



## Chair's Report

A belated HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all.

There has been little activity in January to report on, other than we have already reached the target set by the Committee last June of 500 members by the end of this current subscription year. Please keep up the good work of spreading the word about BFU3A to family, friends and neighbours and by assisting at promotional events.

Speaking of which, we have a stand booked at the annual Bracknell Cultural Festival being held in Bracknell & Wokingham College on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March. Those of us who manned the stand last year enjoyed perusing the other Festival stands and sampling the different foods on offer. If you can spare an hour that day between 10am and 2pm to help on the stand, please let me know.

There was disappointingly lower than usual attendance at the January Open Meeting, however, I look forward to seeing more of you at the Open Meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February but in the meantime LEARN, LAUGH and LIVE!

*Helen Tonks, Chair*

## Group News

There are vacancies in History Group 2 who meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm. Below is the schedule for the next few months. Please contact [derek.thornton@talktalk.net](mailto:derek.thornton@talktalk.net) for further information.

They are:

- February 21<sup>st</sup>, entitled "The Most Important Outcome of the English Civil War and Why". Each member to give his/her opinion and justify.
- March 21<sup>st</sup>, entitled "Does Nelson Mandela Deserve his Exalted Status? - Discuss.
- April 18<sup>th</sup>, each member to present in 5-10 minutes their key moment in our History that made Britain what she now is.

*Brenda Bolt, Group Support*

## Speakers Corner

**Following the Open Meeting in January** when David Putt talked to us about the Jealott's Hill Community Landshare Project, David wrote to say "I don't think I emphasised that any of the groups is welcome to use the site as a venue, photography, art etc." If any group wishes to visit the Landshare Project, the email address to make arrangements is [jealottshilllandshare@gmail.com](mailto:jealottshilllandshare@gmail.com)

**22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2018 at 2pm – The job of a Laughtime** Brad Ashton is a TV comedy writer and has written series for Tommy Cooper, Les Dawson, Dick Emery, Bruce Forsyth and many others. He talks about the fun he has had while writing more than a thousand TV shows covering eleven different countries, including many humorous backstage stories about top TV shows and their famous stars.

**Venue: The Open Learning Centre**  
**Tea Team Rota: Barn Dancing**

**5<sup>th</sup> April, 2018 at 2pm – The History of the U3A Organisation.** Hilvary Robinson from National Office will talk about the U3A from its beginnings to the current day. The Third Age Trust is the umbrella organization for over 1,000 U3As and 450,000 members.

**Venue: The Open Learning Centre**  
**Tea Team Rota: Blues, Rock & Jazz**

**24<sup>th</sup> May, 2018 at 2pm – Crowthorne Carnival – Running a Professional Event with a Volunteer Team.** Ken Newland describes the organisation of a carnival in a contemporary setting as subject to a host of complex, legal, safety, formal permissions and tight schedules that require a diligent and "professional" approach to be taken. Yet it is a project that is undertaken entirely by volunteers: volunteers who have different skills, priorities, and foibles.

**Venue: The Open Learning Centre**  
**Tea Team Rota: Book Group 1**

*Please note that for all Open Meetings there will be no admission to the Hall until 1.30 pm to allow for safe setting up of the hall. Thank you.*

*Janet Russell, Speakers' Secretary*

## Architecture

December - our meeting was on Follies. Quite surprising just how many follies there are around. We started off our 2018 programme with our annual 'bring a plate' meeting; this time held in January. So many of the Group had not seen Graham Dive's Bracknell film, so we invited him to come and show it again. We invited a few other newer members who also had not seen the film and everybody really enjoyed it. Our thanks to Graham. There were 21 of us in the end who sat and watched the film, followed by the 'bring a plate' lunch.

*Pam Palmer, Co-ordinator*

## Art – Appreciation

For our November meeting we held our usual two minutes' silence and then thought about war artists of Australia, Britain and Canada in World War II. Through their work we got a sense of the following elements of war: Battle, Service, Work, Captivity, Casualties, Home and Leisure.

This was followed by Lena Webb continuing her series on 'Women in Art' where we consider women artists through the centuries. We looked at a number of artists at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century of which some were quite well known despite painting or sculpting, and photographing, in a male dominated art world.

Art in the twentieth century is the story of modernism, the rise of the *avant garde* in Paris, the beginning of abstract art and conceptual art, also the

move of that avant garde to the USA. The role of women in society changed, of course, in that time. Two world wars finally brought women the vote in large parts of the western world, and their roles in society began to change. Access to a broad education began to become the norm, and access to art education equally so.

Women played a significant role in these monumental artistic changes, although they were often behind the scenes, often working with successful male artists, and often not recognized for their contribution. In a number of cases, such as that of Sonia Delaunay, the women sacrificed a career in fine art to pay the bills, using their creativity instead in the decorative or applied arts, sometimes with great success. Thanks Lena.

For our December meeting we of course looked at 'The Christmas Story' through art. On this occasion Greg had found a number of artists that had names relating to the story. Many of these artists were not known to the group and included; *Gabriel* Lehman, *Ringo Star*, The three kings *Melchior* d'Hondecoeter, *Balthasar* Nebot *Caspar* Netscher, *Joseph* Beuys, *Mary* Beale, *Jesús* Helguera, Helen *Shepherd*, James *Shepherd* and Jonathan *Shepherd*.

This was followed by a bit of an arty quiz varying in difficulty from very easy to downright impossible, bah humbug.

We started the New Year with Greg telling us about the Bellinis - the Venetian family of fabulous painters. Starting with Jacopo Bellini who was born around 1400 and died around 1470. Although he spent his life in Venice as an apprentice he went to Florence in 1423 with his master Gentile da Fabriano. There he came into contact with the Florentine Masters Donatello, Ghiberti and Uccello. Through them he was inspired to use Renaissance ideas and methods in addition to the Byzantine and Gothic he had been taught. His two sons followed him into art and were taught by him.

The elder son Gentile, named after his father's teacher, was sent to the court of Mehmed II in Constantinople (as was then) on request of the Sultan. However, he was at that time employed on major works in the Doges' Palace in Venice. In addition it was his younger brother Giovanni that was asked for! The Venetians sent Gentile and Giovanni undertook to finish his brother's commissions.

As it turned out because of their training their styles at that time were almost identical. But over his lifetime Giovanni developed and experimented and mastered the use of oil painting, which was a new medium when he was in his mid-forties. Of all the family it is Giovanni that was arguably the best at compositions and paintings of all types of genre.

If you want to join us as we explore the world of art we meet on the second Friday of the month starting at 10 am finish about 12 pm [£1] at the Methodist Church in Shepherds Lane, Priestwood.

*Greg Boys, Co-ordinator*

#### Visit to Tate Britain

Early in January eight of us travelled to Tate Britain to see the exhibition "Impressionists in London – French Artists in Exile 1870-1904". The exhibition had been universally panned in press reviews on the grounds that not all artist shown would be strictly categorised as Impressionists, and this label had been cynically used to draw in the crowds.

Well, we all really enjoyed this exhibition and were well rewarded both visually and educationally. The French artists were in exile on account of the Franco-Prussian war of 1870-71. Although France declared war, they suffered an overwhelming defeat and Paris fell after a painful siege. This led to a revolutionary uprising – the Paris Commune – which was in turn bloodily suppressed by the French army.

In the light of this, thousands of civilians and Communards fled to Britain, and these included the "French Artists in Exile" of the exhibition. Their experiences in London and the friendships that developed not only influenced their own work but also contributed to the British art scene.

Many of the paintings showed in graphic detail the anguish of the defeat and subsequent uprising. The ruins of government buildings in Paris were depicted both in paintings and in early photographs of extraordinary clarity. Many of the works, including sculpture, were by lesser-known artists. This did not detract from their appeal, rather it widened our horizons. In addition there were many superb "Impressionist" paintings, culminating in the most complete collection of Monet's famous scenes of the Palace of Westminster in the Thames fogs.

*Bruce Collins, group member*

## **Art – Mixed Media**

The Mixed Media group has had a difficult start to the New Year.

We were informed that the South Hill Park studio rental charges were being increased from January 2018, and doubled as from April 2018.

Our members understand the constraints in the economic climate, so the weekly payments have had to increase by the same proportion (the charge per session is now £4.00 for 3 hours).

We will continue to meet on alternate Wednesday mornings and afternoons.

Mixed Media would welcome any enquiries from anyone interested in joining us (especially morning sessions). Details can be found on U3A website.

Nevertheless, we will hopefully continue to enjoy our Mixed Media meetings throughout 2018.

*Jaci Geens, Co-ordinator*

## **Art – Watercolour**

We start the New Year on a bit of a low as a number of our friends have had to leave the group through ill health, other commitments or moved out of the area.

Therefore, although we have welcomed some new members over the last few months we still have space for more, so if you're interested in doing watercolours and want to know more about our Group please give me a call.

If you want to paint, but not just watercolour, there may be places on the 'Art - Mixed Media Group'.

*Greg Boys, Co-ordinator*

## Ballroom Dancing

In the Ballroom sessions we have been learning the Sally Ann Cha Cha and new steps for the foxtrot and waltz. Each week an email is sent to members of the group informing them of the dances planned for the following Friday.

Most of the dances are on this website: <http://www.sequencedanceuk.co.uk>

We meet every Friday 1.45pm – 3.45pm at the Bullbrook Community Hall RG12 2NL. Cost is £1, including refreshments.

*Lynda Lunn, Co-ordinator*

## Barn Dance

In true U3A style 'everyone teaches everyone' we now have at least four callers. Thank you to them all. Folk and Scottish dances are included alongside the Barn Dances and all the dances are walked through and called. The Saturday sessions are held at the Birch Hill Scout Hall, Leppington, RG12 7WW (next road to Aldi). It would be good to have a few more dancers! We look forward to seeing you there - everyone is very friendly! The cost is usually £3.

The next dates: 24<sup>th</sup> February, 17<sup>th</sup> March and 14<sup>th</sup> April: 7 pm – 9 pm new times.

*Lynda Lunn, Co-ordinator*

## Book Group

We wanted our December book to be an "easy to read" (not too many pages and cheerful). Our choice was *The Rain Before It Falls* by Jonathan Coe. The story covers four generations of a family and needed a good memory or the creation of the family tree to understand what was going on. The story told of how poor parenting lead to children who became worse parents and would things ever get better (or more cheerful). The story was told around a series of photographs with each scene being well written but there were difficult jumps between them. The book was quite readable but failed to end happily.

Our over Christmas book was *Where'd You Go Bernadette* by Maria Semple. This was chosen as an experiment. The book is a funny satirical tale about highflying West Coast American families told in letter and email format exchanges between the parents and a teenage daughter. Was it a warning of how things are becoming here, were our readers really out of touch with current Millennials, were all the best books written before 1940? Well it provided a good discussion, read it if you dare.

### Future Books

- *The President's Hat* by Antonie Laurin 13 Feb 18
- *Are You Watching Me?* by Sinead Crowley 13 March 18

*Brian Tonkinson, Co-ordinator*

## Garden Group 2

For the past five years, GG2 have made Xmas centrepieces for the U3A 'Christmas Do'. GG2 members thoroughly enjoy this morning as it is a chance to be creative. Normally we fund it ourselves but this year our U3A chipped in to help defray the costs involved, which was very good of them (thank you committee) and it meant we could have a few fresh flowers. We hope that the members who ended up with table centrepieces enjoyed having them for use over the festive season.

*June Pettifor, Co-ordinator*

## German Conversation

We don't have set topics for our meetings but everyone always has something to say. People's holidays or outings often come up but we might also be talking about what we have seen on television or an article we have read. Our native German-speaking members keep us on our toes and help us to get the language right which is a great benefit. We would encourage anyone who speaks some German to give us a try and by doing so, improve their German language skills.

*Lucy Simnett, Co-ordinator*

## Italian Conversation

Our group has not been going for long and already we find that there is more proper conversation than we had in the beginning. At first, most of us prepared what we wanted to say but now some of us write down just a few words to remind us and tell the group about something we have done or seen, and we are getting questions and answers. We are definitely making progress and thanks to Romana, who is Italian, we get corrections when necessary which improves our Italian.

If there is anyone out there who would like to join us, you would be very welcome.

*Lucy Simnett, Co-ordinator*

## Lunch Club

The Lunch Club meets usually on the 4th Monday of the month at 12.15pm, and we enjoy the company of approximately 22 regular members.

We will be meeting at *Mill Ride Golf Club, Ascot* for Mon 26<sup>th</sup> of February. If you do not usually come to the Lunch Club, but would like to come to Mill Ride, please let me know in advance to aid the booking of the room, Thank you. Then at *The Weather Vane* for 26<sup>th</sup> March and 23<sup>rd</sup> April, also 21<sup>st</sup> May (a week early for the Bank Holiday). Please put these dates in your diary.

All Members are welcome to the Lunch Club, so just arrive at the venue, at the time stated above, for good social company and food. I look forward to seeing you all.

*Joyce Brown, Co-ordinator*

## MOTO 1

As the name suggests MOTO is a social group for **Members (who are) On Their Own**.

We hold a planning meeting each month to discuss what members would like to do.

This includes meals, trips and anything else that our members want – either as a large group or in smaller numbers.

Recent events included our Christmas lunch, London Lumiere, Kew Gardens (Christmas Lights), Wokingham Theatre, Odeon Cinema (for their projections of performances from Royal Opera House and other places), monthly Sunday and mid-week Lunches.

Grateful thanks to Vera who has organised our Sunday lunches for a long time and to Marlane who has taken over this role (and also organises the mid-week lunches). The January Sunday lunch at the Royal Ascot Golf Club was enjoyed by 22 members.

This year we have booked a couple of UK holiday breaks – with 21 of us going to brave the weather in Eastbourne during February!

MOTO 1 is currently full, but there is a MOTO 2 group within Bracknell Forest U3A.

*Diane Jones, Co-ordinator*

## Music Appreciation

For our first meeting of 2018 Greg posed the question 'who do you regard as a great composer?' The broadcaster, lyricist and composer Jeremy Nicholas considered this question and after a lot of thinking and debate with others he drew up a list of 50. The trouble with such a list is that inevitably people will ask 'why on earth did he include X?' or 'what possessed him to leave out Y?' We compared our thoughts with his and Mozart was the most popular vote as one of the great composers.

Greg told us more about the life and music of four of Jeremy's greats; Arnold Schoenberg (1874 – 1951), Vincenzo Bellini (1801 – 1835), Claudio Monteverdi (1567 - 1643) and Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (1525 - 1594). Although we didn't really like Schoenberg's music between them they had driven forward the musical boundaries in religious and secular music. Through their innovation and ideas the foundations were set for the rich range and wealth of fine music we can hear today.

*Greg Boys, Co-ordinator*

## Music Appreciation (Modern)

For our December meeting we got out the record deck to play some vinyl, we also played CDs, music from a USB stick and some YouTube on the TV. Being the month of Christmas we played a few varied and unusual festive tunes including:-

AC/DC – Mistress for Christmas

Mountain – Nantucket Sleighride

Sheffield Carols – Hail Smiling Morn

Less Christmassy tunes included songs by Alex Glasgow, Tiger Moth Tales, Strawbs, Lonnie Donegan, The Doors, Deep Purple and more – a wide range of genre indeed.

We ended the meeting with Michael Buble singing Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas.

In January we started playing 20 to 30 minutes from one artist, this month I chose The Moody Blues with the London Festival Orchestra playing side 2 of the album "Days of Future Passed". We then went on to play such artists as Vienna Ditto, Lana Del Rey, The Outlaws, Neil Young, Red Hot Chilli Peppers and many more. The source of our music was as varied as the music itself - DVD, YouTube, USB, Spotify and CD.

Our next meeting will be February 13<sup>th</sup>. Let's see what variations we can come up with this time.

*Tony Bolt, Co-ordinator*

## Out and About

The group is still oversubscribed and members need to reserve their places quickly if they wish to join any activity. A reserve list will be kept with a possibility of re-running the activity if necessary. As yet, we are in agreement that we will not close the group to new members but if anyone out there feels able to start a second group, support will be given. I would like to remind people that, if they no longer feel the activities are suitable, to please let us know.

As planned, at Christmas this year 16 members visited Stonor House, Home to the Stonor family for over 850 years. Stonor Park is one of the oldest family homes still lived in today and was decorated traditionally by the family for their Christmas. This was followed by a meal at The Five Horseshoes, a 16th Century pub.

The New Year started with a long awaited trip by coach to the Hindu Temple in Neasden. All agreed it was well worthwhile. Please see the web site for full report.

Activities for spring and early summer will be planned at our meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> February. Check the Diary for information but please remember that places are limited and should be booked.

*Brenda Horner, Co-ordinator*

## Times Out

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November (a very cold evening) 10 of our members visited the Chiswick Magical Lantern festival. Really worthwhile to visit with lots of different light displays some bigger than a house. Apparently this is an annual event.

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 25 of our members attended our annual Christmas lunch at the Mill Ride Golf club. Excellent food and service and perfect private room. Thanks to Val and David Lee for organising this event.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> January 12 of our members went to see 'My Fair Lady' in the evening at the Mill at Sonning. This was the biggest production they have undertaken and the acting and singing were superb, also the buffet meal was a good standard. There are future theatre trips planned for later in the year.

*Brenda Bolt, Co-ordinator*

## Transport Group

On Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, the Transport Group is visiting the Design Museum for the Ferrari Exhibition.

Discover the history of the famous Ferrari marque. Find out the story of Enzo Ferrari, the founder of Scuderia Ferrari in 1929. See which famous Hollywood celebrities and stars have owned Ferraris over the years. Have a look at their design and engineering. Explore Ferrari racing cars, and even take a peek at the future for Ferrari.

You can have a look yourself by joining members of the Transport Group on their visit to the Design Museum, 224-238 Kensington High Street, London. The cost is £23 for museum entrance, but we are making enquiries to see if we can obtain a group concession. We intend to go by train, leaving Bracknell station around 10.30.

If you would like to join us or would like to obtain further information, please send me an email

[davelenton@live.co.uk](mailto:davelenton@live.co.uk)

David Lenton, Co-ordinator

## Skittles Evening Report

30 of us (from Out and About, MOTO 1 and Times Out) enjoyed a Skittles evening held at Binfield Club. This is a fun event which enables members from these 3 social groups who do not normally meet on a regular basis to get together and socialise. Skittles evenings, Quiz evenings etc. are organised adhoc by a few BFU3A members of these three Groups as and when someone decides to host one. Once you have socialised with a few members, it becomes a lot easier to put names to faces. There were five faces that were new to me at the event which is a good sign that our BFU3A is continuing to thrive. This particular evening was organised by myself and Diane Jones (Co-Ordinator of MOTO 1). These events are getting more popular as this particular event was oversubscribed. This is the first time I have been in a winning team, although I don't think it was my efforts that made it so. It was a tie finish so we had to have a play-off. Marian Cook won the play off for the Blue team.

Pam Palmer

## Bracknell U3A Summer Outing June 2018

Keep Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2018 free in your diary as we are planning our summer visit to the Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum. The day will also include a trip on a narrow boat for approx. 90-100 minutes. The canal journey will include a trip through Blisworth tunnel for approximately 20 minutes in each direction. A commentary will be given by the crew during this time.

It is expected that the cost will be in the region of £21-23, and will include coach journey, visit to the canal museum and trip on the narrow boat. As the maximum capacity of the narrow boat is 26 passengers, we shall be arranging for two return trips to be arranged. Final details cannot be given yet as I need to obtain further information from the canal museum, which is closed for the winter and will reopen on the 10<sup>th</sup> February. A booking form will then be prepared and I should be in a position to email it to all member just a few days later.

For those of you with email addresses, I would ask that if you would like further information that you wait until after you have received the brochure.

For those of you who do not have email addresses, if you would like further information, please feel free to call me on 07703 354262 after 12<sup>th</sup> February. Booking forms will also be available at the next Open Meeting.

As with last year's Portsmouth trip, I have booked another lovely sunny day for us. Well, fingers crossed.

### Editor's Note

Issue 130 edited by Peter Arthur.  
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Grateful thanks to all contributors.

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Deadlines for contributions  
to the next editions are:  
Issue no 131 – 15<sup>th</sup> March  
Issue no 132 – 3<sup>rd</sup> May

Please send contributions to all editors at:  
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*The Editors cannot accept responsibility for the accuracy or the views of contributors or for the statements and claims made in any items or advertisements appearing in the BFU3A newsletter.*

## Forthcoming events organised by Thames Valley Network U3A

Title	Date	Venue
<b>The Work of William Morris</b> - only a few places left. <a href="http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/Kelmscott_Booking_Form_180510.pdf">www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk/Kelmscott_Booking_Form_180510.pdf</a>	10 May 2018	Kelmscott House London W6 9TA
<b>History of the Thames</b> <i>Keep an eye on the website for more details</i>	Late May/June	Crowmarsh Gifford Wallingford, OX10 8ED
<b>Polar Explorations</b> <i>Keep an eye on the website for more details</i>	4 September	Benson Parish Hall Wallingford, OX10 6LZ
<b>Website Building with WordPress</b> <i>Keep an eye on the website for more details</i>	17 October	Benson Parish Hall Wallingford, OX10 6LZ
<b>Medicine &amp; Art</b> <i>Keep an eye on the website for more details</i>	1 November	Benson Parish Hall Wallingford, OX10 6LZ

Places for these study days / events are filled very quickly. If you see something of interest on the TVN website [www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk](http://www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk) (linked from the BFU3A website) please reserve your place as soon as possible.

*Derek Jackson, Admin. Secretary*

## Data Protection Regulations

### **Photographs**

A timely reminder that when publishing photographs, permission must be sought from **ALL** members included in the picture. If names are added (adults only), permission must be sought from the individual.

In a group shot, it is a good idea to tell all involved that the photo may be used for publicity purposes to give members a chance to drop out of the photo.

### **Events**

Event organisers must ensure that for 'next of kin information', permission must be sought **from the named person** and information destroyed after the event. Information must not be kept on file. The new regulations are very clear on the use of personal information.

Those interested should read the new GDP regulations coming in in May 2018

[www.itgovernance.co.uk/data-protection-dpa-and-eu-data-protection-regulation](http://www.itgovernance.co.uk/data-protection-dpa-and-eu-data-protection-regulation)

*Derek Jackson, Admin. Secretary*

## The Third Age Trust - Extraordinary General Meeting

The Third Age Trust Extraordinary General Meeting on the Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March (**10.45 for 11.00am** start) at Birmingham University, is free of charge, and all U3A members are invited to attend.

The day will comprise of the business of the EGM, followed by lunch and a panel debate on ageing well - how health, arts and learning all contribute to this.

For full details and to book, visit <https://u3a-egm.eventbrite.co.uk> or the national website:

*Derek Jackson, Admin. Secretary*