as composition or some feature of modern cameras. The members use both digital cameras as well as phones.

We do not run any competitions and there is no judging of the submitted photographs but rather a friendly discussion on what we like about each photograph and maybe a discussion on options such as cropping or converting to black and white.

Since the last newsletter article, the photo subjects have included End of Summer, Holidays, Shadows and Reflections. Below is a small selection of the submitted photographs.



If you are interested in joining the Group, or would like more Information, please contact Steve: steveillman@tiscali.co.uk

Steve Illman

RUMMIKUB

Rummikub grows!

Our newest Rummikub group first met in September with an encouraging 25 people taking part. With the second meeting on the closing day for this Newsletter news, we can't tell you what happened next - yet.

If you haven't tried Rummikub, do come to the Britannia on the 4th Monday of the month (*except in December*) at 2pm, and join in. It's a table game with numbered tiles played in groups of four, and it really helps your brain keep active! Come on your own or with others. Next time is Monday 24th November at 2pm. Hope you can come.

Sue Irwin



SCRABBLE

On behalf of the Scrabble Group, I would like to offer a big thank you to Pam Mogg. With the help of husband Rob, she has run this for 19 years. Vibrant meetings, with a membership of twenty, with three founder members still attending, occupying three rooms and devouring the best biscuits in Marlow! Pam confided in us one day that Scrabble wasn't her game of choice, so it is even more amazing that she has been running this group for so long! Our very best wishes for your dedication to Marlow u3a, Pam and Rob, and happy memories from us all. Scrabble continues with our new convenor **Glynis Simons** in the The Duke of Clarence in the High Street



Carol Rumens



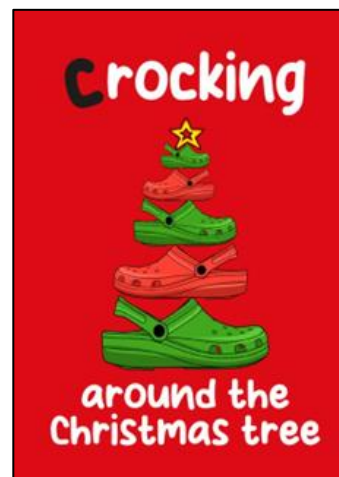
NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

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

FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER The deadline for your contributions will be **29th December 2025** Please send your articles and photos to newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk by then. Thank you.



STROLLERS

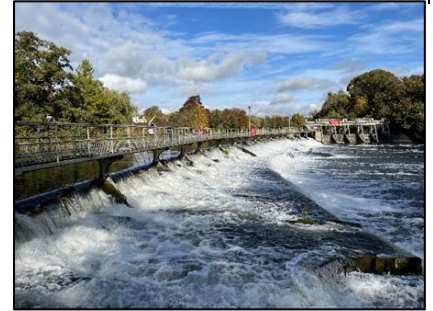
Jill Kemp 416998, Carole and John Battersby 474366

Don't forget our final walk of the year!

Wednesday 26th 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.

There will be no walks in December, January or February. We start up again in March next year when our first walk will be on **Wednesday 11th March 2026**. Look out for details in the February/March newsletter.

Ray Mill Island Walk



Boveney Walk



WALKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

Jane Statham 01494 881634 jes@withurst.co.uk

Walking through the Buckinghamshire countryside in the autumn is exhilarating as the colours and fungi are spectacular.

We have had a few new members join the group.

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. Let the walk leader know in plenty of time if you are unable to join 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

12 th November	Richard
19 th November	Christine and Mary
26 th November	Geoff and Jeanette
3 rd December	Jane
10 th December	Jeff Short
16 th December	CHRISTMAS LUNCH
17 th December	Laurence
31 st December	Richard
7 th January	Jill Cole
14 th January	Stuart and Sandy
21 st January	Mike Basnett
28 th January	Roger
4 th February	Isobel
11 th February	Mari Singleton
18 th February	Ivan and Teresa
25 th February	Clive and Olivia

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 December	Liz
5 th January	Jane and Peter
5 th February	Jeff Short
5 th March	Mike Basnett

LONG LEGGERS 21st of each month



WEDNESDAY WALKERS' HOLIDAY

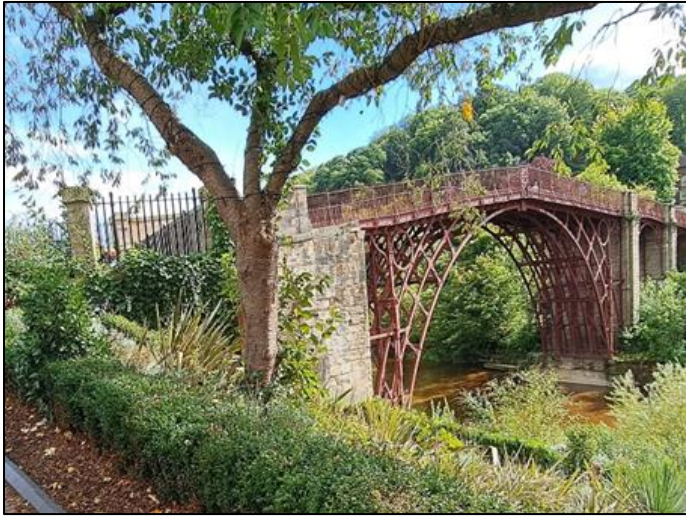
In mid-September 19 valiant members of the u3a's walking group gathered in Ironbridge, Shropshire, for 4 days of walking and talking, followed by evening quizzes and games, always accompanied by much laughter!

Ironbridge was an excellent base, with many fascinating remnants of its heyday as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution in the 18th century, then a scene of "bedlam", with multiple furnaces belching out smoke and flames, but now a green and glorious haven, surrounded by hills and woodland. Each day a choice of two walks varying from 6 to 11 miles, sometimes in drizzle, sometimes in sunshine, with 2 days based around Ironbridge, and 2 in the beautiful hills around Church Stretton. Not always the easiest of paths, with a certain amount of climbing, slipping, sliding, and scrambling, but always worth it for magnificent views. Nevertheless, we all escaped unscathed and had a most enjoyable holiday.



What on earth did he have for breakfast???





FROM THE EDITORS: It looks as though you had a wonderful time despite the weather! These lovely photos have, I hope, given an insight to others on this beautiful part of our country ... thank you!