

## Chairman's Report



We are well into the New Year with a new Singing for Joy group getting underway. We are still trying to collect the last few subscriptions for the year. It is an arduous task each year chasing those who don't pay in December and January. Thank you to the majority of people who did. At the moment it looks like around 50 have not rejoined, so we shall be again working back towards that 300-member target.

The talks so far have all been well attended and many groups are fully subscribed. If anyone would like to start a new group, please let a committee member know.

As I have advised previously, we do need new committee members from April. In particular we need people to take over my position as Chairman and to take over from Terry Kenyon, who has done such a splendid job as Group Coordinator over the last few years. Please help to ensure our continued activities for the future.

*Charles Whittaker*

To contact a member of the committee, click [here](#).

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### NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to all members who have joined us since our last newsletter. Please take the opportunity to peruse our [groups](#). Do contact the convenor if any of your choices are showing full as there may be an opportunity to waitlist, or start a new group.

Our [social occasions](#) and [events](#) are popular, just come along and introduce yourself. There's always a committee member (with a badge) on hand to assist.

If you have particular skills or knowledge you wish to share, please contact a committee member.

### NEW GROUPS

Following the success of Board Games, **Board Games 2**, convened by Bridgit Collins, began to meet in February. For those who would like an ad hoc experience, Dianne Sharp has set up **Board Games Evening**. The much awaited **Singing For Joy** has now been launched!

[If you are interested in starting a new group, please contact a member of the committee.](#)

# News Roundup

The **Creative Writing Workshop** now meets on the first Thursday of the month at 2pm in the library.

**Book Group 1** unanimously members agreed to change venue to the Town Hall and move the day of their meeting to the second Monday morning of the month.

Members can now attend **Art Appreciation** talks either in person at the Sacred Heart Church, on Zoom in the evening, or watch a recording at leisure. Please register your interest with [Keith Appleby](#) to be added to the circulation list.

The popular **Art Workshop** is now convened by Jill Waud. Thanks go to Jill Walker for her efforts in setting up the group and leading it through the first couple of terms.

The **Creative Arts Group** will now meet on alternate months, same time and place.

**Evolution of Bridges** has come to an end after two years, however, members have agreed to continue to meet and will now discuss **Effective Leaders**.

This year, **Morning Walks** are trialling the first Tuesday of each month and a 10am start (to avoid clashing with Ramblers). This will also allow plenty of time for lunch and afternoon activities. The group is **desperately seeking walk leaders**. *'If you know a lovely walk of no more than a few miles, taking no more than a couple of hours (with breaks), we just need you to tell us where to meet/park and point us in the right direction! We will provide full support.'* Please contact [Roger Shaw](#) for further information.

The sociable **Day Walkers** will hold a summer reunion walk/lunch on 5<sup>th</sup> August.

**Family History** now meets every alternate month on the third Monday at 2pm.

**French Moving On** has been discontinued. Our thanks go to Joan Clark for her hard work.

The **Photography** group now meet on Zoom on the first Monday of the month at 7pm.

The **Bridge** group are unfortunately no longer able to offer multiple tables and cannot accommodate players without partners.

**SPACES AVAILABLE:** The following groups currently have spaces available. Be quick as some of these are very limited: [Board Games 2](#), [Board Games Evening](#), [Creative Arts](#), [Creative Writing](#), [Effective Leaders](#), [Family History](#), [Film](#), [Italian Beginners](#), [Intermediate & Advanced](#), [Jazz](#), [Music Appreciation 1 & 2](#), [Poetry 1](#) and [Singing for Joy](#). Activity and Social Groups are open to all members, as are Art Appreciation and Monthly Talks. Many other groups have waiting lists so please do add your name if you are interested.

Some of our intrepid January morning walkers



## PHOTOGRAPHY



This group has been re-launched on Zoom, to concentrate mainly on the use of camera phones and how to make better pictures. Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and, along with an input on skills and technique, there is an opportunity for sharing images and receiving advice. Topics are set each month for members to apply their learnt skills on taking pictures with camera phones and other cameras. The group is currently full. Contact [Keith Appleby](#).

## Creative Arts



*Photos courtesy of Sheelagh Hill*

This wide-ranging arts-oriented group was formed in September 2024 to cover the subject areas of literature, classical music and decorative art. Please contact the group leader, [Darius](#), if you are interested: You will be most welcome!

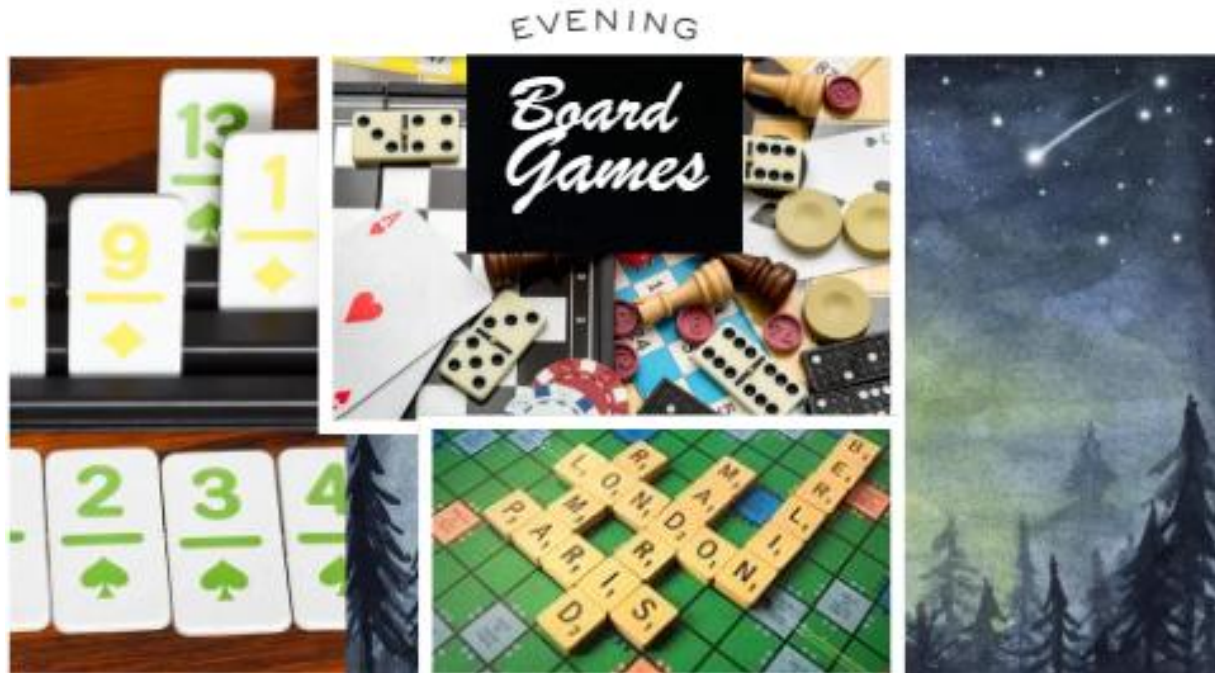
### CHRIST CHURCH OPEN DAY

In September 2025, we were asked to create a display to help celebrate the 25th anniversary of the [Christ Church Centre](#). The invitation arose through the popular Art Workshop, which is held in the hall on the third Thursday of each month. Some of the members' achievements were exhibited.

Thanks to the committee for their time and effort in providing a colourful, attractive stand, and to everyone who popped in to support us during the Open Day promotion.



*Photo courtesy of Terry Kenyon*



**Board Games Evening** is a new group, currently in the process of being set up. The intention is that meetings should be fun, include light refreshments and conversation, as well as exercising our little grey cells!

Members able to do so will take turns to host meetings. Board Games Evenings will meet on an ad-hoc basis and the convenor will try to establish dates that suit most people. If you are interested in joining, please contact [Dianne Sharp](#).

We are delighted to announce the formation of the much awaited **Singing for Joy**. The group will be led by vocalist, Colette Ashby and meet at the Christ Church Centre from 11am to 12 noon on the fourth Friday of each month. Parking is available on site.

All u3a members are welcome to join. There is no need to be able to read music and there will be no 'auditions' to attend. Just bring along enthusiasm, fun and enjoyment! We shall be singing a range of songs from musicals, well known pop (50s to 80s), wartime melodies and more. Requests in advance for favourite songs will be welcomed.



If you are interested, please contact [Darius Halpern](#). Thanks to Terry Kenyon and Pam Lincoln who helped set up the group.



Those who have studied 'A' Level or degree level French in the past, or have lived in France (or another Francophone country) are welcome. We converse in French 95% of the time and discuss various topics.. Please note that all group members are expected to use email for written communication, and the internet for sharing links and photos while preparing for meetings. If you would like to find out more and, perhaps, join French Discussion, please contact [Sally Jacob](#).

We say farewell to **Evolution of Bridges**. This group kicked off with a talk by an architect, who traced the evolution of bridges and explained the different structural designs. After almost two years this morphed into a group researching leaders but, as a fitting end, we were lucky enough to have a senior bridge designer talk to us about the process of building a bridge today. She covered all considerations and the interaction between consultants, particularly architects and engineers.

We have all learned a great deal – so much so that one member of our group, Charles Whittaker, was able to design a bridge inspired by Santiago Calatrava, albeit with the aid of AI.

The **Effective Leaders' Group** is now well under way. This subject requires significant research and, to date, we've learnt about the successes or otherwise of Mao TseTung, Indira Gandhi and Boris Johnson. We've considered what qualities they have in common and what drives a person to want to lead. Our next talk will be on Abraham Lincoln. Contact [Lynette Hawkins](#).





# ART WORKSHOP

The **Art Workshop** started the year with guest artist, Erica Dingle, who set us the task of painting a curtained window with shutters and a window box. Her helpful demonstration was followed up with individual advice.

In February, we have Simon Pink, Chairman of Henley Arts and Crafts Guild, coming to teach us how to paint a parrot!

Future classes include drawing and acrylics as well as watercolour so, hopefully, all tastes will be catered for.

The group is currently full, with a waiting list. Contact [Jill Waud](#).

**Jazz Appreciation** is a well established and very sociable group, with members benefitting from attending live gigs together. At our monthly meetings, we enjoy listening to specific instruments, but evenings spent focusing on influential female artists have been most popular. The next get-together will be hosted by Graham Harris.



Sadly, Terry Miller passed away recently. He was such a valuable member of our group and, most notably, his enthusiasm and immense knowledge will be sorely missed. His loss has left a vacancy, which means we can accommodate another member willing to bring along their own passion and enthusiasm for jazz. Please contact [Lynette Hawkins](#) if you'd like to join us.



The **Allotment Group** continues to thrive and members are looking forward to another excellent growing season. The first seeds of 2026 have been sown and now we are waiting for warmer weather! The group remains full, but anyone interested in joining is welcome to add their name to the waiting list. Contact [Lynne Appleby](#).

# Monthly Talks

Held at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, Walton Avenue, Henley RG9 1HT  
2pm, on the second Wednesday of the month. Members £2 / Non-members £4  
Please arrive by 1.45pm. Parking available.



**March 11<sup>th</sup>** Mike Payne **"The History of Pinewood Studios"** A look at one of Buckinghamshire's most famous sites and the rollercoaster development of the studios over the last 80 years. Featuring many famous faces and some personal memories of stars and personalities who have worked there.

**April 8<sup>th</sup>** Alan Fitzgerald **"Does Britain Really Make Anything Anymore"** This presentation will examine what's happened to British industry since the Industrial Revolution. Following a retrospective view of Britain's contributions to the world's economies, it will focus on events since the end of WWII that have affected Britain and shaped its industrial heritage. Finally, it will examine the technologies that need to be adopted to ensure our survival as a leading industrial power.



**May 13<sup>th</sup>** Jennifer Cowling **"Those Extraordinary Things We Say"** We all use phrases such as 'a turn up for the books', 'cupboard love', 'being taken to the cleaners', 'sod's law', 'having a whale of a time', or 'tickled pink' in our daily conversation, oblivious to the fact that many of our listeners have no idea what we're talking about. Why is our language so strange and difficult to analyse at times? What are its origins? A light-hearted look at English figures of speech and how we use them.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** Paul Barwick **"The Salisbury Novichok Poisonings"** Focused on the events of March 2018, we explore the infamous plot to kill a former Russian spy here in the United Kingdom with a deadly poison called Novichok, and the terrible consequences for the residents of Salisbury.



**July 8<sup>th</sup>** John Tyler **"The Ridgeway"** The Ridgeway can claim to be one of the oldest trackways in Europe, stretching nearly ninety miles from Ivinghoe to Avebury, and over 5,000 years from the Stone Age to the present day. This talk offers a blister-free walk along this ancient chalk path, describing both its prehistory and the rich wildlife that it supports today.

## Art Appreciation

Held at the Sacred Heart Church Hall, Walton Avenue, Henley RG9 1HT  
2pm, on the first Tuesday of the month. Members £2 / Non-members £4  
Please arrive by 1.45pm. Parking available.

March 3rd: The Pre Raphaelite Brotherhood

April 7th: Barbara Hepworth and St Ives

May 5th: Magritte

June 2nd: Art Nouveau

July 7th: Pictures on a Page (Photojournalism and the power of the press)

August 4th: Andy Goldsworthy

# Social Occasions



## WEEKEND LUNCH

Meet at The Catherine Wheel (Wetherspoons), Hart Street, Henley. 12 noon, on the second Saturday of every month.

Join us for a relaxed lunchtime get together. No need to book, just turn up and look for one of our u3a reserved tables. Newcomers welcome. For more information, click [here](#).



## COFFEE MORNINGS

Toad Hall Garden Centre, Marlow Road, Henley RG9 3AG



**Come along on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December).**

Free parking on site, or catch the 850 bus from Bell St to Icehouse Lane (stops opposite the gates to the garden centre).

Click [here](#) for further info.

## Watlington Concert Band, 22 June 2025



## BANDSTAND SUNDAY

**Mill Meadows, Henley  
Weekly at 2pm, April to September**

Join us for a lazy summer Sunday afternoon by the riverside, listening to live music. Bring something to sit on and your own food/drink, or there's the Piazza nearby for takeaway or ice-cream. Pay and display parking.

For further details click [here](#).

# HoT Groups & Activities

Below is a list of all groups and activities, at time of going to press. Click on the title to access the relevant website page, contact the convenor and view a description with current status, schedule and venue. For the Groups Main Page, click [here](#).

## Art & Craft

[Art Appreciation](#)   [Art Workshop](#)   [Photography](#)   [Stitchery & Yarn](#)

## Exercise

[Day Walks](#)   [Exercises](#)   [Morning Walks](#)   [Table Tennis](#)

## Games

[Board Games 1](#)   [Board Games 2](#)   [Board Games Evening](#)   [Bridge](#)

## Languages

[French Discussion](#)   [French Refresher](#)   [German Conversation](#)  
[Italian Beginners](#)   [Italian Intermediate](#)   [Italian Advanced](#)  
[Portuguese Level 1](#)   [Spanish Conversation](#)

## Literature

[Book Groups 1 & 2](#)   [Creative Writing](#)   [Film](#)   [Play Reading](#)  
[Poetry 1](#)   [Poetry 2](#)

## Miscellaneous

[Allotment](#)   [Creative Arts](#)   [Effective Leaders](#)  
[Family History](#)   [Wine Appreciation](#)

## Music

[Jazz](#)   [Music Appreciation 1](#)   [Music Appreciation 2](#)  
[Opera](#)   [Popular Music](#)   [Singing for Joy](#)

## Social

[Bandstand Sunday](#)   [Coffee Mornings](#)   [Weekend Lunches](#)

# U3A RESOURCES

**Click on the links below to discover  
the local and national network**

## [Henley-on-Thames](#)

Our local website gives up-to-date information  
on all our groups and activities.

## [Thames Valley Network](#)

Regional network offering a range of talks, study meetings  
and other activities.

## [National Online Educational Events](#)

This national u3a website provides online learning events that feature a host  
of interesting free talks, workshops and courses.

## [Interest Groups Online](#)

The IGO is an online u3a community that gives members the opportunity to  
join groups, talks and courses from the comfort of their own home.

## [Friends](#)

Sign up for the u3a Friends newsletter.

## [YouTube Channel](#)

Various u3a recorded videos

## [Radio Podcasts](#)

Created by a group of u3a members with radio experience.  
New podcasts available on the 17<sup>th</sup> of every month.

## [Let's Tech Talk](#)

For u3a members with an interest in technology

## [Learning Activities & Short Stories](#)

Links to puzzles, games and competitions.

## [Keeping in Touch](#)

National u3a Facebook Group

## [Future Lives](#)

Shares information and resources to inspire, influence and  
inform members to help improve their lives.