



# APRIL NEWSLETTE



## • NOTES FROM THE CHAIR •

Things seem to be on track for opening up, though we wait for confirmation of what we will be able to do. Keep an eye on the website for any updates on our activities.

What is confirmed is that the speaker meeting will be Andy Smith – Sing a Century. He will be singing songs from each decade of the last century. I hope his 60s one is a good 'un.

The Garden Party is being planned and Crowmarsh Village Hall is now booked for Wed 18<sup>th</sup> August. This will be a celebration event for meeting up again at last!

You will see that Hilly Bailey has had to step down as Treasurer for personal reasons, though she continues to be a member of our u3a. I just want to record my gratitude for all the hard work she's put in. Whatever we may think of online banking and accounting, it's here to stay and she has updated our procedures to make them fit for the future.

Note that we must have a Treasurer otherwise we can't operate as a u3a, so please consider whether you can volunteer for the job. Plenty of training will be given and Hilly will still be available for advice.

*Malcolm*

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## VERY URGENT: WE NEED A TREASURER

(See Notes above)

Can we ask for a volunteer to fill this invaluable role, without which we could not continue.

The accounts are organised, neat & spreadsheet tidy.

If you would like to consider taking this on then please send a message to Malcolm Brooks on the [website Contact form](#), and Malcolm will phone you and provide further details.

## APRIL EVENTS

**Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> April** Coffee Morning

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> April** Speaker Meeting  
Sing a Century

**31<sup>st</sup> April** Membership Renewal Deadline



Clicking on  
**bright blue text** will  
take you somewhere,  
& clicking on the  
blue arrows will  
bring you back to the  
Contents list

## USEFUL WEBSITES:

Go look on our [website](#) for  
useful weblinks regarding  
Covid-19 advice, u3a  
National news, & our Spam  
advice page.



### MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2021-22

Renewal reminders  
were sent out on  
1<sup>st</sup> April.

# 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.

## Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2:00 pm Andy Smith Sing a Century



Andy Smith last came to talk to us in 2019 and many of you will remember his delightful talk entitled 'John, Paul, Ringo and Me'. This time he features songs and instrumentals written and recorded over the last century, singing at least one song from each decade. There has been some amazing music written since 1920 and he will feature some well-known classics as well as a few forgotten gems. So prepare for a musical afternoon with the opportunity to test your memories and guess the year, the song, the artist or the musical.

### Talks to come:

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

### 19<sup>th</sup> May – Philip Caine From Barrow to Baghdad and back again

Philip Caine was born in Barrow-in-Furness, beginning his working life in the hotel business. He then headed to the off-shore oil rigs in the North Sea and began a career that spanned thirty years operating projects across three continents. The end of the Iraq war in 2003 took Philip to Baghdad where he directed the operations and project management of multiple accommodation bases for the American Coalition. After working all over the world he returned to Barrow where he now lives with his family. He began writing his first novel which was published in 2015 and since then there have been five further novels in his exciting thriller series.

### 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

# SPEAKER MEETINGS JUNE 2021 - APRIL 2022



**16<sup>th</sup> June - Graham Harrison**

## **Chloroform: Sense and Insensibility**

Graham Harrison 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.

**21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**18<sup>th</sup> August - Garden party**

(hopefully)

**15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**17<sup>th</sup> 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.

**8<sup>th</sup> 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!

**15<sup>th</sup> 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.

**16<sup>th</sup> 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!

**16<sup>th</sup> 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.

**20<sup>th</sup> 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

## APRIL MESSAGE FROM THE OUTINGS TEAM

We have some interesting excursions for the coming year - some already organised, others receiving some final tweaks.

The problems with Covid are decreasing but for the time being we will restrict numbers to 30 per coach and we will arrange for a 54 seat coach to be used. Masks will be required. In the event that our outings are oversubscribed we shall ballot for the available seats.



\* Unfortunately the **Concord Museum** will **not** be ready for us in April, so this is postponed until November - date to be confirmed.

\* 27th May - a visit to **the Watercress Line**, followed by Jane Austen's house in Alton. In the event of problems with the Watercress Line Gilbert White's house at Selbourne will be the alternative. Tickets at £35.00 per single.

\* 27th June to 1st July. **Jewels of Northumbria.**

We have **two double rooms now available** due to cancellations. Contact Mike Sedman [outings@wallingfordu3a.org](mailto:outings@wallingfordu3a.org) or [website contact form](#) for further information.

\* 13th July - **Cruise to the Isle of White.** To include cream tea, coach tour of the Island and more. Tickets £49.50 each.

\* 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

## 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](#)

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

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

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





## From Loren Butt - Petanque:

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.

## From Helen Fitcher - Singing for Fun:

Starting again in the autumn.

## From Malcolm Brooks - Photography:

A group of photos of a specific geographical area.

## From Carole Johnson - Antiques:

We had a good response to our March Quiz, which was based on advertising "blurb" for a variety of household products, taken from "Housewife" magazine, of June 1950 (which cost 1/- then!). Several of the group got all 15 questions right, which shows our memories are still going strong! Next month we'll probably have an Anagrams Quiz (April), and by May we may be able to start thinking about meeting outdoors somewhere. Looking forward to that!

## From Angie Thorington - Art/Painting & Craft:

Looking forward to seeing you sometime in 2021, stay safe.

## From Carolyn Newbert - Writing for Pleasure:

Continue sharing our work & keeping in touch by email.

## From Philippa Davies - Playreading:

not meeting up in April. But will be reconvening in May to read 'Arcadia' by Tom Stoppard.

## From Jill Cooney - Poetry:

continues to meet each week on Zoom and enjoy a little escapism from this strange world we find ourselves in.

## From Val Mowlam - Spanish:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

## From Janet Franklin - French 1:

We are still enjoying our zoom meetings and have been invited "Chez Michel McVeigh" when this is permitted. Let's hope this will be soon. Prenez soin tout le monde, à bientôt

## ..From Sue Taylor - Book 1:

enjoyed another Zoom Pro meeting in February, courtesy of u3a. We discussed "A Respectable Trade" by Philippa Gregory which deals in great and often uncomfortable detail with the horrors of the slave trade in Bristol a few hundred years ago. It is hard to conceive that our ancestors could have been involved in such a barbaric trade and the book certainly prompted a lively discussion on parallels with the modern slave trade. Our book for March is "The Beekeeper of Aleppo" by Christy Lefteri.

## From Diana Young - Book 2:

still meeting via Zoom.

## From Dee Clarke - Book 4:

in April we shall be discussing "The Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman and for May our choice is "The Stranger Diaries" by Elly Griffiths.

We are very much looking forward to meeting in members' gardens soon. Let's hope we have some warm weather from Easter onwards - you never know your luck! Zoom is better than nothing, but seeing people in the flesh is so much better!

## From Sue English - Book 5:

Book Group 5 will be meeting in April, either outside or on Zoom, depending on the weather. Our April book is by Wallingford author & u3a member, Jane Stubbs, and is her recently released A Family Affair. We also have a second book for April which is The Husband's Secret by Liane Moriarty.

## From Patricia Shields - History 2:

Our History Group is thriving on Zoom. We have enjoyed a presentation on the causes of the Franco Prussian War and look forward to hearing about the small Oxfordshire villages in April.

## From Jennifer Potter - History 4:

In April we are revisiting our February subject and talking about The History of the Place of Our Birth or a Place We Have Lived / Know Well.

## From Ray Verrall - History 5:

At our last Zoom meeting the group enjoyed a very interesting talk on Victorian life encompassing education, population, employment and housing. Due to holiday commitments there will be no meeting in April.

## From Trudy Davies - Current Affairs 1:

Continue to hold very successful ZoomPro discussions monthly.

## From Val Mowlam - Current Affairs 2:

Meeting monthly via ZoomPro.

## From Rosemary Garner - Birdwatching 1:

Birdwatching 1 are very much looking forward to restarting on 1st July with a visit to College Lakes near Tring if we are allowed to do so.

## From Pam Johnstone - Birdwatching 2:

Nothing going on as yet but starting to hear more birds and some frogs have been having a good time in our pond.

## From Joyce Kent - Cribbage:

Now meeting & playing Cribbage every week via Zoom.

## From Phil Richardson - Rambling:

The updated rules allow organised group walks from 29 March so we shall be rambling/walking in April.

## From Julia West - Moderate & Longer Walking:

The Moderate and Longer walking groups restart in April. Moderate 2 starts in May.



# MUSICAL NOTES

*Under Appreciated Composers/Performers*

By Mike Sedman, Classical Music Appreciation 1 group

## Carl Maria von Weber

1786 - 1826

Carl did not have the best of health but this did not prevent him from becoming the father of German Romantic Opera. At the age of four he was already playing the piano encouraged by his parents who were musicians. His father was a violinist and his mother a talented singer. During his career he travelled widely and held a number of musical positions ending with about ten years as the prestigious director of the German Opera Theatre in Dresden.



His greatest triumph was the success of his opera "Der Freischutz" (the Marksman) by which he is mostly remembered, but he wrote several other operas with beautiful tunes and wonderful overtures (Oberon is particularly lovely). In fact he was attending the hugely successful premiere of this work at Covent Garden when he died from tuberculosis at an age of only forty years.

What is generally under appreciated is the composition of a great deal of wonderful piano music. For example he wrote two piano concertos and several sonatas. He also composed some outstanding music for clarinet and also a charming bassoon concero, if you fancy something a bit different.



He also wrote the famous waltz "Invitation to the Dance" which I am sure will have heard many times but just can't remember the composer's name.

For a man who suffered ill health for much of his life he left us with lots of fine music to explore.  
There is plenty on the internet and Spotify.

Suggested: **"Clarinet Concerto No 1"**  
**"Invitation to the Dance"**



# WALLINGFORD SWANS

Wendy Tobitt spent many hours of lockdown3 out on the Thames Path, locally of course. The Guardian included one of her photos of a swan at Benson in the '[Outdoors is the best place to be](#)' feature – congratulations!

Here are Wendy's stunning photos and words:



They are the biggest birds on the water in the UK by weight and by wingspan, which is often 2 metres. Did you see the graphics of a 2m swan

wingspan River and Rowing Museum in Henley when they opened after lockdown last year to keep people socially-distant?

The beauty of swans inspires artists and composers. Sculptor Jacob Epstein studied swan's wings and feathers before he created the immense angel's wings for his magnificent St Michael's Victory over the Devil on the front of Coventry Cathedral. Musicians composed music including Sibelius' Swan of Tuonela, Saint-Saen's cello solo The Swan, and of course Tchaikovsky's Swan Lake.

It is so tempting to get close to swans, especially when they awkwardly waddle out of the river at the slipway near St Lucian's, or swim towards us when we're standing on the path at Wallingford moorings.



The swan I photographed came towards me while I was sitting on a bench in Rivermead, and only turned away when it realised I had no food. They are powerful and can be aggressive, as some people may have seen near the Oxford University boathouse during the last few weeks. Cygnets born last year were harried and chased by their parents to encourage them to leave the territory so the adult swans can nest this year.

Swans pair for life and their mating rituals start in February with gentle inclining of their necks towards each other and swimming close together. The act of copulation takes place on the water when the male, or cob, holds down the female or pen, keeping her head beneath the water for several seconds. They break apart and swim together closely before resuming their nest-building. Swans are very protective of their nesting areas, and will fight any bird, dog or person who they feel threatened by. Their beaks are sharp and wings very strong.

If you're walking beside the river or a lake where swans are nesting keep dogs on short leads and walk away from swans if they approach you, especially if you have children with you. Most swans build their nests in places where they're less likely to attract predators such as foxes and herons that will take eggs and young cygnets. But that isn't always the case, and sometimes they nest on slipways and in riverside gardens.

[Swan Support](#) is one of the charities that rescues and rehabs swans on the Thames. They recommend fencing off a swan nest to protect the birds. If you remove it, the birds will be back to build again!

Many of us like to feed birds, and take bread down to the river to feed the swans and ducks. Sadly, this is not the best food for them. It isn't nutritious, causes damaging bacteria when it rots in water and attracts rats. Ducks and swans eat river weed, grasses and grains, so if you want to feed them take a small bag of frozen peas, wilted salad leaves, oats, rice and bird seed. There's more useful advice from [the Canal and River Trust](#).



Swans can get injured by discarded fishing hooks and wire which are caught in their beaks or wrapped around their legs. They're also attacked by dogs, and in a few rare occasions by people shooting them with air weapons or catapults.

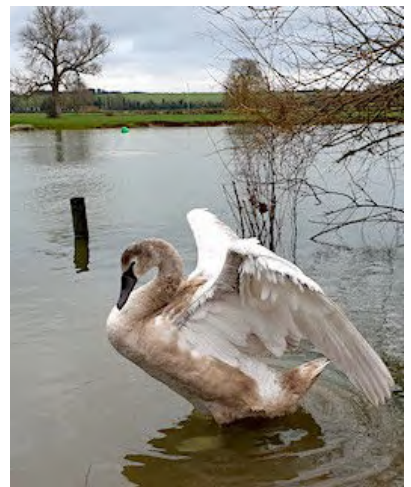
Thankfully there are charities along the Thames with trained rescuers to collect swans safely, rehabilitate them where possible and release them.

[Swan Lifeline](#) is based at Cuckoo Weir in Eton, and works with David Barber, the Queen's Swan Warden and Swan Marker who coordinates the annual Swan Upping every summer, except last year.

I hope the u3a talk by David, cancelled earlier this year, will be rescheduled. But if not, take a look at [his website](#) for information about this unique tradition.

Swan Upping this year is due to take place between 19 and 23 July starting at Sunbury-on-Thames and finishing at Abingdon Bridge. There will be observation points such as Benson Lock.

But for now, let's enjoy watching these noble swans from a safe and respectful distance, flying overhead, swimming on the river and bringing up this year's brood of young cygnets.



Wendy Tobitt

# TULIP MANIA

by Oxyflora

At this time of year does Tulipmania mean anything to you?



Does it mean growing one of the most beautiful flowers in the world?

Does it mean visiting Wallingford Market on a Friday to buy some tulips to cheer the house up?

Does it mean looking over garden walls of admiring professional displays?

Do you know anything about its fascinating history?

If no, here is a flavor!



The tulip is a native of Anatolia and they first arrived in Western Europe in the late 1500s. It was an exotic flower imported mainly by the Dutch who were probably the greatest international traders at the time. In a nation of increasing prosperity tulips became a luxury item, which for any man or woman of taste (or nouveau riche) had to be displayed. It became a game of beating the Jones's. Initially it was a status item that was purchased just

because it was expensive and very fragile and costly to replace.

In 1634 Tulipmania spread through Holland. From the wealthiest merchant to the poorest chimney



sweep everyone wanted tulips. This meant supply could not keep up with demand and the price skyrocketed. The rarest bulbs, the "broken" ones with striped multi coloured patterns were worth as much as a mansion on one of Amsterdam's canals!



Such an artificial situation could not last and in 1637 prices began to fall. Hundreds had bought on credit and bankruptcies were massive and toward the end owners could not sell their precious tulips for even a small fraction of the price they paid.

One wonders sometimes whether we have learned the lessons of such greed and excess!



## Suggestion for growing:

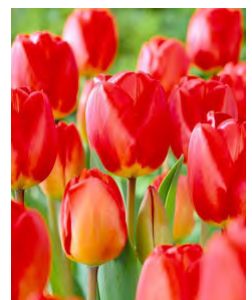
Tulipa "Oxford", an erect Darwin hybrid perennial with single bright orange to scarlet flowers, up to 2 feet.

## Suggestion for visiting:

**Chenies Manor** (near Amersham). Hampton Court.

## Suggestion for listening:

**Tulips from Amsterdam** by Max Bygraves.



Oxyflora (Oxyfauna)



8





# MARK ROBINSON OUT & ABOUT LAST MONTH



Dorchester Alpaca



Nuneham Courtney Deer



Nuffield Longhorns



Red kites near Ewelme



Ewelme



Pyrton



...during the receding floods...



.... and beached after the floods



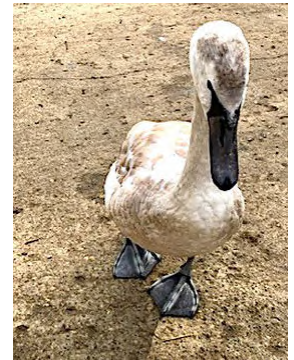
# RAY VERRALL OUT & ABOUT LAST MONTH



The Yellow Grass Road - the demolition contractors path across the Bullcroft



Amalanchia tree



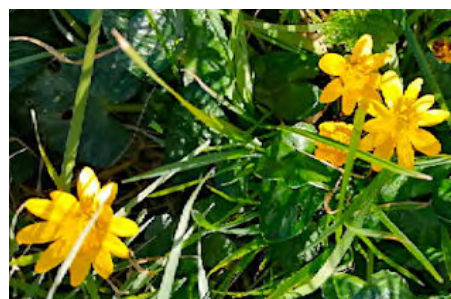
# MARY DYSON OUT & ABOUT LAST MONTH



Coltsfoot



Sinodun hills from Mill Brook, near Hithercroft



Celandine



Alder Catkins





# 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 ROBINSON'S PHOTO QUIZ

## WINDMILLS

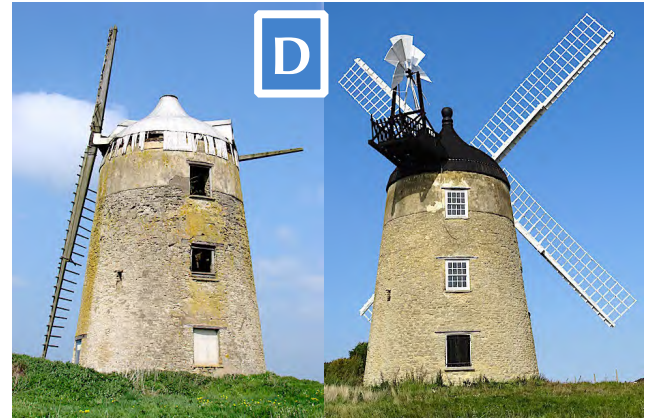


Match the photos to the descriptions.

Answers on page xx.

NB Opening times are all subject to covid restrictions.

Many mills usually also open on **National Mills Weekends**



**WHEATLEY WINDMILL** is situated in Windmill Lane, Wheatley. It is a 3-storey octagonal stone tower mill, built of local limestone about 1764. People from the surrounding villages brought their corn to the mill to be ground. It originally had a curved copper-clad cap and four sails, each comprising a wooden frame rigged with canvas. The masonry is heavily patched with brickwork. In October 1939 the mill was severely damaged by lightning and became derelict. The Wheatley Windmill Restoration Society restored the mill and in June 2012 and it milled flour for the first time in nearly 100 years. Much of the internal machinery survives and the mill can be viewed on public Open Days in the summer.

**TURVILLE WINDMILL** overlooks the village of Turville in Buckinghamshire and was built around 1816. It is a smock mill with a sloping sided tower, topped with a cap that rotates to bring the sails into the wind, a type of mill that is said to resemble the shape of the traditional smocks worn by farmers. The mill appeared in the film Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and was subsequently bought by Roy, one of the Boulting Brothers who produced and directed many successful British films, with his wife the actress Hayley Mills. They combined the mill and an adjacent mill workers' cottage into a home. The mill is currently on private land and not accessible to the public.

**GREAT HASELEY WINDMILL** The mill is situated between the villages of Great Haseley and Great Milton. It was built in 1760 and is one of the largest stone-built tower mills, with four sails, bearing sail cloth on an open wooden frame. It was modernised with some iron fittings in 1889, but ceased work early in the 20th century. The Great Haseley Windmill Trust led by Sir Martin Wood, who founded the Oxford Instruments technology company, restored the mill to full working order in 2013. It is open to groups by arrangement, between May and September, plus occasional Open Days.

**BRILL WINDMILL** situated in the hill-top village on the border of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire overlooks the Vale of Aylesbury. It is a 17th Century post mill, whose whole body can be rotated around a large central post to face into the wind. Some of its timbers have been dated from 1685, and it is one of the earliest and best preserved post mills in Britain. The Brill Windmill Management Group completed its preservation and repair in July 2009, and the mill is open to the public on Sunday afternoons, between March and September. Brill itself was used by JRR Tolkien as the basis for the village of Bree in The Lord of the Rings.



Here's the jigsaw versions of the windmills



# KEN'S GENERAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ

Another treat from our Ken!



1. Which UK food product has on its tin the biblical quotation "Out of the strong came forth sweetness"?
2. What family connection links Dad's Army with the Star Wars sequel trilogy?
3. Which canal separates the Peloponnese peninsula with mainland Greece?
4. What part of the constitution of the Labour Party called for the common ownership of industry?
5. Which is the largest cinema chain in the United Kingdom by market share?
6. What is the next line of the Hughes Mearns poem which begins "Yesterday, upon the stair"?
7. Who is Topolino in Italy, Max Eger in Hungary and Mikki Hiiri in Finland?
8. Which queen was born Princess Alexandrina of Kent in 1819?
9. Which Chinese video-sharing social networking service became available worldwide in 2018 ?
10. What, in different parts of Britain, can be called a jitty, gulley, ginnel or wynd?
11. Which health minister once warned the British public that most of the egg production in the UK was affected by salmonella?
12. What did the German Democratic Republic describe as an "anti-fascist protective rampart"?
13. David Quayle and Richard Block founded which retail chain in Eastleigh, Hampshire, in 1969 ?
14. Which host of The Apprentice: You're Fired! Went to school with comedian Rob Beckett and EastEnders actor Charlie Clements?
15. What airliner was grounded worldwide between March 2019 and December 2020 after 346 people died in two crashes?
16. "Do you remember an inn, Miranda?" is the opening line of Tarantella by which author?
17. What is the longest word in the Nato phonetic alphabet?
18. What links the bands AC/DC, Oasis and Radiohead?
19. Ken Warby, who holds the current world water speed record, with a speed of 317.58mph, comes from which country?
20. And finally, almost 75% of the periodic table is classed as what?

# MALCOLM'S LOCAL ROAD QUIZ

Another quiz from Malcolm Brooks!



These are clues, cryptic, general knowledge or both. They are all in Wallingford and the surrounding areas – where our members live (the places not necessarily the roads).

The clues may refer just to the name or may include the whole name.

- 1 Sweet Roman Road
- 2 What James 1st didn't want.
- 3 Presidential or what?
- 4 Religious brothers' drink?
- 5 Two hectares, more or less.
- 6 Hills, or who owns the place where grain was swapped.
- 7 Named after wisdom or the invader?
- 8 Which martyr, Beauvais or Antioch – the same really?
- 9 There are no theatres and cinemas here.
- 10 Two score?
- 11 Did the chicken do this?
- 12 Can you see stars here?
- 13 Silly colour?
- 14 They crashed but not on these two streets.
- 15 A ship or a plane? Armstrong knows, so does Whitworth.
- 16 Playing a flute on one leg or inventing a drill?
- 17 Here be rail closures.
- 18 Methyl salicylate Lane perhaps
- 19 Did Mr Piggott go down here?
- 20 I don't think this is really the centre of England.



# QUIZ ANSWERS

## Mark & Mary's Photo QUIZ Windmills

- A. Turville
- B. Brill
- C. Wheatley
- D. Great Haseley

## Ken's General Knowledge QUIZ

- 1. Lyles Golden Syrup
- 2. Arnold Ridley (Private Godfrey) was the great-uncle of Daisy Ridley (Rey in Star Wars)
- 3. Corinth
- 4. Clause IV
- 5. Odeon
- 6. "I met a man who wasn't there".
- 7. Mickey Mouse
- 8. Queen Victoria
- 9. Tik Tok
- 10. Alley or alleyway
- 11. Edwina Curry
- 12. Berlin Wall
- 13. B&Q
- 14. Tom Allen
- 15. Boeing 737 Max
- 16. Hilaire Belloc
- 17. November
- 18. All had sets of brothers as part of their line-ups.
- 19. Australia
- 20. Metals



## Malcolm's Local Road QUIZ

- 1. Honey Lane
- 2. Papist Way
- 3. Kennedy Crescent
- 4. Monks Mead
- 5. Five Acres
- 6. Sinodun Road
- 7. Norman
- 8. St Lucian
- 9. West End
- 10. The Forty
- 11. Cross Road
- 12. Observatory Close
- 13. Folly Green
- 14. Wilding Road and Andrew Road
- 15. Argosy Road
- 16. Jethro Tull Gardens
- 17. Beeching Way
- 18. Wintergreen Lane
- 19. Lester Way
- 20. Meriden Court



## Next Newsletter

The **MAY** issue will be released on  
or soon after  
**1<sup>st</sup> May 2021**

It will be put up on our website  
[www.thamesidewallingfordu3a.org](http://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](mailto:newsletter@wallingfordu3a.org)

### **Contact the Committee**

via the secure Contact  
page on the website



### **Phone contact for offline members**

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

## **COMMITTEE 2020-21**

Malcolm Brooks Chairman

Ken Johnstone Deputy Chairman

Malcolm Brooks 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

Sarah Boyt Robinson Newsletter, Website  
& Communications

## **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](http://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 April Study days:

- 7 April **Say it with Flowers**
- 9 April **Spring Quiz**
- 14 April **Migration of Birds**
- 15 April **1685: How modern medicine...**
- 20 April **Archaeological Figures**

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

[events\\_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk](mailto:events_info@u3atvnetwork.org.uk)