



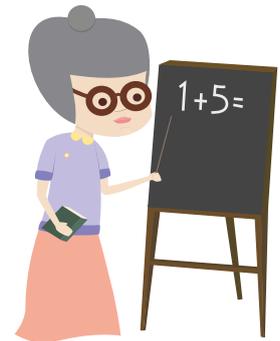
Carterton



Quarterly
Newsletter
January 2018

Words From the Chair

As I am sure you are aware Carterton U3A was founded in the Autumn of 2008, by an enthusiastic small group many of whom still attend meetings. Your current committee have decided that we should celebrate the 10th Anniversary of our inception on Tuesday 23rd October 2018. (4th Tuesday of the month.) To this end, a group has come together to generate ideas and plans for the event. Our thanks to them. The monthly meetings continue to have a wide range of speakers organised by our Speakers group who are doing a hard job. Day trips and Weekend breaks during the year have been very successful and we look forward to more of the same in 2018.



I, with all the committee hope that you had a pleasant and enjoyable Christmas and wish you health and happiness in 2018.

Jan Wright.

Christmas Lunch.

We held our popular Christmas lunch at Witney Lakes once again this year. It is one of the few venues able to take larger numbers of people. Around 130 members attended. It was, as always, very well organised by the staff at the Lakes, and even more so by the hardworking group of planners from our U3A. They do a truly magnificent job and we have all come to rely on the group as we take our seats and thoroughly enjoy ourselves. A well deserved vote of thanks go to them.



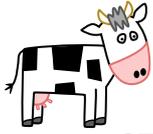
Annual Membership Renewal.

It will soon be time to renew your membership which restarts on the 1 April 2018. The application form will be available at the 27th February meeting and after that online and should be presented before the end of March. The fee will remain at £20.00 per person. Please fill in the form clearly especially your e mail; address (if you have one) and telephone numbers. '



Speakers Coming Soon

23rd January :- Liz Woolley ' Beer, Sausages and Marmalade'



27th February :-Neil Rowe ' Send a Cow'

27th March :- Malcolm Nelson ' Forty years of catching Smugglers, pt. 2



"Computer said my password needed at least eight characters and at least one number, so I changed it to Snow White and the Seven Dwarves."

Outings

The outings usually start in February each year with a visit to a snowdrop garden. This February we plan to visit Waterperry Gardens on Saturday 17th. Pam Howard printed a list of planned outings for 2018, so if you don't have one see Pam. The 2018 outings vary widely as always and there should be something to suit every taste and interest.

Last October we visited Windsor Castle, there was a trip to Richmond and Kew in November and the final offering of the year, was a Carol Concert in the Royal Albert Hall.

Pam works very hard to offer the amazing variety of outings that we enjoy and deserves our grateful thanks. She would also welcome ideas for trips, but cannot promise to fulfil all suggestions.



Walking Groups.

Short walking group:- On the 2nd Tuesday of the month we meet at the Factory shop car park at 10 am. On average there are 15 members but we have reached 30 on occasions. These walks are a very sociable event and there are always coffee and cakes involved. We have a walks programme for the year so everyone knows where the walk will be starting from. We share lifts to the start of the walk and make a small donation towards fuel. These walks are around 3 miles.



Long walking group:-We meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month starting at 09 30

from the Factory shop car park. We have a walks programme and these walks are approximately 5-6 miles long. Depending on the distance we have to travel we quite often take our lunch.

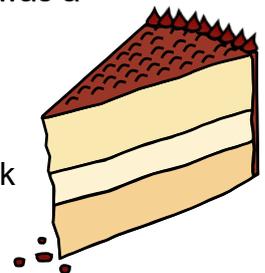
Freeland Stroll. Tuesday 14th November.

On this over cast morning 13 members met for the walk. We travelled to Freeland and parked in the village hall car park. 4 more members joined us there. It was a very sociable walk with lots of chatter and laughter.

The only wild life we saw were a flock of sheep and a number of squirrels chasing around the trees. Part of the walk was along a wide set back footpath; and part over fields which were relatively dry.

The walk was mostly flat with one gradual incline and 4 stiles. After the walk we were welcomed at the Evenlode Inn and shown to our table in the refurbished dining room. All enjoyed scones with jam and cream, cakes and beverages.

The next walk was to be held on the 12th December, but thanks to the snow, it was, like everything else planned for that day, cancelled.



Cycling Group

The cycling group meet at 09 30 at the Factory shop car park, on the first Tuesday of the month. There are usually 6 - 8 of us for each ride. We choose our route on the morning, depending on the weather and how fit we all feel. We do stop and have a breather every so often and always find somewhere to have a coffee and a piece of cake. You may have seen us in our reflective jackets and safety helmets. New members welcome.

"A tandem rider is stopped by a police car. "What've I done, officer?" asks the rider. "Perhaps you didn't notice, sir, but your wife fell off your bike half a mile back . . ."
"Oh, thank God for that," says the rider - "I thought I'd gone deaf!"

There is a new meeting place and time for **CANASTA**.

It will be held in the WI Hall every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month 5pm - 9pm.

The group now has over 20 players, if you are a card player and would like to know

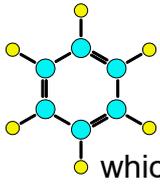
more, you are invited to go along one evening or contact Ken or Eveline Gillians on 01993 843309.

Tuition is given and lots of members had never played before joining .This is a fun evening playing cards and socialising. The cost is £1 50 per evening.



Science Group.

Our group has an average of 10 members who drive to Harwell once a month for the free public lecture.



So far this season we have learned about 'Dangerous Worlds', exoplanets in the Solar System which could harbour life, and the poisons used by Agatha Christie in her murder mysteries.

Further delights to come are talks about one of the most powerful lasers on earth, which is at Harwell, and the James Webb Space telescope which is a time machine

being built by NASA, ESA and CSA. Due to be launched in 2018 this will enable astronomers to look back in time to the early Universe. We will also learn about the last days of the Dinosaurs, exciting electricity, clusters of galaxies, nuclear fusion and how advanced laser technology is being used to see cancer before it is cancer! These lectures are always interesting and we look forward to them each month.

Early 2018.

January:- The last days of the Dinosaurs.

February:- Science rappers guide to the Solar System.

March:- Musical Thunder- experiencing the marvels of electricity.



Reading Group 1.

This group have enjoyed reading an amazing selection of books throughout the year. In early November they read "Small Great Things" by Jodi Piccoult. The title is a quote from Martin Luther King Jr. It is a powerfully written book about prejudice and power and compares in many ways as the modern 'To Kill a Mockingbird'.

The meeting on the 23rd November was held at the home of Rosemary Hogbin, the book for that date was "The Dangerous Crossing" by Rachel Rhys.

Library

Gardening Group.

This very popular group enjoyed a fantastic year. Each month a group of gardeners went somewhere new and always interesting, the high quality of many of the speakers they met along the way was very valuable. One visit was to Rousham gardens on a glorious Autumn day. The visit was enhanced by meeting up with the owner who was walking his dog not only did he welcome the group to his gardens, but he told them to help themselves to apples...which of course they did! There is no meeting in January, but the events calendar for 2018 should be available very soon. Ann Fleming will have these.



Christmas Carol Concert.

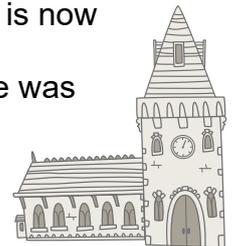
The final outing for 2017 was to the Royal Albert Hall in London. A coach full of festive people travelled up to the big city ready to sing and enjoy the afternoon. The enormous hall was completely full and many folk were sporting wonderful hats, jumpers and garlands of lights which all enhanced the day. Plenty of singing was the order of the afternoon with carols old and new. A happy audience sang the season in with loud and harmonious voices.

The trip home was uneventful, although it was a bit of a surprise to alight from the coach to a frosty evening.



History Group.

On November 20th we made the short journey to St. Mary's Church, Black Bourton, in the parish that Carterton was once a part of. By 1180 a chapel that is now the chancel, was in use. The nave was built in 1190 when the font was built. The stone pulpit dates from the 15th Century. Most of the windows are narrow lancet 12th Century ones, which, whilst not giving the church much light is better for the preservation of the historic wall paintings that the church is famous for. These date from the 13th century and were intended for the religious education of an illiterate congregation. They show 13 scenes from the bible.



Presumably during the Reformation in the 16th Century, when churches were cleared of catholic images, they were covered with plaster and whitewash. The church was restored in 1866 and the paintings uncovered. The vicar at the time went to London to get a wash to fix them, but on his return he found that his curate and tenants had whitewashed over them again. 1932 saw the whitewash removed finally and all was revealed.

Recently the church has had new bells installed and many of us climbed the narrow stone staircase to view them. One of the congregation, himself a bellringer, gave an interesting talk on the church. This is such a lovely historical church and it is very well cared for, as is the graveyard outside. In one part are the war graves of local RAF airmen, serving and retired, who have died since.

Dates for 2018.

January:- St., Mary's Church. Fairford.

February:- In House, Carterton Town Hall.

March:-St. Mary's Church, Chalgrove.

"A man was very proud of his guard dog, he would leave it to roam free in the garden to show the world his house was guarded. One day a woman knocked at his door. "Is that your big dog outside?" Wondering how she had got past him he said "Yes why?" She said "I'm sorry but my dog just killed him!" "What??" Roared the man "What kind of dog have you got??" "A Peke" Replied the woman. "A Peke???" how could that little thing kill my big fine guard dog?" "I think it got stuck in his throat!" Replied the woman."



Featured Group

The Art Group.

This group meets in Carterton Town Hall on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 2pm - 4pm.

Art group meetings began in 2009. Meetings were held in my house until so well attended that we needed larger premises and for the past 5 years we have drawn, painted and chatted and generally had fun in the W I Hall.

However following a generous offer from the Town Council we have moved our meetings to the Town Hall, where the light is exceptionally good.

For the three summer meetings we moved outside to Great Coxwell Barn in June, Minster Lovell Ruins in July and Radcot Bridge in August. Everybody who attended agreed that painting on site really sharpened their observational skills.

In October we welcomed one new member and all tried our hand at the gloriously coloured autumn leaves. At the November meeting we welcomed another new member and painted gourds and pumpkins.

There is plenty of room at our new venue for more U3A members to hone their drawing/painting skills. We set a subject each month, but if you wish you are welcome to work on your own project. None of us are professional and we all help each other. The only medium we don't use is oil paint due to the mess. Everyone has their favourite method of creating be it drawing with pencil, ink, pastels or coloured pencils; painting with water colour or acrylic paints. Just bring a sketch or paint pad and the medium of your choice and HAVE FUN.

Unless totally focused, most have a coffee break. It is not unknown for at least one of us to absently dip their paint brush into their coffee cup in mistake for the water jar. Jenny Maxwell



Art Group Photos

