



Pewsey Vale u3a

NEWSLETTER

Issue 65

October 2024

Message from the Chair

Dear Members,

By the time you get this, carnival will be over and the shops will be stocking things for Christmas, never mind Halloween. Easter eggs next week perhaps? Let me know if you spot one!

I do hope you had a brilliant summer and managed to enjoy some of the warmer days. Now the nights are drawing in, my thoughts tend to go with what to do other than gardening. Though this year that has been on hold for me, the veg patch is still producing some beans and carrots, thanks to my husband's efforts.

Meanwhile our u3a continues to flourish, membership numbers grow and our group activities develop, as shown by the fantastic reports in this newsletter! How lucky we are to have such amazingly talented members willing to share their knowledge and experiences. With all this going on, I am sure we can all find something different to interest us during the cooler months.

But, if there is something else that you fancy doing, please speak to one of the committee, we can help in many ways. Lynne has been working really hard, setting up extra groups where there is a long waiting list.

It was disappointing to cancel our Olympic themed evening, but we will continue to try and put on some extra events. Ian is already booking speakers for our socials next year. The next social on 15th October is about Wills and Probate and at our AGM on Tuesday 19th November I understand the speaker was involved in Blue Peter, amongst other programmes, so it should be very interesting. Don't forget to put our Cheese and Wine evening on 29th October and our Quiz on 29th November in your diaries, they have always been fun. Further details will be sent out nearer the dates.

Thankfully I am just about walking again. I think if I had realised 6 months ago that I would still be struggling now, I might have given up there and then. So please, if you know of someone who is housebound or in similar circumstances, do visit or call them. It's the only thing that kept me sane these last months. Thanks.

Take care and keep smiling

Fiona

This newsletter is distributed electronically to Pewsey Vale u3a members every quarter. If you are one of the few members who have been getting it by post and can now receive it by e-mail, please let us know.



Your diary page

The committee is working on other events: we'll keep you posted

October 2024	Tuesday 15 th Tuesday 29 th	Social Meeting with David Lewis of Lewis Law on Wills and Probate Cheese and Wine evening
November 2024	Tuesday 19 th Friday 29 th	AGM and Social Meeting with Alex Leger on the Life of the Licence Fee - challenges and change at the BBC Quiz evening
January 2025	Tuesday 21 st	Social Meeting with Peter Davies The History of Orkney from 3500 BC to today
March 2025	Tuesday 18 th	Social Meeting with Peter Power on the fascinating WW2 story of bank clerk Eric Roberts, aka MI5 Agent Jack
May 2025	Tuesday 20 th	Social Meeting with Lucy Maynard on the work of The Dogs Trust

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Hello and welcome to those of you who have joined Pewsey Vale u3a in the last three months. We hope we haven't missed anyone out - if we have, please accept our apologies and claim your free grovel from the editor.

Carole Stevenson

Linda Mundy

Dave Bradbury

Gary Jameson

Alec Short

Lorraine Bradbury

Linda Hopkins

Helen Minton

Sandra Jones

Heather Knight

Frederique Green

Vivien Lee

David Spencer

Richard Selman

If you're a new member at a Social Meeting or outing, do come and say hello to one of the committee - we're all labelled and easy to find - so that we can introduce you to some friendly faces. At individual groups, this will happen anyway, so you won't feel left out.

CARD GROUP



The three pictures show different ways to use peel offs, stamping, die cutting and how we incorporate the use of colouring techniques.

Also you will notice some of the ladies are starting to make their Christmas cards. "Oh no, not Christmas*". Well, having said Christmas, I do not think we have another Newsletter before, so Happy Christmas to one and all from the card group.

Julie

**At this point the editor burst into tears and hid under her desk*



WORDSMITHS

Fifty Shades of English; Cleaning; You Say it How???: Expressions; Music; Light - all these and more have provided words and expressions for us to discuss as we take an irreverent look at how we speak and write.

Under Fifty Shades - in which we examine English as spoken in other countries - I was reminded of an old favourite of mine, a man writing under the name of Afferbeck Lauder (you need to say that aloud). He was an Australian who, oh let's be lazy and quote from Wikipedia "presented Australian written phonetically to appear as another language, while the next two books lampooned the clipped, almost strangled variety of upper-class English speech in the same way." From him we get great expressions like "Emma chisit?" If this kind of thing amuses you, look him up.

Our light-hearted group meets in Upavon on the morning of the third Wednesday of the month (with friendly dog(s), coffee and biscuits present).

BOARD GAMES GROUP

Board Games Group has been going from strength to strength. We have a choice of games to play but Scrabble and Rummikub seem to be the most popular at the moment. It is a sociable afternoon and players help each other usually! There's nobody who is THAT bothered about winning! Please get in touch if you would like to come along.

We meet in the Heritage Centre room in Pewsey from 2.30 until 4 on the second Monday of the month.



NEEDLEWORK GROUP



Hello from the needlework group.

We have been busy starting new projects from embroidery to cross stitch and bobbin lace, and finishing others. We are only a small group but enjoy meeting up for a cuppa and a natter.

Here is some of our work, a couple of our ladies are missing from the photo, sorry.

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP 2

Our Tuesday morning French conversation group starts with "quoi de neuf" (news). Recently some members had been to France, others had been out and about locally, to places of interest, the theatre and cinema. Also a member had been to a family wedding. Our news invariably flags up new vocabulary, as well as digging some up that we might have forgotten! It's always enjoyable to learn new words and phrases, but remembering them for another time.....! Our session continues with an interesting article to read and translate on a prepared theme or perhaps jointly completing a crossword.

The planned joint session with the Thursday morning French conversation group was hosted by Charmian in July. It was good to meet the other "French conversationalists" and hear their backgrounds of interest in French. Amongst other from this session emerged the wonderfully descriptive word for a pothole in French - "un nid de poule" (a hen's nest)!



As certain dates in England in September are designated for "Heritage Open Days", at our September session we read an article about their origin, from the French "Journées du Patrimoine", which were inaugurated by the Minister for Culture in France in 1984. The idea gradually evolved and spread across Europe, and beyond, arriving in England in 1994.

We also read an article about French people's interest in the provenance of their food. The article included a survey - thus we discovered that as well as a cheese, "un camembert" is a pie chart!

Sheelagh



ART GROUP

The group put on an excellent exhibition of their art at Woodborough Social Club for the month of July - many thanks to those members of the u3a who came along to support us at the preview on July 6th. We had some really good feedback and lots of interest in our u3a and the very varied groups we have in Pewsey Vale u3a.

Following on from our efforts of putting together the exhibition, we held a light hearted 'visit to the seaside' and held a brief session on sea shells - some of the results can be seen in this newsletter. Members of the group chose which medium they used and produced some good results in a short space of time.

We have had a quiet couple of months working on our own projects but hope to find a local artist to work with us again in the near future.

Bob and Ann



Iris by Dot Hague (left)

An Artist at Work (right)

Pictures of seashells elsewhere in these pages by members of the group



WINE TASTING AND APPRECIATION



We are busily drinking our way round the world and have recently tasted wines from as far apart as Moldova, Crete, Austria and Australia, not to mention some very palatable pink and white fizz.

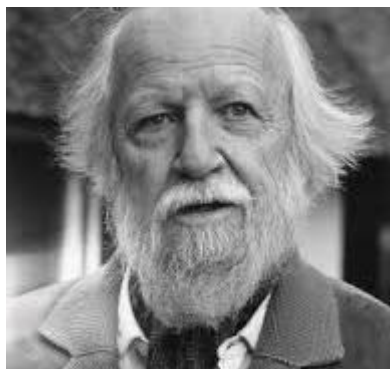
The group runs in two consecutive evening sessions in Pewsey on the evening of the third Thursday of each month. We have quite a full list but can accommodate a couple more members if you're prepared to attend regularly. Interested?



LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

It was a delight to see so many members of the group again after our two-month break but a huge surprise to open the door and find seven other u3a members wishing to come in! Unfortunately an extra 'a' had slipped into my email address on the invitation to the wider u3a community so I was not receiving their messages.

So on 19th September we started the last talk of our 2023/2024 programme with another full house. This was not surprising as they had all come to hear fellow u3a member Caroline Cobbing present her illustrated talk about William Gerald Golding. A wonderful coincidence as this date just happened to be the 113th anniversary of his birth! This is a brief account of a brilliant talk enjoyed by us all:



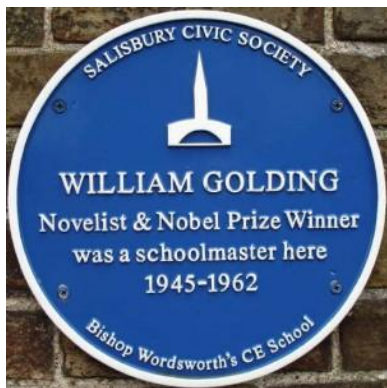
William was born in Cornwall where he spent many childhood holidays. His parents, Alec and Mildred, lived in Marlborough where his father was a science master at the town's Grammar School and where William's brother Joseph was a star pupil. This contributed at an early age to William feeling different to his peers.

The family home was a large house on The Green adjacent to a cemetery. His belief that the dead were ever present, added to numerous other phobias, enabled him to have the creativity present in his novels.

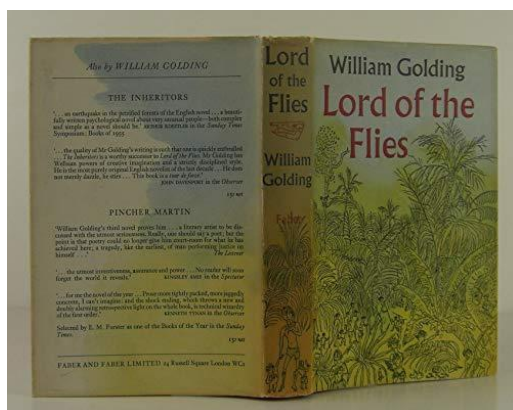
William attended Brasenose College, Oxford in 1930 to study science but left after 5 terms, returning to study English Literature. On graduating four years later he had a book of his poems published but they were not well received. He was to return to Brasenose in 1937 to gain a teaching diploma.

His teaching practice was at Bishop Wordsworth's School in Salisbury. He returned to teaching there in 1945. At this point we were delighted to be given an insight from a member of our audience into what it was like to be a student attending Golding's classes at the school.

Golding in 1954 successfully published his first novel *Lord of the Flies* but never felt it was his best book and wanted to be known for a major work. He went on however to write many successful novels. He won the Booker Prize with *Rights of Passage* in 1980 and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1983.



Since 1958 William had lived in Bowerchalke with his wife Ann, whom he had married in 1939, and children David and Judith. By 1961 he had become famous and resigned from his teaching post, spending the next year in America as writer-in residence at a college in Virginia. In 1985 the family moved to Cornwall and in 1988 he was knighted. William suffered with depression and had a drink problem throughout much of his life. He died in 1993 and is buried in Bowerchalke.



TRAVELLERS TALES

There's no need for a summer holiday if you're a member of the Travellers Tales Group! We can supply sun, sea and adventures if that is what you would like, and you only have to go as far as Easton Royal Village Hall for a cup of coffee and natter from 10.00 am onwards, for a 10.30 am start, on the first Tuesday of each month.



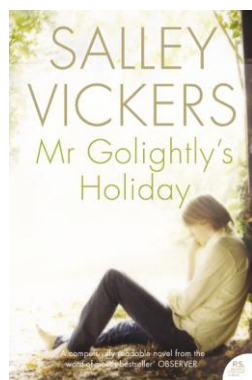
At our July meeting we followed the usual presentation with a Summer Lunch which has become a bit of a feature over the last few years! The presentation was made by Bob and me following our recent visit to Guernsey, a delightful island, with stunning views and accessible beaches and of course with a darker history of the German occupation during the war. The museums and reminders of those difficult years are very prominent but extremely interesting and a vital part of our more recent heritage.

We do not meet in August, but we got together again in early September for a fascinating talk about Antarctica by a couple who live in Chippenham. Quite a few of our members have visited this area, but it was fascinating for the rest of us to see stunning shots of this beautiful part of the world and some of the adventures that Kevin Wright and his brother undertook on their visit there. Kevin has promised to return next year to give us another talk, this time about the opposite side of the globe, the Arctic.

If you would like to come along and hear about members' visits and in some cases, exploits and adventures, we would be delighted to welcome you - our October meeting will feature one of our own members, Jean Rickard, telling us all about her recent holiday to the Baltic. Jean takes some superb photos and if previous presentations are anything to go by, we should be in for a treat in a week or so!

BOOK GROUP 3

Book Club 3 meets on the second Tuesday of each month to discuss a chosen book. We did not meet during July and August due to holiday commitments. Our chosen book for September was *Castle Dor* by



Daphne Du Maurier. Our selected book for the next meeting is *Mr Golightly's Holiday* by Salley Vickers. We have space for another couple of members.

One of our members wrote:

"The Book Club meets at our book club leader's very comfortable home. We are a small very friendly group from a mixed area of the country spreading from Scotland to Yorkshire down to south of England. Our past career backgrounds are also varied with solicitors and teachers mixed in. This variation is often carried through our lively discussions of the books we have read and leads to an enjoyable afternoon. We

are very open and honest when stating our opinions of the books and authors which adds to the entertainment. I personally enjoy going to Book Club and miss it on the Tuesdays it isn't held."

MILITARY HISTORY

The Military History Group continues to attract new members and each month we have an audience of about 20 - 24 people, which means we're certainly attracting some interesting speakers! In July we had our good friend Bill King again telling us about the preparations there were prior to D-Day, and it was just amazing how much planning and foresight went on for months if not years beforehand. Where did all the machinery and cement come from to create all the extra runways and airstrips for instance, who came up with the great idea for PLUTO - the undersea pipeline that supplied the fuel needed to support Operation Overlord during WW2? We think we know a lot at our age of what happened during and before the war, but believe me, we are still learning!

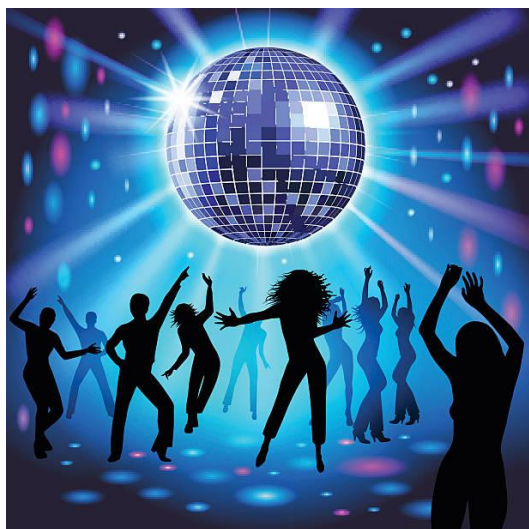
The Group does not meet in August so the "new term" began in early September with a presentation by one of our own members, Mort Burdick, entitled "Our Noisy Neighbours", telling us a lot about the "goings-on" on the Salisbury Plain which can account for some of the loud noises we hear from time to time. Since then there has been a BBC Countryfile programme on the same subject, which elaborated on Mort's presentation - contrary to some popular belief, there really are tanks on our doorstep! Despite the obvious clashes in the use of the Plain, farming activity and the Great Bustards do survive amidst the explosions and military training, and it was quite an eye-opener for many of us.



We are very privileged to have ex-military and air force members in the Group so are fortunate indeed to have some excellent speakers and we shall welcome one such to our October meeting - Air Commodore Rick Peacock-Edwards, a much decorated former Tornado pilot with an amazing career in the R.A.F.

60/70/80S DISCO GROUP

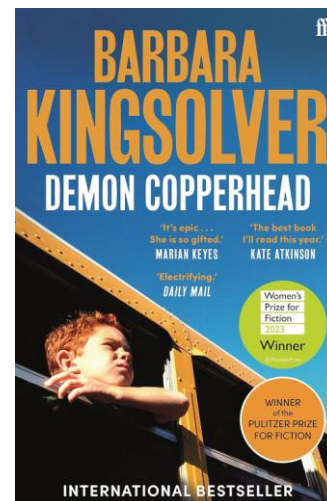
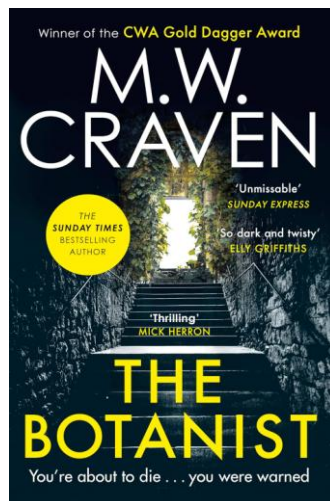
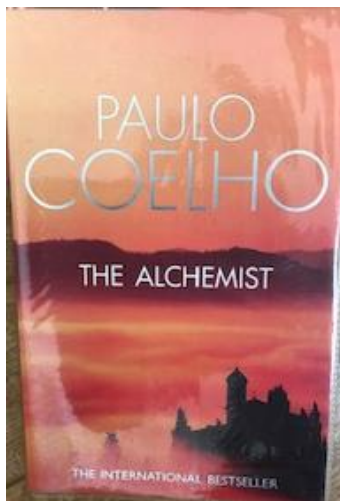
Don't forget the restart of our new season of meetings on Friday, October 18th at the Bouverie Hall from 7.30pm to 9.30ish!



Registered group members will receive a reminder, but it's not too late for others to register for this group for fun evenings of music and dance with like minded folk!

Bring your own booze and nibbles. £3.00 on the door for pre-registered members only.

BOOK GROUP 1



The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

This had rave reviews but was not a favourite of our group. It was considered too long and too fantastical. Two of us finished the book and found it interesting although we agreed it could have been shortened. It is about a shepherd boy who leaves his flock to follow a dream. The reviews say it is a timeless quest for the meaning of life, a transformative experience which leaves an indelible mark on the reader's soul. For those who like a challenging read I would recommend it.

The Botanist by MW Craven was a story of a detective who sets out to find a serial killer who sends his victims warning poems plus a pressed flower as a warning. Dark, sharp and compelling. (See also Book Group 2's report. Ed)

Another challenging read was **Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver**. A Pulitzer Prize winner, a story of social and economic issues of child poverty and drug abuse in the Appalachians USA.

BADMINTON GROUP

Good news. Since our last update in April when we appealed for new players, the Badminton Group membership is back on a healthier footing! We now spend an hour each week having fun and playing on two courts on Wednesday afternoons from 1-2 pm at the Pewsey Vale Campus.



WALKING4EXERCISE

The walks have been varied and very enjoyable for the Walking4exercise group recently. Some very close to home and some further away.

Recently we took the bus to Manningford Bohune and walked back through fields and meadows to Pewsey. We explored a section of Lower Everleigh, countryside near Shrewton and revisited Savernake Forest to walk through a different area searching for more ancient oaks. Our "Banana Break" was taken at a monument which many of us had never visited before.

Many thanks to the members of the group who have planned our walks.

QUIZ GROUP

- ❖ 2nd Monday of the month 4:30-6pm
- ❖ Pewsey Heritage Centre education room
- ❖ About £3 per person (includes a cuppa and a biscuit)
- ❖ Bring 10 questions and answers to share with the group
- ❖ Bring pen/cil, paper, some general knowledge, brain and a sense of humour
- ❖ Humiliation not included - we don't compare scores

Q. ≡
A. ≡

DOG WALKING GROUP



This summer we have enjoyed several walks with varying numbers of companions and tempered as always by the weather!

The most recent walks have included blackberry picking (the great thing to remember is this though if you have used a spare poo bag and then your dog should need another and no bin in sight, be sure that the right one goes into the bin!) (*Happened to us too! Ed*)

I'm pleased that recently I have had several enquiries from people and their companions which is great.

Josh was so excited by the prospect of meeting up with his friends this last week that he kept barking at me to hurry up as I sat eating lunch and browsing my news feed. So rewarding and makes it all worthwhile once we get down to the vale dental practice where we meet. Anyone already there waiting is in good spirits and excited and pleased to see us.

This is a very happy group and it's so heartening when one or other of the dogs looks at me with a happy expression with tongue hanging out and a wagging tail! Their companions enjoy it too.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month at 2pm outside the dentists in the High Street Pewsey.

SINGING FOR PLEASURE

When I asked for contributions from participants for the June Newsletter, I held this one back for later. As Jill says, Singing for Pleasure does exactly what it says on the tin!

Singing for Pleasure is just that, lots of songs that are wonderful to sing. They range from folk songs (that you may have sung at school!) through show tunes and on to more modern Beatles (of my youth) etc. We use a songbook of words and currently we call out a number of a song we fancy and Andy works through the list, aided by his magnificent pianist Barbara. A great way of spending an hour with like-minded people who just love to sing, and the tea, coffee and biscuits that follow.

Some pics of us in action. . .



CREATIVE WRITING GROUP 2 (aka WRITING FOR FUN)

My Fairies' Tale

It's very dark, and the garden is barely visible. The wind has at last died down after rushing the rain clouds away. I am wandering down the long lawn to the treeline, my feet squelching in the mossy grass. It all smells so fresh and clean. I see only darkness, and the barest outline of the trees. I am in the wood now, and can just make out the path to follow, deeper and deeper in I go, with twigs snapping underfoot and sometimes foliage brushing my cheek. I know I'm afraid, but I don't know why or what I am afraid of.



Suddenly I'm in a clearing and somehow the moon is shining in on me. I can now see the outline of the fairy-ring, a really big one, and I move towards it but don't go in. I look closer and I'm not at all surprised, I can see the tiny fairies and can now hear their singing. There are no words, just the sweetest music I have ever heard. They notice me, and call me into the ring where I kneel down to look at them more closely. I feel so very huge in comparison to them. They start to sing again and I find I am singing too.

They give me a tiny drink which has a taste I've never had before, and I can sip and sip and it is still full. The same with a large crumb of food they give me. Utterly delicious and never ending, it smells of herbs and mushrooms but tastes of something completely different. I am lying down now - do I sleep? There's a tinkling of a bell and I see them all flying around my head, still singing their sweet song.

It's all over far too quickly and I'm running back through the wood and squelching up the lawn to the house. How long have I been in the fairy-ring? There's no moonlight here, just the still darkness. I'm no longer afraid.

I'm really awake now, in my bed, with dawn just breaking and the birds having their early shouting matches. Was I dreaming? Did I go out last night? I can still taste the tiny drink and the crumb of deliciousness. They were so very real to me I must get up and go and find the fairy-ring again. Their song is still ringing in my ears. I quickly dress and go outside. The garden is dry - it hasn't rained for a long time now. The hedge at the bottom of the garden is impenetrable. I am sad but so very happy that they gave me such a wonderful experience. Their song is fading despite my singing it as I come back into the house.

I am writing this now in case it disappears from my memory, the way even the most vivid of dreams do. But will it disappear from the page? Time will tell, but it has left me feeling very happy and ready to face the future whatever that brings. Perhaps they will come to me again in my sleep.

SHORT MAT BOWLS

Short mat bowls started again in early September, Friday mornings in Upavon village hall and Monday afternoons at Pewsey leisure centre.

The sessions will run through until the end of May 2025.

CHINES



CHINES stands for CH(urches), IN(ns) and ES(tates) or, for short, our going out group.

Our year of adventures is about to end with our visit to Winchester (part 2, following on from our visit last year). We've been to some fantastic places this year including Sherborne, Sandham Memorial Chapel and Winchester. You can follow our travels on the web site - along with those of both the photography groups.

JIGSAW SWAP

Jigsaw swap will be available in the foyer of the Bouverie Hall, Pewsey from 2 pm until 4pm on 24th September, 15th and 22nd October, 12th, 19th and 26th November, 17th December



CREATIVE WRITING GROUP 1

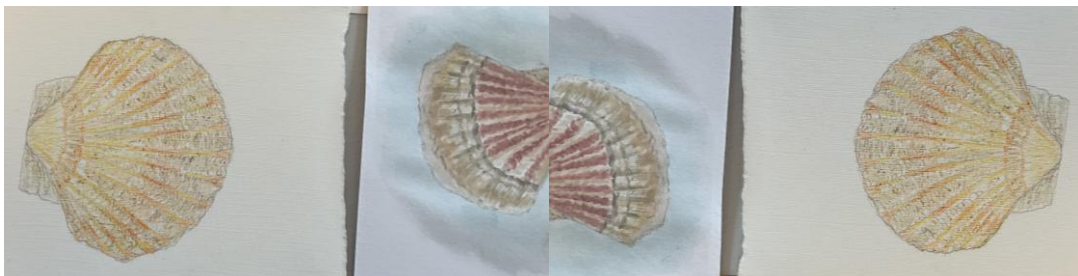
Summer time seems to have meant members of our group popping off on trains, boats and planes with the result that we only met once a month during August and September. However, from October we shall resume our two meetings a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday afternoon from 2 till 4.

We now have a space for one more member, so if you enjoy writing, whether shopping lists, letters, memoirs, short stories or poems, we'd love to hear from you.



Usually we do a couple of short writing exercises at each meeting and then work on a longer piece between sessions. We either send these by email to other members or read them aloud at the beginning of the next meeting. We then aim to give helpful feedback, usually positive and encouraging.

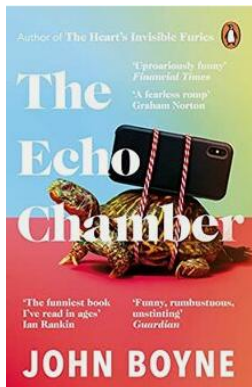
Recently we have written monologues, stories set at night, and for next time the theme is A Shared Meal which will offer us a chance to refer to all the senses, include several characters and probably conversation.



BOOK GROUP 2

We are a diverse group with strong opinions (which is good) and have lively discussions always with great coffee and biscuits.

June 2024 - Echo Chamber by John Boyne: Two comments:



"The Echo Chamber was great fun to read - a lot of laugh out loud moments! Very much a book of our time; if it survives 10 years it will need footnotes re people and events. And even now, who remembers what Laurence Fox did/said to cause him grief? A topical subject when it seems too easy to 'cancel' public figures, and with a lot of discussion re access to smart phones for the young...(Did anyone watch 'Douglas is Cancelled' ?)"

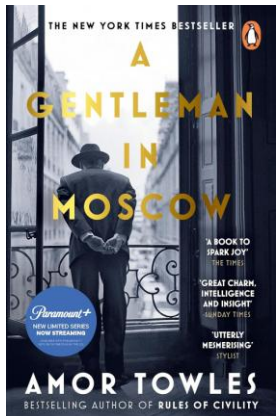
"I really enjoyed this book, it is becoming a book for our time, it had many quirky moments and real amusement. Will the genie of the internet ever get back into his bottle?"

July 2024 - The Botanist by MW Craven

This was light reading and the group liked the humour and pace. (See also Book Group 1's report. Ed)

"I really enjoyed The Botanist. I liked the detectives and the analyst, Tilly. I thought it was well written, amusing, tongue-in-cheek, all the murder victims being generally unlikeable. There was a twist in the tail at the end."

August 2024 - A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles



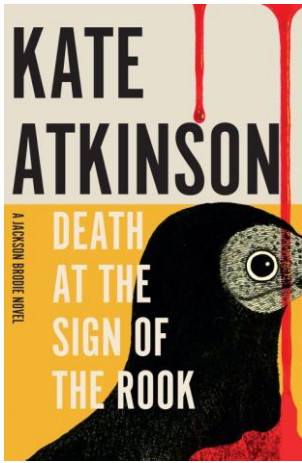
The group generally liked this book. Two comments:

"I quite enjoyed this book, though the subject matter wasn't particularly of interest to me (Russian history). I mostly enjoyed the beautiful writing style and detailed descriptions on the many characters and the environment of the Metropol Hotel. The Count was certainly an eccentric character and he seems to wield so much power in the hotel, despite being a "prisoner" for so long... I guess it quickly became home and he played a key role in the everyday activities in the hotel.

It's always an interesting environment to write about, as it's a transient space. His character came across as the strongest, the others, even Sophie, didn't get a lot of depth of description. I felt the other characters were there feeding his story. The ending was interesting and left me pondering. I wasn't sure how this book is described as challenging time for the Count, it felt more like a "gilded cage" to me... as he ate the most high quality food and drink regularly!"

"A Gentleman in Moscow was very enjoyable, light and 'feel good' reading; about friendships, loyalty and keeping a sense of humour! (The Count became a 'former person' not a corpse by accident) I liked it the first time I read it 2 years ago, and again this time; a tale about coping with adversity (even if it means being under house arrest in a luxury hotel!) and under the boot of the new communist regime entirely alien to his privileged background. True, some of the Americanisms were a bit grating, and the true impact of the Stalinist Terrors were not in evidence"

Note from a member... I have just finished the Pat Barker trilogy about Troy. Remember we read Women of Troy? For 2 days I was completely immersed, just surfacing for meals. Agamemnon has just been killed. I now have to wait for Pat to finish the saga and sort out Electra and Orestes. I can thoroughly recommend these.



Another note...Just finished reading Death at the Sign of the Rook, the new Kate Atkinson. It's like an Agatha Christie but set in the 21st century. A great yarn and well written!

Carolyn



PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP 2 (PG2)

Where have we been since we last reported? Hungerford, the sculpture exhibition at Avebury Manor gardens and ... Pewsey! You can see our photographs of the cemetery chapel on [our](#) web site. Do have a look: most of us won't have been there before and it's surprisingly interesting. See Jill's photograph above.

We are a small group of friends who like to visit interesting places, take photographs (several of us just use phones or automatic cameras) and have lunch. Let me know if you're interested in joining us.

GARDENING GROUP

In July we had a lovely visit to one of our newer members' gardens. Not only was the large garden very beautiful and well laid out with lawns, walkways, mature trees and shrubs with perennial underplanting, plus dedicated areas to fruit and vegetables. It was also a splendid sunny day, enabling us to sit out and revel in the July sunshine while enjoying some excellent cake choices. My idea of a perfect visit! In all, fifteen of the group were able to enjoy the morning.

Below are some of the comments from the Gardening Group who were able to join us:

'I enjoyed the visit to Julia's garden immensely. She has incorporated many areas of interest; a wildlife pond, perennial borders bursting with colour, productive vegetable and fruit raised beds, a shady area with many ferns and large hostas, a beautiful vista over expansive lawns displaying beautiful rose arch and established shrubs. I took inspiration from her garden and it was a pleasure to spend some time with her.'

'It was a delightful visit and a joy to walk around the garden with Julia, who so obviously loves her garden and was so generous offering insight into how she had created areas and advice on how to nurture certain plants.'

And not forgetting,

'the fabulous array of CAKE'.

If you are wondering why there are no pictures, I think we were all so spellbound taking it all in, we forgot to take any.....

It's going to be a difficult visit to top, but we will try.



PRACTICAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP (PPG)

This group keeps going throughout the year so no summer break for us.

At our meeting in July we reviewed seventy two photos of 'Architecture in Eight Different Styles'.



Wiltshire of course is an ideal place to find such structures and there were plenty on show that day. Joining them were images from other English counties as well as a significant number taken in France, India, Singapore, Australia, Belgium and Iceland.



The following month 'Legs' were examined - no not ours, that would I am sure be breaking some u3a rule. Instead there was an abundance of birds, animals, furniture, statues and, you've guessed it - human legs. One young man was perfectly happy to have his legs photographed - one heavily tattooed, the other in a medical boot - who could resist?



We ended the programme for this year with an attempt at 'Shoot Through'. As is often the case there were various interpretations of this topic but it really is as it sounds i.e. taking photos through an opening such as a keyhole, a gap in foliage or through cellophane paper, glass and so on.

We are currently gathering photos for our display at the u3a's AGM in November where our focus (sorry) will be on Pewsey villages chosen by each member to visit and photograph. Do come and have a look while you are there.

At present we are unable to accept new members but are happy to add names to a waiting list - or why not start a group of your own? Help is always at hand.

COUNTRY DANCING

"A joyful dance class" is one of the best forms of exercise according to the late Doctor Michael Mosley! It feels "more like a fun hobby than a chore. It helps to manage weight and build muscle, it also improves mood, reduces anxiety and enhances cognitive function."

We certainly have fun at Country Dancing and there's lots of laughter. All the movement is good exercise for different parts of the body, good for balancing, aerobic sometimes. It is also very sociable dancing with partners, changing partners and meeting new people. There's time to talk, too.

Your brain is exercised with the need to remember the steps and fit them in with the music!

Any u3a member who would like to give it a try or sit and watch is welcome to come along. Dancing starts at 2 o'clock at The Bouverie Hall. It is £2 per person.

Dates coming up are; 24th September, 22nd October, 12th and 26th November and 17th December.

STRETCH AND CURL

Hello everyone. I have the dates for your diaries. Please note some have changed:

- October 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th
- November 4th, 25th
- December 2nd, 9th, 16th.

See you all when you can make each class. Regards Linda xx

BEGIN BRIDGE

Initially we had a flurry of interested people, in excess of twenty. Some, having registered, never turned up. Several started and never told me they were no longer interested.



However I am grateful for the kind people who withdrew by telling me.

So now we are seven of the original group. Since then two more have joined and they are all making progress.

If there is anyone who can play whist and would like to join our merry gang, we would love to see you.

PATCHWORK GROUP



Here (left) is a quilt made from silk samples that were given to one of my ladies, which she has organised into this beautiful quilt - so light and so warm. This was while we were still at the library in their meeting room.

These quilts that we are looking at (below) were brought in by Ellayne Fowler who works for Project Linus UK. They support many charities that help premature babies, children and young people in hospital and in care or just leaving care, when they are all given something to cuddle that is their own. These quilts are made by different groups round the country and sent to wherever they are needed. The bundle of white is cuddle fleece which makes these cotton quilts warm and is very light. The last photo shows the bag of cotton off cuts that Ellayne gave us along with some fleece.

I was encouraged by my ladies to approach the project as some of us have been making quilts for about fifteen years!



567 WALKING GROUP



We had a walk with style in August, starting at the Dumbpost Inn, Bremhill, Calne! Twelve stiles in all in the first mile or two of the walk! The photo shows the twelfth stile by which time we had had enough. Fortunately the rest of the ramble had gates to negotiate instead and the meal at the pub was excellent so the clambering was soon forgotten.

We have also foraged for blackberries very successfully near Chitterne during a lovely walk on Salisbury Plain.

In September we saw the restoration of the Berks and Wilts canal in progress between Pewsham and Lacock. It is a huge project hoping to link the Kennet and Avon Canal to the Thames at Abingdon. We all agreed that our grandchildren might see the finished result!

