



JUNE NEWSLETT



• NOTES FROM THE CHAIR •

My thanks go to Malcolm Brookes for chairing our U3A with such enthusiasm and good humour over the past two years. He will certainly be a hard act to follow. I would also like to thank the rest of the committee for their commitment during the past strangest of 14 months.

Malcolm mentioned it in the last newsletter but I would like to add my sincere thanks also to our retiring Committee member and Treasurer, Hilary Bailey.

Hilary is being replaced by Anna Harvey and I would like to extend a warm welcome to her in joining the team.

I am looking forward to my new role and am very privileged to be starting in the post with such a supportive Committee. As ever, we need new volunteers to help the Committee and those members who consistently keep the show on the road including our Speakers Committee, Outings Committee, Interest Group leaders, refreshments teams, and chair wranglers.

Although most internal meetings are still via Zoom, at least some groups are meeting people for real and, at last, there are outings being planned and booked. Let us hope that the lockdown measures end sooner rather than later and that life can get back to some form of normality.

And finally, a big thank you to all you members who have stayed loyal to the u3a, without whom, there would be no u3a.

Ken Johnstone

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JUNE EVENTS

Fri 4th June Coffee Morning

Wed 16th June 2pm

Speaker - Chloroform: Sense and Insensibility

ANNUAL AUGUST GARDEN PARTY 2021

INVITATIONS will be sent out in July to reply to for catering purposes. Because it's also a celebration of getting back together again, buffet food and drink (prosecco and/or tea!) is being provided.

Meanwhile, pop the date, time & venue on your calendars

**12:30 pm Wed 18th August
at Crowmarsh Village Hall**

From Paul Booker:

"As we all know, something to look forward to in August is the Annual Garden Party. This calls for some setting up and striking down work - the responsibility of **The Infamous Heavy Gang**.

If you would like to flex your muscles a little on the day you will be welcome to join the Gang. It really isn't hard, merely shifting some tables and chairs on the day. We'll meet at around 10:30 am on the day, collect the aforementioned chairs in a van, unload them at Crowmarsh village hall then the reverse after the fun is over. Fine details later, but it would be helpful to have volunteers names beforehand.

Any questions or to volunteer please email me at paul.i.booker@gmail.com"

We shall also need a little help (half-hour shift) with serving food. If you're willing to join **The Light Gang** then please **contact Yvonne Griffiths** via our website.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

From Jane Tuckett & the Speaker Meetings Team:

We hope that after all the disruption of the past year we have now managed to set up a fully future-proof programme of speaker meetings.

We are assuming that talks will take place via Zoom until the autumn when, all being well, we might be able to return to live meetings. However this will depend on the availability of the Baptist Church; all our future bookings should be able to take place either live or via Zoom so we are looking forward to an interesting and stimulating series of lectures without further disruption.

See this and next page for full descriptions of speakers booked over the next 12 months.

To join the Meeting go to the [Speaker page](#) on our website.

Talks to come:

16 th June	Graham Harrison	Chloroform - Sense and Insensibility
21 st July	Steve Jellyman	Memories of a TV Cameraman
18 th Aug	Thameside u3a	Annual Garden Party
15 th Sept	Timothy Walker	The Land of Giants & Volcanoes
20 th Oct	Julie Summers	Remembered - the Commonwealth War Graves
17 th Nov	Muriel Pilkington	The Mitford sisters in the Cotswolds
18 th Dec	Green Matthews	600 Years of Christmas
2022:		
15 th Jan	Jim Holmes	Humanitarian Vision
19 th Feb	Dr Paul Roberts	Last Supper at Pompeii
16 th Mar	Dr David Jones	How Tropical Rainforests Work
20 th April	James Taylor	Charles Darwin and The Beagle

Wednesday 16th June 2:00 pm

Graham Harrison

Chloroform: Sense and Insensibility



Graham is a member of the group Sunjester who would, in more normal times, be offering their

presentations at National Trust and English Heritage properties around the country.

After a long career in educational workshops Sunjester have, over the last six years, developed a successful series of adult talks. Graham will be talking to us about the history of anaesthesia and the quest to transform surgery from terrifying ordeal to pain free experience which resulted in alarming degrees of both bravery and recklessness. Horror and humour combine in tales of how early doctors and scientists experimented with anaesthesia.

21st July – Steve Jellyman

Memories of a TV Cameraman

Standing behind his camera, Steve Jellyman has witnessed some of the iconic moments of the last 50 years. In his talk he will share some of the most memorable of these events with us and shed fascinating insights on people and situations. A real trip down memory lane and chance to revisit some of the later 20th century's most newsworthy stories and characters.

Zoom talks already given:

Sept	Tom Way	Wildlife on your Doorstep
Oct	John Ericson	Art Inspired by Wine
Nov	Sophie Matthews	Music in Art
Dec	Tim Barron	London in time of Shakespear
Jan	Mary Smith	A Schoolgirl's War
Feb	Siobhan Clark	House of the Romanovs
Mar	Don Brown	Treasures of British Museum
Apr	Andy Smith	Sing a Century
May	Philip Caine	From Barrow to Baghdad



SPEAKER MEETINGS AUGUST 2021 - APRIL 2022

18th August - Garden party

This year our Annual Garden Party will be at Crowmarsh Village Hall on Wednesday 18th August. It will be our first big get together so is good cause for celebration. Buffet food and celebratory drinks will be provided. Invitations will be sent out in July.

15th Sept – Timothy Walker The Land of Giants and Volcanoes

We welcome a return visit from Timothy Walker (lecturer in botany at the University of Oxford and erstwhile Horti Praefectus of the Botanical Garden) who last spoke to us about the importance of plants in so many aspects of our everyday activities. This time he will talk about the Pacific States of America, the home of giant redwoods and volcanoes. In addition there are spectacular alpine meadows and some of the most dramatic coastline in the world. This talk will look at the botany of the region and the influence of the volcanoes on its geology, geography and flora.

20th Oct – Julie Summers

Remembered, the Commonwealth War Graves

Julie Summers, our most regular and popular speaker, returns to give a talk based on her own highly acclaimed book 'Remembered' which tells the human story behind the extraordinary efforts of those who felt that the fallen should be remembered in perpetuity, and with dignity.

17th Nov – Muriel Pilkington

The Mitford Sisters in the Cotswolds

Most of us have heard of the five Mitford sisters who first began to make headlines in the late 1920's and have rarely been out of the news since. Between them they were close to many key figures of the last century. They knew Churchill, John F Kennedy and Hitler and entertained the Queen and Duchess of Windsor. Fewer of us probably realise that their childhood was spent at Asthall Manor near Burford from where they went on to dazzle in many different political and social spheres.

8th Dec – Green Matthews 600 years of Christmas

Sophie Matthews was one of our earliest Zoom speakers and many of you will remember her fascinating talk about musical instruments in Baroque art, which she illustrated lavishly with music from her various bagpipes. For this talk she will be joined by her collaborator, Chris Green, as they explore Christmas music over six centuries and entertain us in song and on a variety of instruments.

A real Christmas treat!

15th Jan 2022 – Jim Holmes Humanitarian Vision

Jim Holmes is a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and a professional documentary photographer. His career has taken him around the world to more than 50 countries and into some amazing landscapes. He has been particularly involved in photographing the work of humanitarian organisations such as Oxfam, Save the Children and the United Nations. He promises us an uplifting and insightful talk visiting some of their projects in Afghanistan, Laos, Mongolia, India, Myanmar and many other countries.

16th Feb 2022 – Paul Roberts Last Supper at Pompeii

Paul Roberts is a classical archaeologist who holds the title of Sackler Keeper of the Department of Antiquities at the Ashmolean Museum. He was the Curator of the recent exhibition 'Last Supper at Pompeii' at the Ashmolean and he will talk to us about the catastrophic eruption of Vesuvius in 79AD. This is the third time that his name has featured on our programme with previous appearances having to be cancelled due to the pandemic. We very much hope that his talk will be able to go ahead this time!

16th March 2022 – Dr David Jones How Tropical Rainforests Work

David Jones is a research biologist at the Natural History Museum in London. He specialises in rainforest insects and ecology and spoke to us in 2019 about the most dangerous animals on earth. He returns to speak to us about the main ecological processes that keep rainforests functioning and the threats that currently surround their long-term future. All very relevant to our current times. This is another talk which has been rescheduled more than once and again we sincerely hope that it will go ahead without any further delays.

20th April 2022 – James Taylor Charles Darwin and the Beagle

James Taylor is the author of 'The Voyage of the Beagle' which follows Charles Darwin's extraordinary and momentous journey aboard Fitzroy's famous survey ship. James Taylor is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and has a particular interest in marine paintings. We look forward to hearing some of the inside story of this perilous and momentous voyage which proved to be the watershed in our understanding of the development of biological species.

OUTINGS

JUNE MESSAGE FROM THE OUTINGS TEAM

Trip to the **Isle of Wight** on July 13th is now **FULLY BOOKED** with a short waiting list. Contact Mike Sedman via [the Contact page link](#) for information.

LAST CALL for places on our Northumbria trip 27th June – 1st July. We have two double/twin rooms available. If you are thinking about coming, please get in touch with Mike Sedman straight away via [the Contact page link](#).

The hotel will be taking the rooms back imminently.



PLANNED TRIPS:

- * 27th June to 1st July **Jewels of Northumbria**.
Two double/twin places available.
- * 13th July - **Cruise to the Isle of White**
FULLY BOOKED with short waiting list.
- * August - **Buster Hill Farm Historic village**.
Details next month.
- * September - **Salisbury Cathedral**.
- * October - **Gloucester Docks and Cathedral**.
- * November - **Bristol Aerospace Museum**
- * December - Seasonal visit and entertainment

The Outings Team

PROPOSED NEW INTEREST GROUPS:

If you are interested in joining any of the below groups then please [contact Yvonne Griffiths](#) the Groups Coordinator

Climate Change Group

Anna Harvey would like to set up a completely new group looking at a Climate Change. More details in next issue. Meanwhile have a look at how u3a branches are forming a Climate Change Network [u3a Climate Change Network Link](#)

Ukulele Group

This didn't get a chance to start in Jan 2020. But now it can. Enthusiastic players of all standards welcome. Paul Booker is a 'founding' member.

2nd Craft Group

2nd Rambling Group (5 on Waiting List)

new German Group (3 on Waiting List)

3rd Genealogy Group (4 on Waiting list)

2nd Sunday Lunch Group (3 on Waiting list)

2nd Antiques Group (3 on Waiting list)

If you had put your name on any of the waiting lists for the above possible new groups during lockdown and are still interested in becoming involved in any of these please [contact Yvonne Griffiths](#), otherwise your name will be deleted from the Waiting List(s).

INTEREST GROUPS

No face to face meetings at the moment. Most Groups are keeping themselves in touch with each other by all means electronic. Several are meeting via Zoom monthly. Our ZoomPro (with unlimited time) is proving popular. Bookings are made via [Contact](#) website page.

Big thanks to Group conveners for keeping things going.

You can apply to join an Interest Group even now to be ready for fresh times

Contact Yvonne Griffiths [via our website](#)

Antiques	<i>Carole Johnson</i>
Art/Painting	<i>Angie Thorington</i>
Craft	<i>Angie Thorington</i>
Photography 3	<i>Malcolm Brooks</i>
Music Broader	<i>Val Wolsey</i>
Music Classical 1	<i>Mike Sedman</i>
Music Classical 2	<i>John Cozens</i>
Singing for Fun	<i>Helen Fitcher</i>
Ukulele	<i>Paul Booker (temp)</i>
Book Group 1	<i>Sue Taylor</i>
Book Group 2	<i>Di Young</i>
Book Group 3	<i>Sheila Findlay</i>
Book Group 4	<i>Dee Clarke</i>
Book Group 5	<i>Sue English</i>
Play Reading	<i>Philippa Davies</i>
Poetry Reading	<i>Jill Cooney</i>
Writing for Pleasure	<i>Carolyn Newbert</i>

French Conversation 1	<i>Janet Franklin</i>
French Conversation 2	<i>Susan Renn</i>
Latin for Pleasure	<i>Roger Morgan</i>
Spanish Improvers	<i>Val Mowlam</i>
Science	<i>Philippa Cullen</i>
Seminar	<i>Gloria Hamilton-Peach</i>
Current Affairs 1	<i>Trudy Davies</i>
Current Affairs 2	<i>Val Mowlam</i>
Genealogy 1	<i>Linda Matthews</i>
Genealogy 2	<i>Mary Cozens</i>
History 1	<i>Ted Nelson</i>
History 2	<i>Patricia Shields</i>
History 3	<i>Colin Clarke</i>
History 4	<i>Jenny Potter</i>
History 5	<i>Ray Verrall</i>
Writing Life History	<i>Margaret Pritchard</i>
iPad Users 1	<i>Sheila Findlay</i>
iPad Users 2	<i>tba</i>
Mac Users	<i>Ann Truesdale</i>

Cards Bridge	<i>Sheila Findlay</i>
Cards Canasta	<i>Hilly Bailey</i>
Cards Cribbage	<i>Joyce Kent</i>
Cards Euchre	<i>Hilly Bailey</i>
Scrabble 1	<i>Sarah Masters</i>
Scrabble 2	<i>Vee Hadley</i>
Badminton	<i>Hilly Bailey</i>
Pétanque	<i>Loren Butt</i>
Birdwatching 1	<i>Rosemary Garner</i>
Birdwatching 2	<i>Pam Johnstone</i>
Shorter Walking	<i>Paul Booker</i>
Rambling	<i>Phil Richardson</i>
Moderate Walk 1	<i>Julia West</i>
Moderate Walk 2	<i>Julia West</i>
Longer Walking	<i>Julia West</i>
Garden Visits	<i>Dinah Perkins & Hilary Taylor</i>
Lunch Club	<i>Rosemary & Tony Hines</i>
Sunday Lunch Club	<i>Ken Gough</i>

INTEREST GROUPS ROUND-UP



Shorter Walking - from Paul Booker:

It seems an age since I had the pleasure of making contact with you all. Anyway I hope that you are feeling fit and ready to put your best foot forward.

Unfortunately I am unable to walk on the first Wednesday in June so may I ask that we meet for our first short walk on Tues 8th June then revert in July to the first Weds 7th July.

I thought an old favorite would be good to start with. So we'll catch the X38 Wallingford to Henley bus to Henley at 9:45 from Wallingford Market place, arriving at Hart Street Henley at 10:13 and walk along the river on a circular walk which will return us to Henley Town Centre in time for lunch. Please ensure you remember to have your mask for the bus. We'll stop half way round for refreshment so bring something to drink & munch. The walk is along easy paths and across a couple of fields. Some up and down. Boots or stout shoes are recommended. Dogs are welcome.

Any questions, drop me an email to paul.i.booker@gmail.com

Birdwatching 1 - from Rosemary Garner:

We hope to resume visits on 1st July with a trip to College Lake near Tring all being well. The rest of the programme will be announced shortly.

Birdwatching 2 - from Pam Johnstone:

Birding 2 was going to meet last Thurs 20th, but as only a couple of people were able to make it and the weather wasn't very good it was decided to cancel it. Hopefully next month.

Rambling - from Phil Richardson:

At last, after 15 months a walk followed by a pub lunch!

Moderate & Longer Walking from Julia West:

The Moderate 1 and Longer walking groups restarted in April. Moderate 2 started in May.

Sunday Lunch Club - from Ken Gough:

Planning to start again on the 13th June, Covid permitting.



Cribbage - from Joyce Kent:

A little light at the end of the tunnel at last. We are going to start Real Cribbage again, Covid news permitting, on the 31st May & thereafter on the first & third Mondays of the month. It will be under the same safeguards as before with us all bringing our own cards and drinks so no one handles anyone else's property. Also weather permitting games will be outdoors otherwise well spaced out indoors with windows open. Zoom crib has been going for quite a long time now and been very appreciated by some of our group. Thank you to all the committee members who helped set it all up for us every week. It is much better now we can do it ourselves. Zoom will continue for a little while for some of our members who are not yet ready to meet face to face. I am looking forward to meeting with some of the other groups soon.

Genealogy 1 - from Linda Matthews:

Mental Health Benefits of Family History Research

Art/Painting & Craft - from Angie Thorrington:

Not expecting the Art/Painting group will go back before October.

Petanque - from Loren But:

Outdoor sports are now back! Petanque is one of them. Join in with the Petanque Wallingford club players at The Sports Park on a Tuesday morning and learn how to play! Please contact Yvonne Griffiths to join.

Music Broader - from Val Wolsey:

The group is waiting to return when we can have more than 6 people. Let's keep Tuesday 6th July clear in our diaries and we can confirm it nearer the time.

Singing for Fun - from Helen Fletcher:

Starting again in the autumn.

Photography - from Malcolm Brooks:

Subject for this month's meeting is Railways. What are our interpretations of the subject? I've said that I will only submit photos taken this month.

Antiques - from Carole Johnson:

I may do one more Quiz for the group in June, but if the weather forecast is 'very good', we may be able to meet up in someone's garden, on 9 June, for our first face-to-face meeting since February 2020! However, I will keep the group informed of our prospects nearer the time.

Writing for Pleasure - from Carolyn Newbert:

Continue sharing our work & keeping in touch by email.

Playreading - from Philippa Davies:

We are reading the 2nd Act of Stoppard's *Arcadia*. This may be the last Zoom session for a while (hopefully), and we will be able to meet up face to face in July!

Poetry - from Jill Cooney:

continues to meet each week on Zoom.

Spanish from Val Mowlam:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

French Conversation 1 - from Janet Franklin:

We will be meeting in Veronica and Myron's garden on Thursday 10th June, at 10:00
Ouf ! What a relief ! We are praying for sunshine but have contingency plans to be under cover just in case. A bientôt.

Book 1 - from Sue Taylor:

In May, Book Group 1 discussed "The Island of Sea Women" by Lisa See, the extraordinary story, based on true events, of the diving women of Jeju, an island off the coast of Korea. It follows the women through the after effects of World War II, through the Korean War and beyond to the present day. We were all impressed with the amount of research the author did to create her novel and learned so much about this matriarchal society, their culture, beliefs and hardships. Lisa See's website contains video footage of the present day women divers, which is also recommended.

From Diana Young - Book 2:

still meeting via Zoom.

From Dee Clarke - Book 4:

For May our choice was "The Stranger Diaries" by Elly Griffiths.

Book 5 - from Sue English:

Book Group 5 will meet on June 24th to discuss this month's books which are: *The Garden of Lost and Found* by Harriet Evans and *Blood and Sugar* by Laura Shepherd-Robinson.

History 1 - from Ted Nelson:

At last some news from History group 1. We shall commence meetings in August (first Wednesday). Ron Hewstone will play some patriotic music to lift our spirits.

History 2 - from Patricia Shields:

We continue with our twice monthly meetings on Zoom and we look forward to our next talk on June 4th, The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

History 4 - from Jennifer Potter :

Our subject on 14 June will be British Prime Ministers. We are hoping to go for a historical walk to Oxford in July and there will be no meeting in August. We would welcome new members to the group. Enjoy the sunshine

History 5 - from Ray Verrall:

On 28th May we all enjoyed a very interesting talk on the Thames, which being a very broad subject, stimulated much lateral discussion. Our next talk will be on 25th June continuing the trilogy of Vasco du Gama.

From Trudy Davies - Current Affairs 1:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

From Val Mowlam - Current Affairs 2:

Meeting monthly via ZoomPro.



THE THAMES PATH, WALLINGFORD'S NATIONAL TRAIL

Wendy Tobitt, a Thames Path volunteer and Wallingford u3a member is our guide.



It's a Sunday morning meander for some, while others make it a personal challenge and raise funds for charity.

Everyone who's walking on the Thames Path enjoys beautiful views, birds and wildflower meadows, and the sheer pleasure of being by the river.

The Thames Path is a 184-mile National Trail from the source of the River Thames in a Cotswold field to the North Sea beyond London's Tilbury Docks. Every signpost along the Trail has the distinctive acorn icon.



It's one of 15 designated National Trails in the UK, and opened in 1996 after a concerted campaign by The Ramblers and the River Thames Society, and years of negotiation with landowners to create it as a public footpath.

The Thames Path is the only National Trail that follows a river, bringing with it a number of challenges for maintaining the surface and keeping it in good condition for the thousands of people who walk it every year.

Steve Tabbitt is the National Trail officer tasked with leading a partnership of 34 organisations responsible for maintaining public rights of way along the entire length of the Thames Path.

I'm one of the volunteers, monitoring the section between Day's Lock and Clifton Hampden Bridge to check for damage to the Path, and cutting back overhanging vegetation at gates. You may see me litter-picking in Wallingford too.



Every day I look after the Thames Path social media accounts on Twitter and Facebook. This is hugely entertaining!

During the 2020 lockdown I made friends with people along the whole length of the Trail from Gloucestershire to north Kent through their social media posts.

I've been mudlarking along London's foreshore, visited the Tower of London with Yeoman Warder Spike Abbott who lives in Abingdon when he isn't on Beefeater duty, and loved the wild flowers and sunrise/sunset views posted by keen walkers.

The Thames Path in Wallingford

If you haven't already discovered it, walk down to Wallingford Bridge, turn left between the two pubs to follow the path round to the river and you're on the Thames Path National Trail walking towards Benson.

The Trail in Wallingford goes along Thames Street before turning left by St Leonard's Church to resume its route beside the river past the Fleming Boathouse and on to Cholsey.

What will you see on the Thames Path this summer?

A day out in Cookham to visit the Stanley Spencer Gallery. Spencer was inspired by the River Thames, and the Thames Path passes through the churchyard where he painted.

Many of the stories from the Thames are drawn together at the River and Rowing Museum in Henley. The Museum's current exhibition of modern stained glass by John Piper includes his cartoon for the John Betjeman memorial window at Farnborough church near Wantage.

Looking after the Thames Path

Natural England provides funding from Defra to promote the National Trails. Additional support comes from the Environment Agency, Port of London Authority, Thames Estuary Partnership, the NFU, The Ramblers, Cycling UK and the London Thames Strategies.



There are 23 highway authorities along the route of the Trail, from Gloucestershire to the City of London, each share the responsibilities of maintaining the Trail because it sits on Public Rights of Way, mostly Public Footpaths.



Lucy, the volunteer coordinator who also looks after the Ridgeway National Trail, manages the work-parties mowing, putting up new signs and installing gates. All the Thames Path signposts are made by volunteers.

Last year the Thames Path and Ridgeway volunteers received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – the highest accolade for volunteers.

Explore the Thames Path

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/thames-path

Follow on **Facebook** and **Twitter**: @ThamesPathNT

BBC Young Musician of the Year 2020

By Yvonne Parks, Classical Music Appreciation 1 Group

If you grew up in a time when musical instruments and lessons were free in UK schools you may worry about the lack of classical music in the lives of today's youngsters. The BBC Young Musicians bi-annual competition is the perfect antidote. This 38 year old competition accepts entries from UK residents who have achieved Grade 8, or equivalent, in their instrument and are under 18 years. For the initial rounds the entrants compete within instrument groups: keyboard, strings, woodwind, brass and percussion. The semi-final pits winners of each category to whittle down to the three finalists. In the final each contestant plays their choice of concerto, from memory, with the support of a professional conductor and orchestra. An amazing opportunity that may launch the career of a young musician.

Delayed due to the restrictions of Covid 19, the long awaited final for 2020 BBC Young Musicians was held on 2nd May 2021 and provided an exhilarating and exciting evening of musical prowess. This year they were accompanied by the BBC Philharmonic under the direction of Mark Wigglesworth.

Percussionist 17 year old Fang Zhang competed against 18 year old Annemarie Federle (French horn) and 19 year old Ewan Millar (Oboe). Federle played Ruth Gipps' Horn concerto, mastering the big jumps in melody and effortlessly flying up to the high notes. Ewan Millar played 'Legacy' by Oscar Navarro in a soulful and romantic rendition. After three thrilling performances Fang Zang triumphed with an exhilarating marimba concerto, Prism Rhapsody by Keiko Abe, where he played, sometimes with six sticks, in an energetic, rhythmic and uplifting performance. It reminded me of listening to Evelyn Glennie in Oxford many years ago.



Although there was no live audience the evening of contrasting performances was full of energy, musicality, and a pure delight to watch. All the pieces were new to me making the experience more interesting.

Previous winners have performed at the Proms and delighted audiences with their playing. Some you may know are Clarinetist Emma Johnson (1984); violinist Nicola Benedetti (2004); Cellist Sheku Kanneh-Mason (2016); and the effervescent Jess Gillam (saxophonist) who also reached the finals in 2016. All these wonderful musicians have gone on from the BBC Young Musicians competition to perform professionally, enriching us with their playing. And this is really what the Young Musicians programme is all about, the discovery and support of prodigious talent so that they thrive and delight us for years to come.



Recordings of the finalists are available, for free, on BBC iPlayer for the next eleven months.

Suggested BBC iPlayer link: [BBC Young Musician 2020](#)

LOCAL PHOTOS

BY RAY VERRALL....



The Community Wild Flower Meadow to come, is situated on the field opposite our house in Habitat Way (Radnor Road park field)

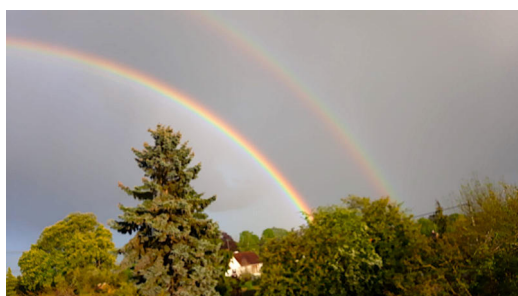


... BY MARK ROBINSON...



Bluebells in May in Tartary Wood near Nettlebed

... AND BY NEIL KELLY



Double Rainbow in stormy May last month over Wallingford



DOE EYED DESTROYER

by Oxyfauna

THREAT TO SCOTLAND



I don't know why they don't like me! I am the smallest deer in England and look so dreadfully cute with my most lovely "Bambi" eyes. I have a stylish russet brown coat in summer and a grey brown one in winter. I am quiet and retiring and keep myself to myself.

Hello I am Monty the muntjac but, believe it or not, I am not native to England. My ancestors were brought over here by an explorer in the late nineteenth century from their home in South East Asia and settled in the grounds of Woburn House in Bedfordshire.

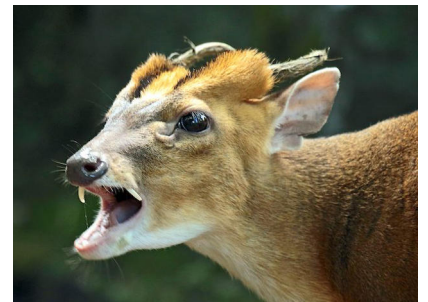
Being a bit of a show off, my great, great, great grandfather jumped over the wall and escaped. Some other of his friends also escaped from Whipsnade Zoo. Now there are about forty thousand of us in England and Wales. We breed pretty fast partly because we have no fixed mating season and we lucky bucks can be heard barking when we are playing the field. However barking is sometimes a warning of



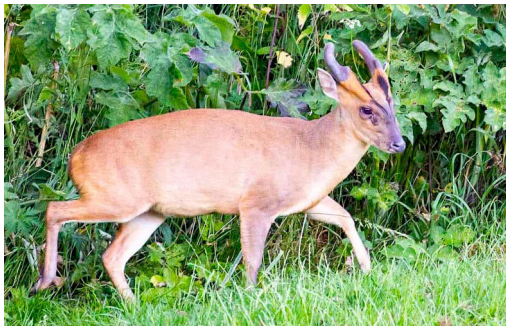
some impending danger. You humans may not, but we know which is which!

We love it here with your lush forests and equable climate. We munch away at your coppiced trees, shrubs, cereals and flowers (including your native bluebells) (Oh! no surely not!!). We particularly love gardens with their wide variety of tasty morsels and we can't understand why we are now called an alien destructive species. We are also said to be the cause of numerous road accidents, but you hit us – we do not hit you!

We are so successful that we are moving in on Scotland having first started up in South East England. The National Scottish Heritage Organisation has got it's kilt ablaze and declared a shoot to kill policy on any muntjac seen! They have estimated that it will cost twenty million pounds a year to keep us under control if we are allowed to live like we do in England.



Please don't be too hard on me, Monty the muntjac, because if nothing else we are told by no



less an authority by favourite chef Nigella Lawson that our meat tastes absolutely divine, something like a luscious piece of Spring Lamb. Perhaps you might see it on your own dinner table sometime. Think of me with my mournful doe eyes but please don't ever compare me to the Haggis!!

Oxyfauna

Editor's note: A muntjac has been seen around Wallingford, sheltering in gardens and crossing the Kinecroft. Has anyone seen it?



MARK & MARY ROBINSON'S PHOTO QUIZ

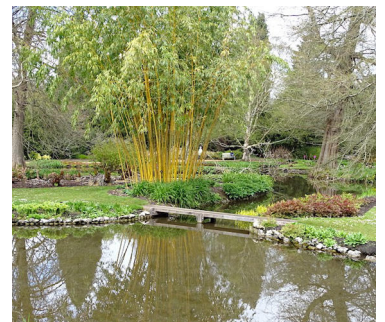


1. Where is this horseman, and in what film did it appear?

2. Who or what made these holes in a cob wall in Dorchester?



3. Where are the Longstock Park Water Gardens and who created them?



KEN'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ



1. Which country accounts for more than 40% of the world's production of milk?
2. What nationality was the explorer Abel Tasman who gave his name to Tasmania which he discovered in 1642?
3. Liberal Democrat life peer Baroness Benjamin presented which children's TV show from 1976 to 1988?
4. Because of the colour of their habits, how were the Franciscan Order of monks known in Britain?
5. Which chart-topping song by Clean Bandit featured guest vocals from Jess Glynne?
6. What is the name of the woodworking tool with a central blade and a handle each side?
7. Which play by Bertolt Brecht satirically mirrors the rise of Adolf Hitler?
8. What is the name of the paste made from fermented soya beans that adds a salty umami flavour to many Japanese dishes?
9. Which Iron Age hill fort in Dorset is the largest in Europe?
10. Which Italian word meaning "to go about" is used to describe a moderately slow passage of music?
11. Which fluid is obtained by the distillation of resin harvested from living trees, mainly pine?
12. Atticus Finch appears in which Pulitzer Prize winning novel?
13. What four-letter acronym is used to describe the National Institute for health and Care Excellence?
14. Which British aircraft was the world's first commercial jet airliner?
15. What is the state capital of Louisiana?
16. The edible part of which thistle-related plant, cooked then served with a dip, consists of its flower buds and its base or "heart"?
17. Which Beatles song begins with the line "Standing in the dock at Southampton trying to get to Holland or France"?
18. Off the coast of which country would you find the Adriatic Islands of Krk, Cres and Pag?
19. What name is given to the female sculpture used as a bonnet ornament on Rolls-Royce cars?
20. And lastly, which major English seaport has four tides a day?

BOOK READING LISTS

Here are the Book Groups' Reading lists drawn together - you are all invited to peruse!
Please do let the Editor know of your recommendations.

Book Group 1 - Reading List 2021 :

- Jan **The Other Half of Augusta Hope** by Joanna Glen
- Feb **A Respectable Trade** by Philippa Gregory
- Mar **The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri
- Apr **The Hunting Party** by Julie Foley
- May **The Island of Sea Women** by Lisa See
- Jun *Recommend-a-book session....*
- Jul **Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens
- Aug **Sweet Sorrow** by David Nicholls
- Sep **The Sunrise** by Victoria Hislop
- Oct **The Mirror and the Light** by Hilary Mantel
- Nov **The Enchanted April** by Elizabeth Von Arnim

Book Group 2:

- A Life of my Own** by Claire Tomalin
- Accidents in the Home** by Tessa Hadley
- Pompeii** by Robert Harris
- The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri
- The Dangerous Edge of Things**
by Candida Lycett Green
- The Hidden Village** by Imogen Matthews
- The Music Shop** by Rachel Joyce
- The Prince of the West End** by Alan Isler
- The Salt Path** by Raynor Winn
- Wilding** by Isabella Tree



Book Group 3 - Reading List 2021 :

- Feb **Three Hours** by Rosamund Lupton
- Mar **The Wake Up Call** by John Middlethwaite
& Adrian Wooldridge
- Apr **Where The Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens
- May **A Family Affair** by Jane Stubbs
- Jun **A Spy Among Friends** by Ben Macintyre
- Jul **The Salt Path** by Raynor Winn
- Aug **The Girl with a Louding Voice** by Abi Dare
- Sep **A Single Thread** by Tracey Chevalier
- Oct **The Horseman** by Tim Pears

Book Group 4:

- Janice Hadlow, **The Other Bennett Sister**, Pan Macmillan, 2020, (£11.04 at Book Depository)
- Peter Frankopan, **The Silk Road : A New History of the World**, Bloomsbury Paperbacks, 2016
- Bernardine Evaristo, **Girl, Woman, Other**, now in paperback
- Tracy Chevalier, **A Single Thread**, The Borough Press
- Donna Leon, **Trace Elements**, in pbk from September 2020
- Marlon James, **The Book of Night Women**, One world Publications, 2014
- Madeleine Miller, **Circe**, Bloomsbury
- Elizabeth Strout, **Olive Again**, pbk in Nov.
- Salley Vickers, **Grandmothers**, Viking
- Rose Tremain short stories - **The American Lover**, Vintage
- Emily Ruskovich - **Idaho**, Vintage
- Elizabeth Macneal, **The Doll Factory**, Picador
- Linda Grant, **A Stranger City**, Virago pb in June 2020
- Nina George, **The Little Paris Bookshop**, Little, Brown
- Claire Fuller, **Our Endless Numbered Days**, Penguin
- Lindsey Davies, **2 series of Classical Roman Crime novels**.
- Simon Barnes, **On the Marsh**, Simon & Schuster Ltd
- Deirdre Madden, **Mollie Fox's Birthday**, faber & faber
- Hilary Mantel, **The Mirror & the Light**, Fourth Estate
- A book for dipping into:
Helen Dunmore: **'Counting Backwards'**
Poems 1975-2017

Book Group 5 - Reading List 2021 :

- In Extremis** by Maria Colvin
- Fingers in the Sparkle Jar** by Chris Packham
- The Secret Life of Bees** by Sue Monk Kidd
- The Tattooist of Auschwitz** by Heather Morris
- The Clockmaker's Daughter** by Kate Morton
- The Cyprus Tree** by Kamin Mohammadi
- My Name is Why** by Lemn Sissay
- How Not To Be A Boy** by Robert Webb
- The Easternmost House** by Juliet Blaxland
- The Thursday Murder Club** by Ricard Osman

From Philip Burton:

Centuries of Change by Ian Mortimer
Which century saw the most change and why it matters to us.

The New Dark Ages by James Bridle
Technology and the End of the Future.



Mark & Mary's Photo QUIZ

1. The statue is by the public footpath through at Bromsden Farm near Shepherd's Green. It is a fibreglass prop made for the 1995 James Bond film, *Golden Eye*.
2. 'Masonry' or 'mortar' bees are solitary creatures that do not nest in a colony but within individual holes in the ground or in walls in mortar joints, soft bricks or cob walls (made from subsoil, fibrous material such as straw, and sometimes lime)
3. John Spendan Lewis, founder of the John Lewis Partnership, created the water gardens on his Leckford Estate near Stockbridge in Hampshire. He purchased the 2,800 acre estate in 1929 and it is now the Waitrose & Partners Farm. The six acre water gardens are open seasonally for booked visits

<https://leckfordestate.co.uk/water-garden-opening-times>



Ken's General Knowledge QUIZ

1. India
2. Dutch
3. Play School
4. Greyfriars
5. "Rather Be"
6. Spokeshave
7. The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui
8. Miso
9. Maiden Castle
10. Andante
11. Turpentine
12. To Kill a Mocking Bird
13. Nice
14. De Havilland Comet
15. Baton Rouge
16. Globe artichoke
17. "The Ballad of John and Yoko"
18. Croatia
19. Spirit of Ecstasy
20. Southampton



Next Newsletter

The JULY issue will be released on
or soon after
1st July 2021

It will be put up on our website
www.thamesidewallingfordu3a.org

A notification email is also sent to you.

NO DEADLINE FOR COPY

Send it in by midnight two days before
and it'll probably get in!

newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org



Phone contact for offline members

Those members without computer access
have been given Yvonne Griffiths's phone
number.

COMMITTEE 2021-22

Ken Johnstone Chairman

Neil Kelly Deputy Chairman

Anna Harvey Treasurer

Malcolm Brooks Deputy Treasurer (temp)

Paul Booker Secretary
& Outings Co-ordinator

Yvonne Griffiths Groups Co-ordinator

Anna Gordon Membership Secretary

Jane Milne Minutes Secretary

Neil Kelly TVN Representative

Malcolm Brooks Website & Database

Sarah Boyt Robinson Newsletter, Website
& Communications

Contact the Committee

via the secure Contact
page on the website

u3a Thames Valley Network

THE THIRD AGE TRUST is the national representative body for U3As in the UK
Information on its activities can be found at www.u3a.org.uk & on **FaceBook**



u3a Thames Valley Network

We are one of thirty-eight U3As within the Thames Valley Network.
The TVN website is <http://u3atvnetwork.org.uk>

VIRTUAL STUDY DAYS via Zoom:

If you are interested in any of these events go to **TVN Study Days** for full
information & application forms.

They **have** to be **booked** & have application closing dates.

Here's the **June** Study days:

Fri 4 June	The British Prime Minister
Thur 10 June	The Lady & The Generals
Wed 16 June	Fighting Franco - Oxfordshire & the Spanish Civil War
Wed 23 June	Coventry Cathedral - Icon & Inspiration
Tue 29 June	Black Holes & the Transient Universe
Wed 30 June	The Thames & its Boats

If you would like to receive information directly from TVN with details of Study Days &
Workshops, please email

events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk