MARLOW AND DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2026



Christmas is coming!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

We've certainly had some warm weather! Hope you were able to cope with the very hot days. I think we - and our gardens! – are thankful for some rain. That's not a sentiment I would have contemplated until recently…

We had a successful anniversary lunch in August. Hopefully you will have received an email recently outlining the two further events planned to celebrate our 20th anniversary.

Equally, I trust you received an email asking for members to consider putting themselves forward to succeed our Treasurer next year. I am sure we have many members who could fill this important role, and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Some of our groups took a break over the summer and are now functioning fully again. Your committee hopes you continue to enjoy the various facilities: perhaps it's time to try something new? It's never too late to learn.

Roger Shipton

YOUR COMMITTEE

Roger Shipton 478968
Chairman
chairman@marlowu3a.co.uk



Pauline Pearson Secretary and Safeguarding Officer secretary@marlowu3a.co.uk		**Helen Glover** 484074 Joint Groups Coordinator groups@marlowu3a.co.uk	
Chris Eyles 487295 Treasurer finance@marlowu3a.co.uk		**Sue Irwin** 487292 Joint Groups Coordinator groups@marlowu3a.co.uk	
Suze Bateman New Members newmembers@marlowu3a.co.uk		**Niki Ralfs** 473377 Newsletter newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk	
Glynis Simons Membership membership@marlowu3a.co.uk		**Richard Griffith** Committee Member Learning Development	

CELEBRATIONS FOR 20 YEARS OF MARLOW U3A

THURSDAY 22ND OCTOBER: Monthly meeting celebration. **Mike Hurst** will give a talk 'The History of popular music'. He was the speaker at our 10 years anniversary meeting.
Stay afterwards for chat and cake.

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to our new members:
Sally Harker, Gaynor McCulloch, Gill Applin, Janet Corthine, David Miller, Lesley Maister, Suzanne Craig, Jess Jennings, Simon Thornton, Emma Westcott, Louise Davidson, Jill Morgan, Morna Metzger, Anne Cooper and Catherine Herries-Smith

For any queries regarding membership please contact the membership secretary either by email: membership@marlowu3a.co.uk

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Liston Hall 2.30 on the 4th Thursday of the month

Thursday 22nd October **Mike Hurst** **My Life in the Music Industry**
Mike was a member of the 60s pop group The Springfields, along with Dusty and her brother, Tom (Mike replaced Tim Fields who was in the original line-up). They were the first British group to have a top 10 record in the USA. After they disbanded, Mike formed a group with Jimmy Page (from Led Zeppelin) and then became a record producer. He discovered Mike Bolan and Cat Stevens, and subsequently produced 50 hit records with them; also Manfred Mann, The Move, Showaddywaddy, Shaking Stevens and many more.
He began lecturing on the history of popular music from the middle ages to the present day, having a book published called Every Song Tells A Story. He has been a lecturer for 20 years, and has spoken to WIs, u3as, schools and colleges.

Thursday 26th November **Colin Oakes** **The 1926 General Strike**
100 years ago this year, a General Strike took place in the UK from 4th to 12th May. It was called by the General Council of the Trades Union Congress (TUC) in an attempt to force the British government to act to prevent wage reductions and worsening conditions for 1.2 million locked-out coal miners. Some 1.7 million workers went out, especially in transport and heavy industry. In part it was a sympathy strike, with many of those who were not miners and not directly affected, striking to support the locked-out miners. The government was well prepared, and enlisted middle- and upper-class volunteers to maintain essential services.

Any help with putting out chairs would be greatly appreciated. Please arrive early.

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

Rumours of a food shortage at this year's spoonerism conference turned out to be a complete lack of pies.

Why did the can crusher quit her job? It was soda-pressing.

If a child won't take a nap, is that "resisting a rest"?

How many ears does Captain Kirk have? Three, the right, the left, and the final front ear.

MONTHLY MEETINGS IN LISTON HALL

July

JENNY MALLIN **Partition and my British Raj Family**



At first glance, the backdrop of a story beginning with the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 may not seem to be the most intriguing introduction to a family's life history but Jenny Mallin, our guest speaker at July's monthly meeting proved to be, as she was before, an absolute contrast to anything I'd expected.

With a lengthy, slick slideshow of the salient features of her family's extensive archive of photos, a huge resource revealed a fascinating and enthralling story shared with the Liston Hall audience.

Of course, I need not have harboured any misapprehension as to how enriching Jenny's description would be, along the lines of her spellbinding delivery on her last visit to us.

For, Anglo-Indians, in all kinds of roles, had been hugely important in the day-to-day administration and industry of an enormous nation, coming to terms with the end of colonial rule.

Living through an era where the politics of Nehru, Gandhi and Jinnah had been of world importance, the outcome was a concern that was bound to be a massive transitional experience, shared amongst India's 27 language groups.

With a family of Christian Anglo-Indians, stretching back to her grandfather's days as a railway engine driver, Jenny referred, in detail, to the country's transformation during this period.

Living in a well-appointed bungalow, in the countryside, with staff, in a peaceful neighbourhood, contrasted with what many people would imagine alongside the neighbouring busy streets of the sprawling garrison city of Poona (Pune).

Such were the experiences of many who were to come to Britain and adjust to a way of life in which hard-earned opportunities were to be grasped within a completely different system.

Dave Part

GROUP NEWS

groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

LET'S TALK carries on at the Donkey every Monday morning at 11am.There is usually a committee member there to answer questions. It is especially useful for new members to meet other members and to ask any questions they may have.

NEW GROUPS

BEGINNERS LATIN … Weekly Wednesdays 10.00am -11.00am in the Marlow Library

SECOND SINGING FOR FUN … Fortnightly – details to follow

PLAY READING This group has now moved to Marlow Library to accommodate more members

GUITAR – is moving to afternoons fortnightly

HAND AND FOOT B – this group has now folded

MUSIC APPRECIATION Please note that this group is returning to the third Thursday of the month at the URC

CONVENORS: The Group Convenors thank you coffee morning will be on Thursday 29th October at the Bowls club. Please save the date!

Contact Helen or Sue at groups@marlowu3a.co.uk

This girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.

I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.

Broken pencils are pointless.

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.

ENGINEERING, TECHNOLOGY AND TRANSPORT (ETT)

Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month at the ARK Café in the Methodist Church, Marlow at 2pm.

New Members Welcome

New Members are welcome but, prior to coming along, please contact us through the Marlow and District u3a website for details on how to join the Group or email ett@marlowu3a.co.uk

Programme – please email your convenor

Alan Fitzgerald

FAMILY HISTORY

First Thursday in the month at 10:00 in the Garden Room, Liston Hall.

We still have space for a few new members.

Thursday 1st October "The Vikings; King Alfred the Great (871) to William the Conqueror (1066)!". Jim McMaster returns to tell us the history of how the Vikings passed through Marlow on their way up the Thames to winter camp at the junction of the Kennet and Thames at Reading. He will also tell us how a relative's male line came over with King Knut (Canute).

Adrian Spearman: adrian.g.spearman@gmail.com

HOLIDAY GROUP



2026

Belfast Holiday 20-24th Sept 2026 All going are now very much looking forward to this holiday. Final information is being sent out early September. Photos will be in the next issue.

2027

Scotland holiday 17th – 21st May by air and coach. There are 2 single and 2 twin rooms still available. Deposits are currently being paid for this holiday which is now flying from Gatwick with EasyJet, due to departure times. The cost has increased due to the Iran war and is now costing £859 pp (min. 35), £844 pp (min 40), £80 pp SS plus £20 for non-NT members. The price includes 4 nights DBB at the Salutation Hotel, Perth, admission and guided tour of the Real Mary King's Close, Glamis Castle, Boat ride at the Falkirk Wheel, Admission to Culross Palace & Gardens, entry to Royal Yacht Britannia, Dundee Discovery Museum plus V&A, St. Andrews, East Neuk of Fife, Crail and Anstruther.

Austria holiday 8th – 13th September 6 days, Vienna, Saltzburg and Innsbruck has been withdrawn due to lack of interest. Vic and Ann Mary are investigating another UK based coach holiday to replace this one. Information will be sent out when finalised.

2028

Cruise late Spring/early Summer through Martin Hay of Go Cruise & Travel. An email is being sent out early September to holiday group members asking for any interest and whether it is a single or twin/double cabin requested plus which of the suggested cruises they prefer. If there is enough interest, Martin will come up to Marlow in Feb 2027 to share his ideas with us and take contact details of people interested.

Durham September. This is being put together with Greatdays holidays which will include an evening performance at Kynren, the Beamish museum, Redmire Wensleydale Railway and the Auckland project. When available, information will be sent out to the holiday group.

If interested in any of the above holidays, please contact Ann Mary Ware annmaryware@gmail.com 07775 733871 who will send you fliers with full details.

LATIN



To add to u3a's language offerings, we started a once-a-week Latin group for complete beginners and those returning to the subject after many years.
The Cambridge Latin Course that we use is a reading-based, story-driven, culturally rich introduction to Latin, in contrast to traditional grammar-translation courses, which emphasise paradigm memorisation (*amo, amas, amat*) and explicit grammar instruction (*the ablative of agent never uses a preposition when referring to a thing)*.
Participants are immersed in connected Latin stories from the very first stage, with the grammar being introduced gradually, often embedded in model sentences and explained in English after the reading. It is built around a continuous storyline beginning in Pompeii and, if you stick with it beyond Book 1, moving to Britannia and beyond. The stories are vivid, often humorous, and designed to keep learners motivated. Homework is required, as steady reinforcement between sessions is essential for retaining vocabulary and mastering basic structures.

Alan Crease 07460 878999

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 20th October
Tuesday 17th November

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

MUSIC APPRECIATION (MAG)



Our meetings are returning to the **third Thursday** of the month. This change has been welcomed by most of our members. We continue to meet at Christ Church (URC), 18 Oxford Road, Marlow, SL7 2NL starting at 10.30am promptly. The group is open to all members of Marlow u3a and their visitors. The Attendance Fee is £3.00 (payments cash or card).

July meeting

Another first for us, a visit from a professional chromatic harmonica virtuoso, Phil Hopkins.

Phil and John talked about Phil's career and Phil demonstrated how the chromatic harmonica works and some of the repertoire written for the instrument. For instance, Ralph Vaughan Williams has written specially for it.



The music played by Phil and John included classical pieces by Bach, Faure and Poulenc as well as extracts from Gershwin Porgy and Bess, West Side Story, tangos and movie themes. We were spellbound!

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

RUMMIKUB

Have you tried a game of RUMMIKUB yet? If not, why not give it a try. All welcome.

Marlow Donkey – 1st Wednesday of the month at 2:30pm. **Niki 473377**
7th October
4th November
2nd December

Britannia – 4th Monday of the month at 2.00pm. **Sue 487292**
28th September
26th October
23rd November

STROLLERS

Jill Kemp 416998

We are looking for some new members so do join us on our varied Wednesday morning walks. Ring Jill on 416998 or the appropriate walk leader for that date. Hope to see some new people soon.

All walks are on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at 11am. Please wear suitable footwear for the ground conditions. Please contact the walk leader in good time to confirm attendance and if you are staying to lunch. If you need a lift please contact the walk leader.

Wednesday 14th October **Sue 07941 456178** will lead a walk to Marlow Lock and towards Bourne End. Drive down Station Road from 'Burgers', turn right into Lock Road (passing the Pub) to the end of the road, then left into Gossmore Lane. Park in the Car Park near the river (down the lane opposite no 25, SL71QQ) We will lunch afterwards at the Britannia SL7 1HL

Wednesday 28th October **Jill 416998** will lead a walk from the Leisure Centre Pound Lane Car Park SL7 2UE towards Temple. Meet in the car park. Afterwards we will lunch locally.

Wednesday 11th November **Sue 07941 456178** will take us on a walk from the King's Arms SL6 9SJ in Cookham High Street where we will lunch afterwards. Meet and park in the car park (narrow entrance) of the King's Arms

Wednesday 25th November **Jill 416998** Meet at the Winter Hill car parking area. Proceed along Quarry Wood Road, ascend Winter Hill and shortly after the sharp bend, bear left to the car parking area. We will lunch afterwards at the Jolly Farmer SL6 9PD



Views of Little Marlow Lake



I changed my phone's name to Titanic. It's syncing now.

What happens to Nitrogen when the sun rises? It becomes Daytrogen

Did you hear about the antiques collector who found an old Coca-Cola lamp? She was soda lighted.

WALKING GROUPS SCHEDULE

Jane Statham 01494 881634 jes@withurst.co.uk

We have enjoyed walking in the summer sunshine. Woodlands are beautiful this time of year and offer shade on the hotter days.

You must be a member of Marlow u3a and the walking group to join a walk. 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

9th September	Mike Basnett
16th September	Win and Chris
23rd September	NO WALK
30th September	Jane
7th October	Norma Baker
14th October	Geoff and Jeanette
21st October	Nicki Senda
28th October	Mari
4th November	Olivia and Clive
11th November	Richard
18th November	Jeff Short
25th November	Sandie and Stuart

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

LONG LOOPERS 5th of each month **LONG LEGGERS 21st of each month**

5th October	Jeff Short
5th November	Lawrence
5th December	Liz

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

DECEMBER 2026 AND JANUARY 2027 NEWSLETTER The deadline for your contributions will be **26th October 2026** Please send your articles and photos to newsletter@marlowu3a.co.uk by then.

Thank you

WALKERS PHOTOS – THE ELEPHANT TRAIL



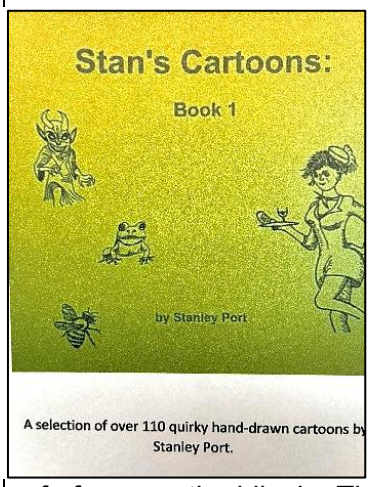




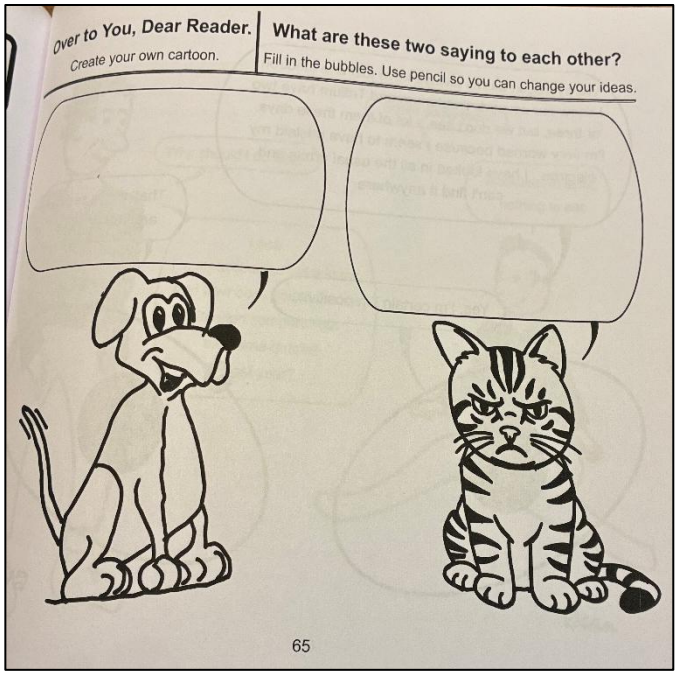




CARTOONS



Stanley Port artist and member of u3a, has published his first book of cartoons.
In Stanley's world, parrots, bats, bees, snails and even atoms have plenty to say. Meanwhile, lawyers, engineers, doctors, and mathematicians and many others discover that no profession is entirely safe from gentle ridicule. The situations are strange, unexpected and sometimes gloriously absurd.



Whether you dip into a few cartoons or browse the whole collection, there is plenty here to raise a smile. Readers are also invited to join in the fun by filling in blank speech bubbles with their own captions, and young readers may enjoy colouring the pages. Enjoy over 110 quirky cartoons – and perhaps see the world a little differently afterwards.
Stanley's book is available from amazon.co.uk and would make an ideal Christmas present.