

FARINGDON & DISTRICT

u3a learn,
laugh,
live



Spring 2026

<https://faringdon.u3asite.uk/>

Chairman's Note

You will see elsewhere in this Newsletter a notice of our AGM so it is the time of year when I put out a plea to members to come forward to offer to join your committee. I would like to make a few points in that context.

Committee meetings are every other month, so, not an onerous commitment. There is no matter of seniority and we would positively welcome newer members of our u3a with fresh ideas.

We are reliant on you coming forward and, as a result and for whatever reason, ladies are under-represented whereas they are the majority of the membership. So ladies don't be shy, we need you, especially as we are losing two of our four, Rita this year and Tessa next year.

Is there a "Facebooker" out there? We need a Facebook presence and none of the committee feel competent, it need not necessarily be a Committee role and I have access to quite a lot of advice in the context of running a page for u3a.

We also held a new member's coffee morning in the Old Crown Coaching Inn. The aim of these events is to welcome new Members. They have the opportunity to meet other new members as well as some of the committee.

Let me hear from you. wolfitha@hotmail.com

Membership

We are delighted to welcome the following new members—

Abingdon: Julie Bryan

Ardington: Moya Chase

Charney Bassett:

Faringdon: Geoff Burden, Peter Castle, Alexandra Clifton-Brown, Anthony Field, Graham Fletcher, Graham Hand, Andrew Lawrance, Stella Merchant-Vaughan, Carolyn Murphy, Brian Nicholson, Flynn Reid, Elizabeth Yallop

Highworth: Alison Williams

Letcombe Regis: Peter Green

Littleworth: Jean Moss

Longworth: Jennifer Duncan

Lyford: Christoff Lewis

Shellingford: Sakhmet Campbell

Shrivenham: Anthony & Diana Crockett

Wantage: Marilyn Hockley

West Challow: James Vaughan- Fowler

We are sad to advise of the death of:

Liz Portman, Christina Hole, Mary Cunningham Corran

Deadline for Summer Newsletter

Please send news of group activities, articles, photographs, etc to the Editor: newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk

by **Wednesday 6th May 2026**

The Summer Newsletter will cover June, July, August

It will be posted to members in **late May**

Faringdon & District u3a Committee 2026

Peter Hoole	Chairman	07385 297571 chairman@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Rita Higazi	Events & Venue Team	01367 244494 events@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Neville Brampton	Events & Venue Team	events@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Sue Cain	Groups Co-ordinator	07731 675729 groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Ricky Cunningham	IT/Website Coordinator	01367 242626 itcoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Carol Jones	Membership Secretary	07955 443529 membershipsecretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Tessa Timms Sue Cain	Newsletter	newslettereditor@faringdonu3a.org.uk
John Curtis	Publicity	07866 745 814 publicity@faringdonu3a.org.uk
David Emmett	Secretary	07866 362788 secretary@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Tessa Timms	Speaker's Co-ordinator	07980 562331 speakers@faringdonu3a.org.uk
Peter Foot	Thames Valley Representative	01367 358 046 tvnrep@faringdonu3a.org.uk
David O'Connor	Treasurer	
John Curtis	Vice Chairman	

Meetings Calendar

Our main meeting is held at **2.30 pm** in **Faringdon Corn Exchange** on the **second Thursday** of the month. Meetings begin with a warm welcome from our Chairman, Peter Hoole and any notices from the groups. The talk, from a visiting speaker then follows. After the talk there are free refreshments and a chance to talk to Group Leaders and socialise.

If you would like to give a talk to our members or you have heard of a good speaker, do please contact me. I am always on the look-out for new topics and interesting speakers.

We look forward to seeing you in the Corn Exchange.

Tessa Timms.

12th March: The South Oxford Canal by Alex Higginbottom from the Canal River Trust

The South Oxford Canal is a picturesque waterway that forms part of the larger Oxford Canal, running south from Oxford. It's known for its scenic beauty, passing through charming Oxfordshire villages, and offering opportunities for boating, walking, and

enjoying the countryside. It's characterized by its winding route, lift bridges, and narrow locks.

9th April: Isaac Crichlow: Slavery and the British transatlantic slave trade

Between 1640 and 1807, Britain was a leading participant in the transatlantic slave trade, transporting over 3 million enslaved Africans to the Americas to fuel plantation economies in sugar and cotton. Centred in ports like Liverpool, Bristol, and London, this industry generated immense wealth before the trade was abolished in 1807, with slavery itself ending in British colonies by 1838. . I will be discussing resistance to enslavement in the Caribbean?

14th May: Julie Ann Godson - 1066: Oxfordshire and the Norman Conquest

So many of the key events surrounding the Norman invasion of Anglo-Saxon England in 1066 took place in modern Oxfordshire that it seems worthwhile to round them all up into one little book. It was an event which changed the country forever. And from the birth of a prince to the formal surrender after the Battle of Hastings, Oxfordshire frequently provided the background for the board-room take-over which was the Norman Conquest of England.

Enjoy a not-too-serious romp through the most tumultuous ever period of England's history.

Activities Reports

Meeting - 11th December 2025 Carols by Candlelight

Our December monthly meeting was a very different one this year.

We held a Carols by Candlelight event where we asked Rachel Ragaland the choir mistress of The Faringdon Community Choir to lead our carols and Debra Warner accompanied us all on her piano.

The Corn Exchange was decorated with tinsel trees and 100 candles. The hall was full and we sang popular carols and Christmas songs and a number of our members read seasonal themed poems.

Because it was well received and enjoyed by those who attended, a similar event will be arranged for our December meeting 2026.

Meeting 8th January - January Japes

Elvis, in words, art and song

Paul Lille

Once again the January meeting was our annual January Japes. An opportunity to enjoy good food, provided by Sadlers and socialise with other members.

This year we were treated to the talented Paul Lille for our after dinner entertainment.

As you will see from the following pictures, he began with a blank canvas.

Over the course of 45 minutes, using a limited colour palette Paul produced a fantastic portrait of Elvis. All whilst telling us about the life of Elvis, singing some of his hits and accompanying himself on the guitar.









Meeting - 12th February 2026

Artificial Intelligence :

What in the world are we playing at?

Robert Whitfield

Robert has been involved in the world of AI for the last 10 to 15 years. His involvement has been varied and through such organisations such as the Transnational Working Group on AI, The World Federalist Group, the Institute for Globalist Policy and GAIGANow.

Introduction

We are in exceptional times and so I do not want to only focus on the problems and issue of AI, but and what we are doing about it. And in the context of the world that we live in today, not a few years ago. We live in troubling times. The volatility of the Trump administration has lead us to a position where truth becomes irrelevant and might equals right. International organisations are ignored. We are in disturbing period in human history at the moment. And in that human history, we have refined ourselves with artificial intelligence.

What is AI?

There are many different definitions of what artificial intelligence really means, but the most useful one is the statement that it is the study of systems that perceive their environment and act to maximise goal achievement. This is from the book by Russell and Norvig, that has been used of 180 countries to learn about artificial intelligence. Basically, the development of the power of artificial intelligence that you see is not from programming, it is from making it more powerful than the people who are developing it. Developers have discovered what increased power can deliver and they are often surprised by the results. It is not because they've actively programmed something to do something. They have played around, tweaked this, doubled that, increased that, and they find the resulting capabilities. So, they are grown, not crafted. At some time

stage, therefore, we should expect the machines take control.

So said Alan Turing in the 1956

And the question that our generation have to decide is whether we wish machines to take control, and if not, what are we going to do about it? So that leads on to reflecting the idea of major risk.

Catastrophic and existential risks

Up until a few decades ago our biggest threats were all natural in terms of asteroids or super volcanos or whatever. But we have begun creating existential risks of our own The first people were aware of that was the nuclear bomb. But we are currently in the process of developing others, and it is argue by many that the greatest threat at the moment is that of uncontrolled advanced AI.

Taxonomy of AI Safety Risks

What we should be most concerned about is the pace of change. Comparing the ChatGPT capability that we experience today with what it was a few years ago, If it continues to develop at that rate what can it become? And that is what we have to be concerned about. And we could not simply wait till that happens and then try and do something about it because our options may no longer exist. We need to think about doing something about it **NOW**.

Dangerous Behaviour Already Observed

Already we are experiencing situations where AIG is taking control away from developers. It is visible in many ways but most shockingly when an AIG model blackmailed the engineer developer.

How fast is AI moving?

Machine intelligence capabilities have been assessed at growing from 1952 to 2018, at roughly 30% p.a., and since 2018, at around 300% p.a. This pace is increasing. In comparison the difference in the number of neurons between a chimpanzee and a human is about 3 and it took evolution 5 to 7 million years to create that difference.

When is AGI expected?

AGI (Artificial General Intelligence) is a theoretical advanced form of AI that can understand, learn, and apply knowledge across a wide range of tasks at a level equal to, or exceeding, human intelligence. The timing of the arrival of AGI) has been forecast by several leading

AI Executives as varying from 2026 to 2030.

Perceived scale of advanced AI risk

Toby Ord has estimated that general artificial intelligence presenting a chance of 1 in 10 of humanity no longer existing within the next 100 years. He certainly considers that that percentage risk has increased in the last 6 years. Jeffrey Incheon talks about a 20% extension risk within 10 years.

Other AI issues

Ethics: AI currently poses serious ethical risks, including bias, threats to privacy, surveillance, misinformation

Equity: The development of AI is currently controlled by a small number of companies and states, exacerbating the current global power imbalance and hindering a more equitable balance of resources.

Interoperability: AI is a cross-border technology, where differences in regulation greatly complicate the determination of liability and effective interoperability.

Together these issues emphasise that any solution must be international.

Solutions to safety challenges

The solutions being pursued are both Technical and Governance and preferably a combination of the two. The risks are currently growing far faster than the capability to contain them.

Launching GAIGANow

The AI Safety Movement is not winning – and this needs to change. The voices for international AI governance are too diffused and need to be brought together. One avenue for this is the launch of the Global AI Governance Alliance (www.gaiganow.org). Established in 2025 with the aim of A Global AI Treaty, possibly preceded by a US / China agreement on AI Safety.

Enforcement of International Treaties

The issue of enforcement is likely to be critical for the future of humanity. There is no universal enforcement body at present.

Treaty enforcement and monitoring are major issues.

How do you enforce a clause in a Treaty that a state can simply walk away from?

Given the prospect of advanced AI putting the very existence of humanity at risk in the coming year, is a Federal World Government the necessary tool to provide safety?

Conclusion Global

Advanced AI offers huge capability – and currently threatens the future of humanity. All those supportive of international AI Governance need to work together to bring about suitable international AI Governance covering: An early US / China agreement re advanced AI and a global AI Treaty, The Global AI Governance Alliance, seeks to contribute to include tribute to these crucial steps. The enforcement of a resulting global AI Treaty will be key to our Future.

Conclusion Closer to Home: YOU

What can **YOU** do?

The future of humanity rests on what the citizens of the world do in the coming years and decades.

Take what action you can, learn more about these issues and apply your own mind, contact your MP and express your concern use CONTROL AI's access to MPs tool as a default, share your views with friends and colleagues, engage with a relevant civil society organization, write a blog or an article if you feel you have something to say.

Action leads to a sense of empowerment, it has a positive impact on the issue itself and reduces anxiety.

This Newsletter together with more information about our u3a is available on our website.

<https://faringdon.u3asite.uk/>

Look out for a video from January Japes and a longer version of the AI report.

Faringdon Interest Groups

Accessible Ukuleles	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Art	Julie Forth	01367 242472
Ashmolean	Shela Rowan	01367 243636
Board Games	Mairi Clare Dunlin	01367 242647
Books	Kay Chamberlain	07464 626188
Bridge - Beginners	Jill Ridley	01367 240929
Bridge Lessons (Steve B)	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
Cryptic Crosswords	Peter Smith	pdes_smith@hotmail.com
Current Affairs	Joy Jermy	joyhjermy@outlook.com
Embroidery	Suellen Pedley	01367 710680
Folk Dancing	Val Hudspeth	01367 241035
Foreign Language Films	Julie Forth	01367 242472
French Advanced	Carolyn Williams	01367 241208
French Conversation	Francoise Stacey	01367 241813
Gardeners	Christina Carol Field	01367 241265
Golf Croquet	Steve Braithwaite	01367 240929
Guitar Group	David Emmett	david_emett@hotmail.com
Hablemos!	Richard King	richard@kingsrus2.com

History	Mike Iremonger	01367 241361
History of Art	Susan Thrower	01367 240848
Italian Improvers	Marion Turner	01793 710302
Jazz	Rachel Holt	07870370139
Lingo	Jenny Braithwaite	01367 240929
Lunch	David Milne	07824 157491
Military History	Bjorn Watson	01793 782748
Opera	Tessa Timms	07980 562331
Patchwork and Quilting	Sue Cain	sue.cain2@gmail.com
Photography	Mairi Clare Dunlin	07424 966872
Poetry	Sandra Cooper	07812 680223
Qigong	Peter Hoole	07759 820311
Quiz	Danielle Mills	01367 718625
Recorder Consort	Peter Smith	pdes_smith@hotmail.com
Sewing	Tessa Timms Elaine Gathercole	07980 562331 elaineg173@gmail.com
Social History Walks	Margaret Smith	01793 710800
Spanish Intermediate	Carolyn Taylor	01367 242490
The STEM Cell	Shaun Forth	shaun4th@gmail.com
Walkers	Michael Griffiths	01367 242714
Wine Appreciation	Peter Robinson	01367 718566

News from the Groups

Notes for Members

If you have any questions about groups contact **Sue Cain** , the Groups Co-ordinator or email: groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk

Not all groups submit a news item for each Newsletter - a full list of groups is provided on pages 14-15.

Groups are open to all U3A members but you should check with the Group Leader beforehand about the level of the Group and that it has room for new members. All U3A members are encouraged to start new interest groups, but before taking the matter too far please contact the Groups Co-ordinator to discuss the idea and for a copy of "Guidelines for Interest Groups", and to check the proposed meeting day (s) and time (s).

Possible New Groups

Beginners French

Are there any members who would like to join a Beginners French – starting from scratch where we assist each other using on-line tutorials. Contact Tessa Timms 07980 562331 or tessaatimms@gmail.com

Beginners Spanish

Following on from the successful start up a second intermediate group there have been some enquiries about a beginners Spanish group. If this is something you would be interested in please contact groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk

Any other group ideas

If you have any ideas for new groups then please contact Sue by email: groupscoordinator@faringdonu3a.org.uk

Art Workshops

A small group of us are now meeting monthly to learn about established artists and to experiment with our own painting/ art styles. The group is facilitated by a group member where the focus is on process, not outcome. We are currently meeting in the home of the group facilitator.

The focus of the meeting in January was Abstract Art.

We examined some features of the paintings of Klee. We produced an original piece of work. The focus of the meeting in February is Abstract Art (part 2), looking at Kandinsky.

Dates for March-June have not been finalised yet but March 30th looks likely.

Meetings take place on a Monday, 1-4pm. There is no cost but members need to bring their own resources. A few resources are available for sharing.

If you are interested in joining this group, please email me for further information and dates.

Julie Forth: juliekarenforth@gmail.com or 013672424726 ,The Pines SN7 8AU

Ashmolean

This group visits the Ashmolean Museum every month and has a guided talk in a gallery which is always interesting. The visits take place on the first Thursday in the month. Members make their own way to the Ashmolean Museum. The meeting starts with the group gathering at 10.55 for 11am start in the Greek & Roman Sculpture Gallery. Each talk lasts for one hour. There is a non-returnable fee of £10 per person attending, which is required at least a week before each visit. If for any reason members are unable to attend there will be no refund as we notify the museum in advance of our group numbers.

2nd April: 19th C. Drawings Print Room Research Fellow Eliza Goodpasture

7th May: Denise Derbyshire

4th June: Paintings Conservator Jevon Thistlewood

2nd July: Rembrandt Print Room Lynne Ward

3rd September: Chinese Paintings Billy Beswick

1st October: Van Dyke Print Room Lynne Ward

5th November: Christopher Dresser and Decorative Arts in the
Pre Raphaelite Gallery

Contact Shela Rowan email: smr280652@gmail.com

Beginner's Bridge

Our Beginners Bridge course began in January & we have just started suit bidding in anger!

The course is around 30 lessons (lots to learn!) and we meet twice a month (first and third Monday's of the month), so lasting around 15 months. It is suitable for complete beginners (but preferably card players) or anyone needing a refresher.

Please email one of us if you are interested in joining or ring us for a chat if you would like more information. (Sooner rather than later so not too much to catch up on).

Venue: The Blessed Hugh Church Hall, Faringdon, 1st & 3rd Mondays @ 10.00-12.00. Cost: Approx. £15 per term

Jill Ridley: 07464 626188 or jill.ridley.22@hotmail.com

Kim Townsend: 07765 460174 or kimma_a@tiscali.co.uk

Bridge : Intermediate and Experienced

All Intermediate and Experienced lessons take place in Faringdon Catholic Church Hall (rear entrance from Portway behind Southampton Street car park) from 9.50am to 12 noon.

Provisional dates are given below. Members will be notified of any changes.

Intermediate

Mon Mar 9th Wed Mar 11th

Mon Apr 27th Wed Apr 22nd (note change of order)

Mon May 11th Wed May 13th

Experienced

Wed Mar 25th

Wed Apr 29th

Wed May 27th

For further details contact Steve Braithwaite:

steve.bridge1@gmail.com or 077 40 30 60 55

Croquet Group



We play alternate weeks during the summer months, and we'll resume when the weather improves!

If you would like to be included this season, please email Steve and we'll let you know the start date. steve.bridge1@gmail.com.

Cryptic Crosswords

We usually meet on the third Friday of the month in Faringdon, starting at 2.00pm. Meetings are about two hours long, including a refreshment break. The sessions involve the competitive solving of cryptic crosswords of 'The Times', 'Sunday Times' or 'Observer Everyman' standard. We generally start with a quick game using an 'Everyman' puzzle before the main 'CrossPurposes' solving game.

Here's a recent entry for the monthly clue-writing competition for the word JANUARY: Short two-faced doorkeeper with a line for the earliest annual sale. [Explanation: JANUS + A + RY]

If you would like to know more, contact the group leader, Peter Smith at pdes_smith@hotmail.com

Current Affairs

Current Affairs takes place on the second Thursday of the month from 10.30 to 12.00.

The venue is The Crown Hotel, in Faringdon market square, where participants can also enjoy hot or cold drink. This is a deliberately informal and convivial setting for what is in essence a friendly chat about what's going on in the world - and inevitably attempting to put that world to rights at the same time!

We endeavour to keep our chat as current as we can, based on what is of particular interest that week. However, members are invited to submit in advance *any* topics that they are interested in, feel strongly about, or importantly that they feel the group as a whole would appreciate. Any kind of local, national or global subject is great and topics don't *necessarily* have to be of the serious kind, although these are clearly going to be the ones that spark most debate. Views will vary of course, but the intention is very much to let everyone have their say, within the framework of tolerance and understanding.

If you are interested in joining an upcoming meeting please contact **Joy Jermy** on joyhjermy@outlook.com

Embroidery

The group meet on the second Tuesday of each month from 2.00pm until 4.00 pm at 44 Hunters Field. Stanford-in-the-Vale. SN7 8LX.

Many different aspects of embroidery are explored, with wonderfully creative results.

The English have been famous for their embroidery for thousands of years, and the group work hard at keeping that tradition alive.

For more information contact **Suellen Pedley**, suellenpedley@aol.com or **01367 710 680**.

Folk Dancing

We had a successful and enjoyable session in February. Hope it continues for the rest of the year.

We meet on the FIRST Thursday of each month at the Catholic Church Hall at 2.30 p.m.

Dates for your diary: 5th March, 7th May and 4th June

Come, join us for fun and gentle exercise!

Contact: **Val Hudspeth 01367 241035** or **valhud@gmx.com**

Foreign Language Films

Our group has had a small influx of new members so we are now full. However, if you would like to attend for a particular film please do let me know. If members of the regular group cannot attend, you can have their chair!

All films are shown at 6 The Pines, SN7 8AU. 2pm for 215pm start.

No meeting in March (25th film has been postponed).

April 1st: The Substitute (Argentina)

April 29th: Nobody know I'm here (Chile)

May 20th: In for a Murder (Polish)

We will then take a recess for the summer, reconvening in September.

Julie Forth, 6 The Pines, SN7 8AU; 01367 242472 or Juliekaren-forth@gmail.com

Gardeners

For further information contact **Christina Field** on **01367 241265** or **christinafield04@aol.com**

Guitars

The Guitar group is aimed at anyone who has an interest in playing the guitar. All ability levels are welcome – absolute beginners will be given tuition in our 'beginners group' led by Dawn, with a view to joining our 'improvers group' in due course where they will play and sing a range of well-known songs. With a broad range of ability levels in the group, the aim is that we should all learn from each other in the spirit of u3a.

We meet at 10.30am every Thursday morning at the Quaker Meeting House, 4 Lechlade Road, Faringdon and play for an hour followed by coffee and a chat. If you own a guitar (if not, we have spares available to lend out)

and you would like to learn or improve your playing, come and join us.
Please get in touch with: **Dave & Dawn Emmett, david_emett@hotmail.com.**

Hablemos!

(new Intermediate Spanish Group)

The new group for Spanish "improvers" – for those with some existing skills in reading, writing and speaking in Spanish (Castellano), proved of interest. We have no formal teacher, as the title reflects a desire to have conversations on a wide range of topics and we endeavour to support each other with grammar, spelling and pronunciation.

We meet on the first and third Thursday each month, at 10.00 a.m. but, sadly, we cannot, currently, accept more members.

Group Leader – Richard King

History of Art

We shall be meeting as usual on the third Thursday of each month at 2.30pm in Faringdon Old Town Hall. Dates for the Spring Term are as follows:

Thursday 18th March: “Art of France: Part 2 - There will be Blood”; a DVD presentation by Andrew Graham Dixon.

Thursday 16th April: “Festival LA GACILLY PHOTO : SO BRITISH” ; a Power-Point presentation by Sue Thrower of her visit last autumn to La Gacilly in France.

Thursday 21st May: “Art of France: Part 3 – This is the Modern World”; a DVD presentation by Andrew Graham Dixon.

New members always welcome. For more information please contact Sue Thrower on 01367 240848 or smthrower@tiscali.co.uk .

Italian Improvers

We are of a level something above beginners and trying to improve. We continue to meet every two weeks but are currently at full capacity. Please phone **Marion Turner** on **01793 710 302** if you are interested in coming.

Jazz

Our meetings will continue on the second Monday of each month in Faringdon Library. 10.30 until 12.30. There is a charge of £1 for tea/coffee and scrumptious lemon drizzle cake.

April 13: The unsuperstitious Sheila Donovan brings us E Jazz.

May 11: Desert Island Discs, where you are invited to bring a typical tune or 2 from your favourite jazz decade. This should produce an eclectic, informative mix.

June 8 : Val Hudspeth is going to surprise us with A Jazz Rainbow!

Contact: Rachel Holt : rholt29@hotmail.com : 07870370139

Lunch Club

The Lunch Group continues to meet at a different pub, on the third Wednesday of each month, for a friendly informal lunch. We usually have between 20-30 members attending, but provided the venue can cope, there is no real upper limit. Pre-ordering our meal is usually required, and so please always book your attendance with David.

In March we will be going to the Rose and Crown at Ashbury, in April, Cioeatalia in Highworth, and in May, the White Horse at Woolstone.

Until a month ago, this group was led by Tessa Timms, and so a big thank-you to Tessa for all her hard work over the last few years.

Henceforth please contact David Milnes for more details on: 07824 157491 or david.milnes@hotmail.com.

Military History

The Military History Group normally meets on the first Thursday of the month and we consider an eclectic range of topics related sometimes loose-

ly to military history.

You are welcome to join us and if you would like any more information, please contact Bjorn Watson at

bjornwatson@btinternet.com

Opera Group

The Opera Group meets in The Old Town Hall on the third Monday of every month. We screen a different Opera each month which is shown 'On The Big Screen' by DVD. We each bring a plate of snacks to share and break mid-evening to socialise with a glass of something interesting. The evening starts at 5pm and finishes around 9pm depending on the length of the opera. All are welcome. **Please contact Tessa Timms 07980 562331 for further details.**

Dates for Viewings: MARCH 16—La Traviata, Verdi; APRIL 20—Antigone, Carl Orf; MAY 18—Turandot, Puccini.

Patchwork & Quilting

We are a mixed group of complete beginners and experienced Quilters. We usually meet on the fourth Tuesday each month between 2pm and 4pm in the Small Hall at the United Church Faringdon. We make a small charge to cover the cost of the hall hire and any joint resources we may need.

March - Tuesday 24th

April - Tuesday 28th

May - Tuesday 26th

If you would be interested in joining us or finding out more please contact

Sue on sue.cain2@gmail.com

Photography

[Learning more about photography to produce better images](#)

Anyone who wishes to learn more about photography to produce better images and would enjoy expeditions with like minded U3A members, would be most welcome to join us.

We will meet on 2nd Wednesday of March
For topics and trips Mairi Clare will be in touch.

For any other information please contact **MC on 07424 966872**



Poetry

Meetings of the Poetry Group are held in Faringdon Library on the first Monday of the month, starting at 10.30am.

Subjects chosen for the next three months are:

Monday 6 April - No meeting (Easter Monday)

Monday 4 May - 'School'

Monday 1 June - 'Sci-fi'

Do come along - we have a variety of ways to appreciate Poetry - writing our own, reading others' work or listening and discussing.

Sand Cooper is Group Co-ordinator. Message: 07812 680223

Qigong

If you would like some gentle exercise - it's what you see Chinese people doing in the public parks of a morning (in China mainly). 10.30 every Friday morning by the Sports Hall on Watchfield Recreation Ground. We have a qualified instructor who does it for free for the love of it. Anyone welcome, no kit required, WhatsApp group for cancellations.

Contact: **Peter Hoole : 07385 297 571**

Quiz

We usually meet in the **SMALL HALL** at the **FARINGDON UNITED CHURCH**.

Do you like to find out all sorts of interesting facts and, maybe tell us some more? Our quizzes are very varied (devised by different quizmasters) and we try not to have too many about celebrities! There is a small charge to cover rental and refreshments.

We meet on the second Friday of the Month, other than August.

Time: 10.30. There is free car parking available for us, behind the Hall!

There is a possibility that the venue may change. If you are interested in

joining our group, please contact Danielle to confirm the venue. Thank you.

Contact **Danielle Mills** for details **01367 718625** or email **danielle.mills1948@gmail.com**

Recorder Consort

The Recorder Consort usually meets on the third and fourth Thursday of the month in Faringdon Library starting at 2.00pm with sessions lasting about two hours. The Consort - which started in 2013 - plays a wide range of music in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere on instruments generally ranging from soprano to bass. In spring, we hope to arrange another visit to play with the Fairford u3a Recorder Group.

If you would like to know more, contact the Consort leader, **Peter Smith at pdes_smith@hotmail.com.**

Sewing

This group meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 2pm . There are a number of projects in progress but we are happy to start a beginners course again if there is any interest.

Contact : Tessa Timms at tessaatimms@gmail.com : 07980 562331 or Elaine Gathercole at elaineg173@gmail.com : 01367 248013 for information about the group.

Social History Walks

Stewart has been busy researching villages plus two towns for this year's walks, which start again in March. We will hear about an unfortunate coachman, somewhere called Wrde, a lost village, find out what a Prebendary is, gummed envelopes and Tom, Dick and Harry!!

We have been able to offer places to some people on the waiting list and look forward to meeting them. Details about the walks will be emailed to group members each month.

Spanish - Intermediate

We meet every **Tuesday** afternoon but the group is in fact at maximum numbers for the moment. However, if anyone wishes to start a new/beginners Spanish Group we have quite a few resources belonging to the U3A: books, DVDs etc., which could be used. Please contact **Carolyn Taylor** if this would be of interest. carolyn.taylor2@tiscali.co.uk or **01367 242 490**

The STEMM Cell

Further Details can be obtained from Shaun Forth shaun4th@gmail.com

Walkers

Any one interested in joining our medium-level Walkers' Group are invited to contact **Mike Griffiths—01367 242 714** or michael@ukfsn.org for more information

Wine Appreciation

The Wine Appreciation Group (WAGs) is a group of like-minded people who enjoy wine and have a varying range of knowledge.

Our meetings are held approximately every two months, usually at the Barber Rooms, All Saints' Church in Faringdon, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, but with occasional trips to interesting venues. Charges vary by meeting but are set just to cover the cost of guest speakers and the wines we taste and talk about. More details on the Faringdon u3a website.

Upcoming meetings for 2026 :

Tuesday 3 March: Cancelled

Tuesday 21 April: Members' presentation

Tuesday 16 June: External speaker

Tuesday 20 October: TBC

Wednesday 25 November: Festive Lunch

We look forward to seeing all of our existing, and future, members over the next few events.

Peter Robinson – 01367 718566 – to enquire about availability.



Thames Valley Network News

Here are the Events planned for Feb through May:

1. Tuesday 10th February – Clive Aronson makes a welcome return giving us music entitled ‘Pop go the Classics’ (this should be of interest to members enjoying both pop and classical music) We already have 54 registrations with at least 1 full week to go before registration closes.
2. Friday 6th March – Avis’ seasonal quiz
3. Tuesday 10th March – Dr Jennifer Foster will give a talk on ‘Sutton Hoo’
4. Monday 13th April – Prof. Jeff Almond will give a talk entitled ‘Where will the Next Pandemic come from’, a frightening subject but very relevant at this time.
5. Tuesday 5th May – Dr. Helen Fry will give a talk on ‘Women in Intelligence across the 2WW.’

Information and booking details will be sent to everyone on the Faringdon & District e-mail list. Any queries to **Peter**

Foot p.foot47@gmail.com, your TVN Rep.

FARINGDON & DISTRICT U3A AGM

Charity Number 1116311

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT The Faringdon & District U3A Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 9th April 2026 at 2:30 pm in the Faringdon Corn Exchange.

Previous year minutes and Account details will be available on the website. Paper copies will be available at the meeting for members without internet access.

In order to keep the Committee renewed we are always looking for new members. We especially welcome recent joiners with new ideas to volunteer. If you, or you know someone who is interested in joining the Committee to assist in the running of your organisation please contact any of the Committee members to discuss the opportunities and what is involved.

David Emett
Branch Secretary