

newsletter

SOUTH BUCKS U3A | JUN | JULY | AUG | SEPT | 2026

Issue No.139 | Registered Charity 1029873

u3a

www.sbu3a.org.uk

your committee

The Branch is run by a voluntary committee
See who does what below...

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IMPORTANT:

As a member of SBu3a, if you change your address or email,
please remember to notify the Membership Secretary Kay Harrison,
email: memsec@sbu3a.org.uk

from the chair

Dear All

The AGM will be held on June 16th.

We must appoint a new chair at this meeting to allow our u3a to continue.

Having done it for 3 years I can safely say that the Chair itself is not an onerous role being a primarily administrative and figurehead one. It's all the other bits and pieces that I have taken upon myself that take up my time! I can remain on the committee to support any prospective Chair but cannot currently commit to future responsibilities due to health considerations.

We thank Pauline Keyne for coming forward to take on the Group Liaison role but now the committee are actively and urgently seeking someone to take the Chair...

We also thank Fiona Wright for her committee assistance for the past 3 years, and her continued essential tea provision at the general meetings (together with Ann King).

I apologise for the excessive Third Age Trust survey which we were asked to pass on to you. That to me is an example of the 'committeeism' that I try to avoid.

We are in touch with our other local u3as but alas our ideal of being able to interchange and share with their groups is not viable, so the rule is 'join us to take advantage of our groups and activities'.

Thank you to all our convenors, committee members and helpers for their efforts (especially Annie for this newsletter!) that provide the mutual benefit we all get from our u3a.

Keith Searing, Chair

general meetings

FUTURE GENERAL MEETINGS:

June 16th: Sandra Hurst – Kyrgyzstan : The Jewel of Central Asia

*July 21st: Steven Bruce – Buying and Selling at Auction
with Stories from the Auction Room*

August: No meeting

Sept 15th: Neville Harris – The Magic of the Movies

The Garden Lovers visit Montana, Cholesbury in April. Photo: Ceri Watson



welcome to our newest members

Graham Skinner Moira Watt
Ruth Weston John Wing
Janet Brandon Paul Gwynfor Davies
David Evans Glenys Evans
Vivienne Ely Phil Ely
Michelle Gunner Charles Hurst
Jennifer Harper-Jones
Estelle & Gordon Jewkes
Margaret Mardall Lynn & Trevor Peters
Janette & Lee Simmonds
Judith McDonnell

We are always pleased to welcome new members, so if you know of people you think might be interested in joining, please ask them to contact Kay Harrison for more information.

Email memsec@sbu3a.org.uk

thames valley network

You may not be aware that this network exists linking 48 u3as in the area. The TVN organises many interesting events both online and face to face.

These do however tend to get booked up very quickly, so please keep an eye out on the TVN's website for any new notifications.

For current detailed information of TVN Events and booking forms please visit:

<http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/>

or the TVN page on our own website.

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Our Groups

NEWS ABOUT OUR GROUPS FROM YOUR CONVENORS



Antiques & Collectibles

Sue Abbey

agantiques@sbu3a.org.uk

Unfortunately we have missed two of our monthly meetings as they coincided with Bank Holidays. However, we still met on several occasions with topics ranging from 'Local History' to 'Square & Rectangular', and most recently 'The letter P'. Liz Tebbutt and Sandy Sell introduced two of the topics, providing interesting slants on the chosen themes. On all occasions our members have risen to the challenge, bringing a wide variety of both interesting and sometimes unusual objects, often with personal stories associated with their acquisition.

Although not part of the published programme, following Hugo Lemon's visit in November, we had been given invitations to attend a Bourne End auctions which was being filmed for several 'Bargain Hunt' programmes. Presenters of the programme, together with a series of contestants, were also present at the back of the room, and from their excitement we were well aware when their objects were being auctioned!! As part of the audience, it was fascinating to watch those who were bidding, as well as Hugo who was conducting the auction, and were amazed by some of the highs and lows of the prices realised. Needless to say, we were just passive spectators! We now wait to hear when the programmes will be televised.

We are looking forward to a full programme of meetings until the end of the year, and as always we do welcome new members. Just come along and join us for one of our meetings which take place on the first Friday of each month in the Curzon Centre at 2pm.

FUTURE MEETINGS .

June 5th Summer Celebration - The Colour Pink

July 3rd Travel - Including Currency, Stamps & Tickets

Aug. 7th Pocket Sized

Sept. 4th Item you would save from a fire



Bird Watchers

Pam Lloyd

agornithology@sbu3a.org.uk

January we held our annual planning meeting and appreciated the hospitality of our hosts, the Gees, who showed us photos of a birding trip to Northern India and served us refreshments.

In February we walked around Jubilee River. The river was high and had burst its banks, but it didn't rain!. Without leaves on the trees bird ID is much easier and we found 41 species. We enjoyed watching a flock of siskin feeding in an alder. There were many black headed gulls

on the flooded meadow, as well as a pair of shelduck, a little egret and a heron.

In March we went to Dinton Pastures Country Park, a new venue for many members and enjoyed exploring the lakes, river and areas of trees. Although many of the winter ducks had already departed there were small numbers of wigeon, shovelers, gadwall and pochard as well as many tufted ducks. A pair of handsome goosander was an unusual species to find.

An early start for our Dawn chorus walk at Marlow at the end of March was well worth the effort to hear a variety of songs as well as seeing over 40 species. Highlights included green and greater spotted woodpeckers, kestrel, buzzard, grey wagtail and skylarks. A hearty breakfast at Wetherspoons in Marlow afterwards was most welcome.



Male
Great Spotted
Woodpecker

In April our walk around Stockers Lake, with its variety of habitats, certainly indicated breeding season had started for many species and there were already goslings of Egyptian geese. Herons are early nesters in trees, a pair of swans were sitting on eggs, while the black headed gulls were noisily courting and defending spaces for nests.

Our full day outing in April to Walthamstow Wetlands (London Wildlife Trust) - a "first" for everyone - was very enjoyable, with sunny, warm weather and we saw/heard 49 species. Some highlights included 2 kingfishers flying past, sand martins, whitethroat and blackcap. A pair of great crested grebes enchanted us with a courtship display and the ducklings skimming across the water chasing insects were delightful. There were many goslings of both Canada and Greylag geese.

FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings start at 10 am unless otherwise indicated. Information is sent out by email to group members before each meeting.

Currently the group is full, but you are welcome to join a short waiting list.

June 8th Lodge Hill

June 24th College Lake (BBOWT reserve)

July 13th Little Marlow Gravel pits

August 10th Jubilee River (Dorney wetlands)

September 14th Stockers Lake



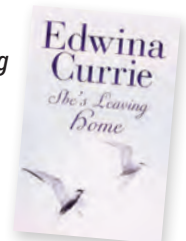
Book Group One

Celia Oram

agbooks@sbu3a.org.uk

In March we read *She's Leaving Home* by Edwina Currie. It was thought to be too long. It followed 4 girls taking A levels in 1963.

In April we read *Nice Work* by David Lodge. It followed a





graduate following a middle manager and then vice versa. It had several twists.

In May we will have read *Raising Hare* by Chloe Dalton. It is the trials and the pleasure found from looking after a leveret.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd



Book Group Two

Judith Collier & Bernadette Simms
agbooks2@sbu3a.org.uk

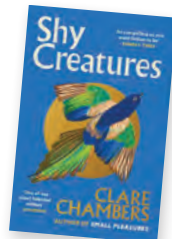
The group has recently read the following books:

Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton. The book describes the growing relationship between the author, an over stressed city dweller, and a baby hare which she finds. A popular book and we learned a great deal about hares.



Tell Me Everything by Elizabeth Strout. Number five in a series of books set in Maine. Easier to follow the story if you were familiar with the characters from the earlier books.

Shy Creatures by Clare Chambers. William, one of the main characters, has not left his home for decades and is admitted to a psychiatric hospital where he meets art therapist Helen. Set in the 1960's this is a heart-warming book which we all loved.



A Book in Time by Mark Stibbe

The Book of Mystical Poems is the narrator of the story. We follow the book as it passes through many hands and witnesses historical events over two centuries. A mixed reception from our readers.

The Group is currently full



Bridge

Liz Pratt
agbridge@sbu3a.org.uk

REGULAR PLAYERS PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF START TIME ON July 20th & September 21st see below.

We are a very friendly group. We welcome and encourage new players who have a good basic knowledge of the game.

We average about 30 players ... playing 20 - 22 pre-dealt boards of duplicate bridge.

Results (& hand records) are usually posted online by 6pm.

We meet EVERY Monday EXCEPT BANK



HOLIDAYS. Cost: £2.50 per session

Please note:

- New players are asked to contact Liz before coming for the first time.
- If you need a partner contact Liz beforehand and she will try to find you one on a week by week basis.
- There is often someone looking to establish a regular partnership. Over the years there have been some very successful new partnerships created in this way.

MOST WEEKS

- Please aim to be in the hall by 1.15pm* as we start at 1.20pm

There is limited parking off road but on road parking close by. *please allow 5 minutes to park.

EXCEPTIONS Due to hall availability

- On July 20th & September 21st we cannot be sure of access to the hall until 1.15pm
- On these dates please aim to be there **NOT BEFORE** 1.15pm and we will set up and start asap. Aim to finish by 4.45pm

Our website is: www.bridgewebs.co.uk/sbu3a

FUTURE MEETINGS

Venue: St Thomas' church hall Mayflower Way Holtspur HP9 1UF

June 1/8/15/22/29 July 6/13/20*/27
August 10/17/24 September 7/14/21*/28
* later start

PLEASE NOTE: No bridge on August 31st as this is a Bank Holiday

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

Your stomach produces a new layer of mucus every two weeks so that it doesn't digest itself.

• • •

Right handed people, on average, live nine years longer than left handed people.

Peter Constantine

Alan Cairns

agcroquet@sbu3a.org.uk

• NB: This activity is not run by SB u3a, but our members are welcomed by the host organisation

We have now just started playing this season. We play at the High Wycombe Croquet Club located at the Hazlemere Recreation Ground. Numbers are limited to how many can play at any one time on the two immaculately prepared greens.

We are now close to capacity but if any one wants to renew a hobby or try a new activity please contact Peter and we will attempt to accommodate you. There is a small charge for playing which goes to the club as a contribution to the maintenance of the greens.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Every Wednesday from 10.30 to 12.30 - April to the end of Oct.



Paul Rose (formerly James Barrett)
agcurrentaffairs@sbu3a.org.uk

I have declared before that, as we age, the tapestry of our lives becomes enhanced, with threads of experience, knowledge and observation. Having reasoned discussions about local and wider Current Affairs offers

benefits to older individuals, bolstering their mental health and developing connections.

A significant benefit lies in the area of Education and Life-Long Learning. Discussing Current Affairs involves researching, analysing and forming opinions. Whether debating the efficacy of new educational policies or the impact of vocational training on youth employment, older adults are forced to engage with complex information, stimulating their minds and keeping mental agility. That can fend off cognitive decline and keep our mental processes sharp.

Immigration often sparks passionate debates. Exploring the economic, social and cultural impacts of immigration on local communities needs thoughtful consideration. Having witnessed decades of demographic shifts, as older adults we can bring first-hand information and perspectives, as a counter-balance to polarised narratives.

The convulsive effects of USA actions on our economy for instance, are undeniable and force us to confront the realities of globalisation. This engagement keeps us informed about the financial forces shaping our financial security. – *James*

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meeting at the Lounge of St Thomas' Church, Mayflower Way, Holtspur at 1.45pm on 24th June, 2026; 22nd July; 26th August; and 23rd September. There is no meeting in December.



The Storm



Christa Webber
Carole Willatt
agart@sbu3a.org.uk

In JANUARY-JAMES BARRETT entertained us with the story of the most prolific and daring art thief, STEPHANE BREITWIESER (b.1971), a Frenchman who loved art so much that he had to have it. He never sold anything. Just kept it secretly in his mother's house. With the help of his girlfriend he stole 239 works of art from 172 museums in Western Europe. Of course it could not last and he was caught in 1997 In Switzerland. What a remarkable tale.

In FEBRUARY-SANDRA HURST paid us another welcome visit. She told us the story of the very popular Romantic landscape artist JOHN CONSTABLE (1776–1837). This was very timely in view of the exhibition of his work at the Tate. His art was also much appreciated in France, where he had inspired many landscape artists.

In MARCH- CALLY TRENCH, an Art Historian connected to the High Wycombe Museum, was our excellent guest speaker. The subject was "Artists and Fisherfolk in Staithes" with Harold Knight's 'THE STORM' as the main topic. CALLY was able to convey the atmosphere of the place perfectly and also describe the challenges these brave people faced.

In APRIL- HELEN TIPPINS, a former member, came back to delight us with the story of the amazing ARTEMESIA GENTILESCHI Italian Baroque artist, (1593-1652).

Her life was turbulent, but she persisted with her painting and produced many wonderful works of art. For many the favourite is a

self-portrait as ...the Allegory of Painting. (*below*)
Thank you Helen



days are getting longer.

Our first walk of the year, in March, took us to the often overlooked area of Bermondsey. With Kim, our usual blue badge guide looking after us, we were regaled with tales of hats, vinegar, modern art and gardens before we discovered the worst job of the Victorian poor (hint - the area is famous for the leather trade).



More pics on page 12

In April we heard about the history of the women's suffrage movement, while May had us looking at street art in Spitalfields. Please look out for the emails advertising individual walks before booking a place as days and dates vary from month to month. *See pics on page 23*

FUTURE MEETINGS:

- 10th June: Carole Willatt – Renaissance Art*
- 8th July: Vickie Bowen – Modigliani & his story.*
- August: A day's outing is in the planning*
- 9th September: Ruby Osorio – Stanley Spencer*



Caroline Searing
agtravel@sbu3a.org.uk

The Explore London group is active once again now that the weather is improving and the

FUTURE MEETINGS

We have a full programme of walks planned between now and October, so please contact the convener if you would like to join the group.

- June - A Royal walk in the park: Regent's Park*
- July - Greenwich: Versailles on Thames*
- August - no walk*
- September - Bloody, flaming, poxy London: a walk around the city*

In March the Explore London group explored the often overlooked area of Bermondsey. Photos Val Taylor





Film Appreciation

Dieter Shaw
agfilm@sbu3a.org.uk

We have had a busy program with films that entertained, moved and informed. Audrey Hepburn's wartime years showed us aspects of her life that few of us knew. An expert speaker helped greatly. LEE was a film about a famous photographer who, at war's end was the first to document the the Nazi's unimaginable industrial killing machine. She was well known after her picture in Hitler's bathtub went viral. A COMPLETE UNKNOWN was about BOB DYLAN'S arrival in New York and gaining infamy and fame in equal measure by introducing his electric instruments in his songs. Lastly GANDHI is a big film with big guns in every role, in front and behind the camera. Here is the moving story of partitioning India never told before in this vast format, 3 hours, worth every minute.

FUTURE MEETINGS – Hedgerley Hall, 2pm.

Monday, 15th June

ANORA - Drama 2hrs 9min, 2018 Cert.18 - USA



Anora, a young stripper from Brooklyn, gets her chance at a Cinderella story when she meets and impulsively marries the son of an oligarch. Once the news reaches Russia, her fairytale is threatened as the parents set out for New York to get the marriage annulled. Won 5 Oscars 154 wins and 275 nominations total.

get the marriage annulled. Won 5 Oscars 154 wins and 275 nominations total.

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~
"Go." is the shortest complete sentence in the English language.

Monday, July 20th

BENEDICTION - 2 hrs 17 mins Biography - War Epic - Drama -History GB



The film explores the turbulent life of First World War poet Siegfried Sassoon through the eyes of revered film maker Terence Davies. Sassoon was a complex man fighting his gay sexuality who survived the horrors of the fighting in the first world war and was decorated for his bravery. Dealing with his experiences at the front he became a vocal critic of the governments decision to continue fighting on the Western Front. Adored by members of the aristocracy, his work made him the most important war poet, speaking to us meaningfully now as it did then. Directed by Terence Davies and starring Jack Lowden and Peter Capaldi.

Monday, 17h August,

THE BEST EXOTIC MARIGOLD HOTEL - Drama - Romance - 118 min. GB



Lately regarded as a great British film with some of the most famous British talent. Judy Dench, Tom Wilkinson, Bill Nighy, Penelope Wilton, Celia Imrie, Ronald Pickup etc play a group of elderly Britons, who, for a variety of reasons, respond

to an online ad and travel to Jaipur, India, where they find a run-down hotel with a young, exuberant and optimistic host called Sonny (Dev Patel), who has dreams but little cash or skill; he also has a girlfriend whom his mother dismisses. Stories cross and discoveries await each one.

A feel-good film, well worth watching a second time (if you have already seen it).

Monday 21st September

THE CHORAL - Period Drama - Music - 113 minutes GB

This is a sombre and earnest story of a small



Yorkshire community in 1916, scarred by war and gathered around its choral society which has lost its best male voices on the front forcing the conscription of a new choir master and a group of teenage boys. The

masters name is Guthrie (Ralph Fiennes) who has recently returned from the front. He has a love of German composers but now it's wartime and he is determined to inspire these young singers to perform works by English composers like Edward Elgar

Theatre shows. In addition, we have read articles and discussed issues that interest us.

We meet on the first Tuesday afternoon of the month in each other's homes. We are generally at intermediate/advanced level. One of our members is a native French speaker, which is a great help.

The group is currently full but we do keep a waiting list, and vacancies occur from time to time. Please contact Shelagh, if you would like further information.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd June, 7th July, 4th August, 1st September



Shelagh Wells
agfrance@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a very friendly group who meet for tea/biscuits, and sometimes cake, to chat in French. Our focus is mainly on French conversation, and we have informal discussions about a wide range of topics, which have recently included: Social Media Ban, Winter Olympics, Books, and



Kay Harrison
Sandra Hurst
Caroline McCullagh, Janet Walker
aggarden@sbu3a.org.uk

Garden Lovers have followed the advent of Spring in gardens as varied as Hollydykes in Little Missenden, Chesham Bois House and

Garden Lovers visit Cholesbury and Chesham



Montana at Cholesbury – all very different but all equally interesting and welcoming Spring in their own way.

Now it is time to turn to Summer gardens with their beautiful displays of herbaceous borders, stunning green lawns and fascinating “rooms”, and endless secret nooks and crannies.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June – tba

July – Waterperry - revisiting in a different season plus a ceramics exhibition

*August 5th – Danesfield House
Summer Garden*

September 8th – Chenies Dahlias



German Conversation

Jon Fantes

aggermany@sbu3a.org.uk

Our friendly group continues to meet to discuss topics of general interest ranging from personal experiences to current affairs. We always have at least one native German speaker to help us out if we are struggling with vocabulary or grammar. New members are always welcome.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The third Tuesday of each month at 13.45 in the Lounge at St Thomas' Church, Holtspur.

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

*In 2016, Mozart sold more CDs
than Beyonce*



Christine Phillips

Ceri Watson

aghistory@sbu3a.org.uk

In February U3A member Grant Stewart gave us a fascinating talk on Benjamin Disraeli, illustrated most effectively with well chosen examples of his life and achievements. Grant has been guide at Hughenden Manor for some time now so he knows his subject very well. Disraeli married a wealthy widow which enabled him to buy the manor in 1848 - around the same time that he became MP for Buckinghamshire. As well as his political career he was a successful author and book collector, filling the house with over 3000 books.

U3A member Vickie Bowen's subject for March's meeting was The Life Of Barbara Hepworth, one of our most influential female sculptors. We learnt about her love of modernism, of smooth shapes and curved lines, of holes to look through - much of her work is outside in nature. Vickie focused on some of Barbara's prestigious commissions - for the Festival Of Britain, and 'Single Form' (*below*) which was created



as a memorial to her friend Dag Hammarskjöld and sited in the plaza of the United Nations building in New York.

She and her second husband Ben Nicholson were leading figures in an artist's colony in St Ives and it was there that she died

in an accidental fire at her studios in May 1972 aged 72.

In April we had two shorter talks - Sandy Phillips told us about the history of Beamish Museum and John Mack compared and contrasted two titans of our political history - Attlee and Churchill. Quite a contrast. Beamish is a large open air museum set in a 350 acre site founded in 1970 by Frank Atkinson to fulfil his vision of a place which could help preserve the rapidly disappearing industrial heritage of North East England. Frank had been collecting objects since the 1950s, accepting any donation of everyday objects. He believed that with the decline of traditional industries like coal mining, ship building and iron manufacture in 1950s and '60s it was vital to preserve a dying way of life for later generations to experience. The museum has a railway station, a colliery, a winding engine, miners cottages, school, pub, chapel, sweet shop, a pit pony stable, and much more. It won The Museum of the Year in 2025 and was also the most visited attraction of the year in 2024 and 2025.

John took us through the contrasting backgrounds and personalities of Attlee and Churchill. Churchill was born in Blenheim Palace to an aristocratic family whilst Attlee's parents were middle class. Churchill was not a good pupil and after Harrow and Sandhurst embarked on an army career, before firstly standing for the Conservatives then joining the Liberal Party and serving as First Lord of the Admiralty- until the disastrous Dardanelles expedition. He rejoined the Conservatives but lost his seat in 1929. During the 1930s his opposition to Indian self-rule and warnings about the rise of the Nazis left him politically isolated. His critics believed he was a racist .

Attlee, by contrast, was a good student and studied law at Oxford, then, after witnessing great poverty when working in the East End, he joined the Independent Labour Party and

never wavered. Like Churchill he saw military service during WW1 and was considered to be an effective and efficient leader. He entered parliament in 1920 becoming Labour leader in 1935 until 1955.

Their personalities were very different - Churchill was an orator, ebullient and self-willed. Attlee was quieter, no orator, and disliked ostentatiousness. His critics would say he was decent and stoical but lacked charisma.

In the war years Churchill was prime minister and Attlee his deputy in the National Government - but more of that another time.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June 2nd – Show and Tell- historical artefacts brought by members,

July 7th – Historic Niagara: Beyond the Falls. Annie Burkitt. SBU3A

September 8th – Outside Visit: Bisham Abbey (note this is the 2nd Tuesday in September)



Informal Bridge

Joanna Hughes
agbrb@sbu3a.org.uk

This is a group for relaxed social bridge with some learning on set topics. If you are new to bridge you would be most welcome. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the lounge at the rear of St. Thomas' church hall between 1.30 and 3.30. If anyone would like to come along, please get in touch with Joanna.

FUTURE MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Wednesdays



Michael Kavanagh
agitalian@sbu3a.org.uk

Our informal, friendly meetings take place from 2.00pm to 4.00pm on the 1st and 3rd Friday of the month. We explore the Italian language using a topic of the day based on an article in the press which is sent out to all members a few days before the meeting, enabling them to prepare some discussion points. Typically topics include current affairs, arts, music, history and travel, all with a distinctive Italian flavour of course.

We also explore grammar, play games and have quizzes. All designed to increase our ability to speak Italian. The standard varies widely but there is a healthy culture of learning from each other.

Although the group is currently full I am happy to receive enquires for future reference, Michael Kavanagh - agitalian@sbu3a.org.uk

FUTURE MEETINGS

We meet the first and third Fridays of the month except on bank holidays.



Rod Stevens
agjazz@sbu3a.org.uk

The Jazz Band is available to play for local events, care homes and schools, where

students are often interested to hear us play and ask about the instruments and how members started playing.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings first and third Thursdays



Judith Evans
agmahjong@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group of around 20 people is very friendly and will help members who wish to learn or improve. We meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month in a Church Hall in Holtspur and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and biscuits during our meeting.

The game is played with small tiles and originates from a Chinese game although we use a book which explains a variety of hands..

FUTURE MEETINGS

*June 9th and 23rd, July 14th and 28th,
August 11th and 25th, September 8th and 22nd*



Ursula Hill
agmoto@sbu3a.org.uk

Our group meets for a pub lunch at 12 noon at The Royal Standard, Wooburn Common before

the General Meeting (unless there is a fifth Tuesday and we try a different venue and later time of 1pm for our lunch).

New members welcome. It is necessary to pre book so please let me know if you would like to come via e-mail or telephone.

FUTURE MEETINGS

June 30th, July 21st, Aug tba, Sep 29th



John Corran

agphilosophy@sbu3a.org.uk

The Philosophy group meets at 2:00 for 2:15 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. Usually eight or nine of us get together in each other's homes. Our meetings are very interactive; we choose a book or online source in advance and help each other to understand the topic and see if we agree with the sources. Conversation is wide-ranging, always good-humoured and often provokes laughter!

Over the past four months we have tackled:

"Emergence". Systems (e.g. the mind, living organisms, etc) display characteristics not inherent in the system components.

Mediaeval philosophy: St. Augustin, Aquinas, et al, move from theology to modern secular philosophical issues.

"Virtue Ethics" as expounded by two women philosophers – Anscombe and Foot.

Isaiah Berlin "Why Philosophy Matters" and the philosophy of John Locke.

So, another wide range of interesting and

challenging subjects!

We are now (reluctantly) operating a waiting list in order to facilitate a manageable, interactive discussion group in our hosts' homes.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2:00pm on June 11th, July 9th, August 13th and September 10th.



Ruth Sobel

agpoetry@sbu3a.org.uk

We read and discussed Yeats' poetry in March. In April we read the long poem Goblin Market by Christina Rossetti. In May we will read the poets of WWI. Anyone welcome.

FUTURE MEETINGS

We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month in St Thomas' church in Holtspur.



Nicky Smith

agrecorders@sbu3a.org.uk

We generally meet on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 2pm. However this

can vary occasionally due to holidays and other commitments.

There is some variation in our abilities but our participants are very enthusiastic! We use both descant and tenor instruments, playing from a wide range of musical genres. This can be classical, traditional or more modern pieces, like musical theatre and usually in duet form.

We are a GROWING group, having had two new members join us since the last newsletter, but would be delighted to welcome further players. So if you have a basic knowledge of reading music and have either instrument, then please come and give us a try. Ring me, Nicky Smith, for further information.



Paul LeBlond
agscience@sbu3a.org.uk

We are now well established in the Curzon Centre in Beaconsfield which is a convenient and suitable location for our meetings.

Our April meeting heard from Bina Rawal on the very topical subject of weight loss drugs and their advantages and pitfalls.

In May Paul Le Blond talked about the application of science to the design and operation of airports. Copies of the presentations are available on the Science Engineering and Transport page of the website.

FUTURE MEETINGS - TBA

For our June meeting Helen Cracknell will tell us all about Gut Microbiomes, then in July we'll return to a transport theme with a double act by Andy Frith

on the development of computers in British Airways and Paul Rose on Airline Revenue Management.

There's no meeting in August but we'll be back after the Summer in September.



We now list all our walking groups under one heading. *Please see page 23*



**Sue Bailey and
Jenny Gibbons
Joanna Williams**
agsinging@sbu3a.org.uk

We are a happy, friendly group who welcome anyone who wants to sing with others without any pressure. There are no auditions - we just sing for pleasure. We spend an enjoyable morning together singing a variety of modern and traditional songs.

For several months we were led very successfully by members of the group until we found our wonderful new teacher, Louise, who is full of enthusiasm and encouragement and makes everything fun.

We round off the session with a sociable tea or coffee. Come along and join the entertainment!

FUTURE MEETINGS

We meet at the Curzon Centre on Maxwell Road in Beaconsfield at 10.45am.

June 9th, July 14th, September 8th



**Sandra Hurst
& Ruti Sobel**
agbelarus@sbu3a.org.uk

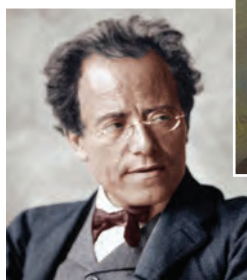
Our small group continues to investigate and learn about this endless topic with great interest and enthusiasm. Our current topic, Czechoslovakia as it was, is providing a wealth of subjects to explore and enjoy, for example the many well-loved classical composers who had roots there such as Dvorak, Smetana and Mahler.



Dvorak



Smetana



Mahler

And an interesting history which we are just beginning to appreciate...
Czechoslovakia was established on October 28, 1918, following the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of World War I. The creation of the state was influenced by the efforts of leaders who secured Allied recognition for independence. The new country united Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia.



For the next few months we shall continue to look at this fascinating country. You are most welcome to join us and share in this discovery.

– Sandra Hurst & Ruth Sobel



Elaine Baudouin
agstretch@sbu3a.org.uk

We continue to notice the benefits of regular stretching, noticing our increased mobility and balance. Simple Yoga exercises have become part of our routine.

Unfortunately the class is now full and is waiting list only.

FUTURE MEETINGS
Weekly with a few exceptions



Joanna Williams
agtableten@sbu3a.org.uk

The group meets in the Beacon Centre on the 2nd and 4th Friday of the month from 3 - 4 pm with very few exceptions.

We have up to 3 tables and usually play doubles. Bats and balls are provided and new members are very welcome, come along for a session to see if you would like to join us.

FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd and 4th Fridays.



Sarah Lewis, Elaine Baudouin,
Keith Searing
agcug@sbu3a.org.uk

Our emphasis up until now has been tech developments rather than more essential digital skills. So that in the last 4 months we have looked at using Google Maps topographically and other similar map-based apps for hiking and walking; Notebook LM (Language Model) - a Gemini AI-based resource for extracting information for making slide presentations, topic cards or graphics; learning from Peter Lord's u3acommunities Tech presentations and the YouTube channel "Tech for Seniors"; and finally covering new ground with setting up Linux operating system on an old laptop. You

can find many of our previous presentations on a link from the Tech group webpage on our South Bucks u3a website.

It is possible that we may change our emphasis towards mastering essential digital skills - whether Android, Microsoft and Apple - or share some meetings with neighbouring U3A Tech groups and so meet at different venues. In which case, please make contact if you haven't dropped in to our Tech group meetings before and are therefore not on our circulation list.

FUTURE MEETINGS

4th Tuesday in the month. 10.30 to 12.00 Wrights Meadow community centre



Sandy Phillips
agtennis@sbu3a.org.uk

Our small but keen group continue to brave the weather every Tuesday at Hazlemere Tennis Club. We would love to have one or two members more to join our friendly group.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Every Tuesday weather permitting.

~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~

The sun makes up more than 99 percent of our solar system's mass.

The tool used to measure your feet at the shoe store is called a "Brannock Device."



Chris Pearce
Sally Moore
agtheatre@sbu3a.org.uk

Members of the Theatre Visits Group are increasing. We try to offer a variety of shows from Musicals, Comedies as well as serious productions. For example, in June we are going to see High Society starring Helen George (Call the Midwife), in July we have a comedy called The Truth with Stephen Mangan, Ardal O'Hanlon, Sarah Hadland and Janie Dee. In September we are going to see To Kill a Mockingbird and November we will be seeing Sinatra the Musical. There is a limited number of seats for each show, so if there is a production that appeals do not hesitate to

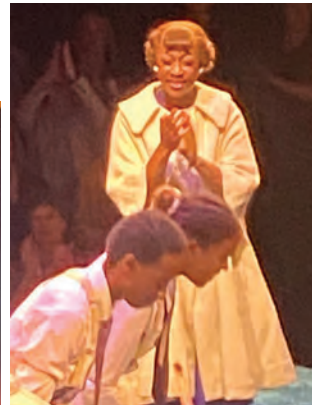
~ USELESS KNOWLEDGE ~
New Jersey grows two-thirds of the world's eggplants.
* * *
Women hiccup less than men.

respond to the email from the Convenor as seats are issued on a first come, first served basis. A popular show will see the seats allocated very quickly.

Our visits are almost always to matinee performances in the West End and we have the advantage of a coach from the Beacon Centre to the theatre and back.

Tickets are not advertised in this Newsletter or at a General Meeting so having your name on the Theatre Group list is essential to be informed of the visits. The money you pay covers parking at the Beacon Centre, the coach trip, the driver's gratuity as well as the theatre ticket.

In April we saw Marie & Rosetta starring Beverley Knight & Ntombizodwa Ndlovu at Soho Place. Photos: Val Taylor





Keith Searing
agwalks@sbu3a.org.uk

The three walking groups (short, medium and longer) are active and are providing a range of old favourites and new experiences around the area. Some new pubs have been added to our lunch repertoire.

Enough leaders are volunteering to keep things going (for which many thanks!), but the more the merrier, so please add your names to the schedule. If you don't feel confident in designing or leading a walk, ask me to help! I will be only too pleased to show you how I do it and shadow you on your first attempts.

I now have a database of past walk details and GPS tracks for the last 3 years, and will make that available on our website.



Annie Burkitt
agwine@sbu3a.org.uk

Our wine club is presently full but please contact Annie if you would like to join us as we can add you to our meeting invitation list sent out the week before. We ask our members to RSVP so we have an idea of numbers for food etc.

At recent meetings members have presented the topics 'Basic, Better & Best', 'One Brand - New Zealand Wines' and 'Price v. Pleasure'

We can accommodate up to 16 and typically have 14 to 15. If we have too many replies, priority would be given to long-term members.

We are a friendly 'social' group who enjoy wine and convivial company, so if you are looking for an in depth wine education, we may not be for you.

In April the Explore London group learnt about the history of the women's suffrage movement. Photos Val Taylor



**1st
week
in month**

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur | TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club | CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground | SPOTLIGHT ON EASTERN EUROPE 2.30 pm Members' Homes | ITALIAN CONVERSATION 2pm Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross |
| | HISTORY 2 pm Curzon Centre | STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library | SCIENCE ENGINEERING & TRANSPORT 2 pm Curzon Centre | ANTIQUES & COLLECTIBLES 2 pm Curzon Centre |
| | FRENCH CONVERSATION 2.pm Members' Homes | RECORDERS 2.30 pm Members' Homes | JAZZ BAND 2.00 pm Holmer Green Village Hall | |
| | | INFORMAL BRIDGE 1.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge | | |

**2nd
week
in month**

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| BIRD WATCHERS 10 am - Locations TBA | TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club | CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground | WALKS - SHORTER & LONGER 10.50 Shorter & 10.am Longer Location TBA. | TABLE TENNIS 3 pm Beacon Centre |
| BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur | SINGING FOR FUN 10.45 Curzon Centre | STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library | BOOK GROUP 2 2 pm Members' Homes | |
| | MAH JONG 2 pm URC Hall | DISCOVERING ART 2 pm Rossetti Hall | PHILOSOPHY 2.15 pm Members' Homes | |

**3rd
week
in month**

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur | TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club | CROQUET 10.30am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground | JAZZ BAND 2.00 pm Holmer Green Village Hall | ITALIAN CONVERSATION 2pm Ethorpe Hotel, Gerrards Cross |
| FILM APPRECIATION 2pm Hedgerley Memorial Hall | MOTO* (Members On Their Own) Time & Location TBA | STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library | <i>* N.B. Bridge, MOTO & Stretch will also be held in the fifth week of the month when applicable except on Bank Holidays</i> | |
| | MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING 2 pm Beacon Centre | RECORDERS 2.30 pm Members' Homes | | |
| | GERMAN CONVERSATION 1.45 pm St Thomas' Lounge | INFORMAL BRIDGE 1.30 pm St Thomas's Lounge | | |
| | | WINE CLUB 7.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge | | |

**4th
week
in month**

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| BRIDGE* 1.20 pm St. Thomas' Church Hall, Holtspur | TENNIS 10am (Weekly) Hazlemere Tennis Club | CROQUET 10am (Weekly/Seasonal) Hazlemere Recreation Ground | POETRY 1.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge | TABLE TENNIS 3 pm Beacon Centre |
| | TECHNOLOGY 10.30 Wrights Meadow Centre | STRETCH* 9.45 am Bourne End Library | WALKS - MEDIUM 10.30 am, Locations - TBA | |
| | BOOK GROUP 1 2 pm Members' Homes | CURRENT AFFAIRS 1.45 pm St Thomas's Lounge | | |
| | MAH JONG 2 pm URC Hall | | | |

ADDITIONAL GROUPS

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| EXPLORE LONDON | THEATRE VISITS | GARDEN LOVERS |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|