

The Digest

u3a
Dacorum

Summer 2026

Edition 128



The Walking group on their April walk through some bluebell woods near Wendover Woods

u3a Dacorum Digest

To become a member, join u3a Dacorum or renew your membership:


Online: Use this link to access renewing or joining instructions or scan the QR codes opposite:

https://u3adacorum.org/?page_id=7925

By post: Request a membership form to be sent by post from the Membership Secretary (details on last page).



Card Making Berkhamsted - Pyramid Cards

 **u3a Dacorum is supported by Dacorum Borough Council**
PRESIDENT: The Mayor of the Borough of Dacorum
Registered Charity 1012612

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Future Committee Meeting Dates

Tuesday 7 July	Tuesday 6 October
Tuesday 28 July (Before AGM)	Tuesday 3 November
Tuesday 1 September	Tuesday 1 December

Venue: Boxmoor Trust Centre, London Road, Hemel Hempstead.
 Members are welcome to attend either in person or on Zoom.
 Please let the Secretary know in advance.

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u3a Dacorum

Web Site	Membership
	

Annual General Meeting

Monday 3rd August 2026

at 10.30 am

Boxmoor Playhouse

72 St John's Road

Hemel Hempstead, HP1 1NP

Nominations for Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary or trustee or any proposals for the AGM should be submitted by **Saturday 27th June**. The forms are included in this Digest and are also available from the AGM page on u3adacorum.org from the news tab. Voting will be on-line with links sent to members with an e-mail address and paper copies posted to those without.

Chair's Report

Welcome to the latest issue of our Digest magazine. In this issue you will see the notice of our AGM on 3rd August when we elect the Officers and Committee for the next year. Once again, I am asking you to consider if you would be willing to volunteer for the committee. Articles in recent issues of the Digest have given an insight into the varied issues that we have to deal with in our committee meetings which are essential to keep our organisation running. The u3a is run by its members for its members, and this means that we all need to play our part in running the u3a. I can reassure you that committee members are normal u3a members just like you – no superpowers involved, just a willingness to join in and share the responsibilities.

The four Officers, Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are only allowed to stay in post for three years. Last August our Secretary had completed her term and had to step down. Unfortunately, no replacement came forward and we have had to share out the duties among the rest of the committee. This August our Vice Chair must also step down so you can see that we are desperately in need of more volunteers.

The committee are all very supportive and volunteering is a rewarding experience and a good way to make new friends. You will find a nomination form included with this magazine, so if you are willing to become involved with the committee please consider putting yourself forward and returning the form by 27 June – see form for details.

If you would like to know more before signing up, please have a look at the Committee Handbook on the 'Constitution and Policies' page of our website and
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contact me if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you.

Emergency Contact Details

Following a medical emergency at a recent u3a group meeting, your committee and group coordinators have been discussing the issues around 'In Case of Emergency' (ICE) details for individual members. As an organisation, we do not hold this information for members and therefore, in the event of an emergency the group coordinator will call 999 for medical help but would not have access to your ICE or medical information.

It is the responsibility of all of us to ensure that we carry any important medical information and details of who to contact in an emergency, somewhere easily accessible. Suggestions for this include:

- Mobile phone – most phones can now be programmed to display ICE details on the phone screen even when it is locked. Look under 'Settings' in your phone or ask a tech savvy friend or grandchild for help.
- Paper forms – there are many different forms that can be downloaded from the internet, or the Lions Bookshop in Hemel Hempstead have 'Emergency Information' forms available free. However, a plain piece of paper is sufficient to record basic details. The important thing is to keep this where it can be found easily – in your phone case or in the front of your purse or wallet.

If you wish, you can give your details to the coordinator of whatever group you are attending but bear in mind that they might not be at every meeting so that may not be the best way to ensure that your details are always available.

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Carolyn Wallis chair@u3adacorum.org

Vice Chair's Report

As we go into my last few weeks as Vice Chair I am looking back at the achievements of our committee over the past three years.

First and foremost we have kept our u3a running even though we have the bare minimum number of trustees. This has been difficult at times and has only been possible with the input from associates, those who have served as trustees for at least nine years but now continue with important tasks. We also rely on some trustees taking on two jobs and others, like myself, are also group coordinators. If you think you may have a few hours each month to join the committee please contact one of us and come along to a meeting. Nomination forms are available now in time for the upcoming AGM.

We meet once a month for two hours to discuss the day to day running and to allocate tasks fairly. Some of us have attended local events to publicise u3a and
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to encourage new members, if you see us at a local fete or similar event please come over and say hello. We have worked hard to comply with requirements of the Charity Commission for example by writing several new policies and, led by our treasurer, continue to ensure that costs to members are kept at a sensible level ~ for example the free monthly meeting which so many of you enjoy.

We celebrated our 35th anniversary last year and decorated a shop window in the Marlowes centre as part of this. We showed items representing all our groups but since then more have started. I think this clearly demonstrates the living growing u3a that we are.

I hope that somebody reading this will feel able to step into my role, I'm not only the tea lady at the monthly meetings. If you want to find out more please contact me using the online form.

Jane Campbell

Treasurer's Report

As I write this article, I have just finished sending the draft accounts and related papers to the independent examiner for her to do her thing checking them. I felt that it was slightly easier second time around – the examiner will tell us later on if I am right or not; here's hoping that no significant issues come up during the examination! Many thanks to the Group Coordinators who sent in their group forms in good time to help me compiling the accounts. Also, thanks to them for sending in the various meeting registers. I will be writing later with my comments.

The draft accounts show a small surplus for the year. This would have been a small deficit but for a large donation from Riviera Travel because of people taking holidays with them, under a scheme organised by the Third Age Trust. Further information on our financial position will be available when the accounts have been finalised, at the AGM.

I am now starting my third and final year as treasurer. I must, under our constitution, stand down at the AGM next year. We are therefore looking for someone to take my place in 12 months' time. If there is anyone reading this who has some accounting or bookkeeping knowledge and is interested, please come and talk to me and I can explain what is involved.

Remember, we cannot run our u3a without a treasurer so we need a replacement or we will have to close the u3a down.

Henry Wallis, Treasurer

Membership Secretary

Thank you to those who have renewed their membership for 2026/7. There are approximately 100 members who I have not heard from. If any of you are unsure if you have renewed or not, please contact me by emailing:

members@u3adacorum.org.

Please do not renew twice! Cheques payable to u3a Dacorum can be sent to me at 61 Hill Common, Hemel Hempstead, HP3 8JH.

If I have not heard from you by early June, your membership will lapse and you will receive no further Digests and will be unable to attend groups. You can of course rejoin at any time via our website.

Wishing you all the best, whatever you decide.

Jean Sniders, Membership Secretary

Committee News

We have had three Committee meetings, at which we have:

- agreed to join Community Action Dacorum, which among other things provides minibus hire for non-profit groups, and operates a Community Car service;
- discussed what advice we should provide on handling a medical emergency, and the need for ICE (in case of emergency) information and how best to handle (see article on page 5).
- reviewed the draft accounts for 2025-26 and approved wording of trustees' annual report, before it is sent to the independent book examiner in May;
- planned and hosted a tea for Group Coordinators on 30th April, which was attended by 45 coordinators, their deputies and committee members;
- agreed that a small group of coordinators (volunteers needed) and trustees should review the Coordinators Handbook and propose changes to be adopted;
- had a demonstration of planned update to the website calendar using a Wordpress plug-in that would improve how it worked;
- discussed expanding our publicity to attract new members; and
- finally, as usual, we have discussed the need for new trustees this year and next.

Ellen Duffy

Monthly Meetings

6 July 2026 Boxmoor Playhouse

Tricia Thompson: Oh, I do Like to be Beside the Seaside!

Tricia Thompson is an experienced public speaker presenting lively, interesting and fun talks to groups of all sizes around the country. The talk to be presented explores the ups and downs and the history of the British seaside holiday, which most of the u3a members will remember well from their childhood.

3 August 2026 Boxmoor Playhouse. NB: AGM

John Tyler: The Seasons, A year in the English Countryside

In 2023 John fascinated us with his spectacular photographs of the crabs and other animals on Christmas Island. 2025 had him taking us closer to home and exploring The Changing Wildlife of the Chilterns. From warm seas, through Ice Ages, tundra and forest to the farmland and beechwoods of today. In 2026 he describes the seasons all around us and reminds us to look at the wonderful natural world around us.

7 September 2026 Northchurch Social Centre NB: Venue

Mike Barbakoff: Codebreaking against the Land of the Rising Sun

About eight years ago, after a career in international IT and Management Consultancy, Mike became a volunteer at Bletchley Park, having attended as a visitor for perhaps ten years previously as a visitor. He serves as a volunteer Guide at the BP heritage museum and also demonstrates the Turing-Welchman Bombe and Enigma codebreaking at the National Museum of Computing. In 2024, he entertained us with his presentation about the The Women of Bletchley Park.

He now presents “Codebreaking against the Land of the Rising Sun”. This talk embraces the inception of the UK/USA Special Relationship and highlights the Signals Intelligence activities of the United Kingdom and United States against Japan in the Second World War. It covers the efforts of Bletchley Park and its overseas outstations as well as the enormous contribution of the United States Navy and Army, Australia and New Zealand SIGINT operations. Failures such as Pearl Harbor and successes such as the Battle of Midway are used to illustrate the effectiveness of Signals Intelligence.

5 October 2026 Boxmoor Playhouse

Andrew Baker: The Second Elizabethan Age: Reliving our own Story

Andrew Baker discussed the Profumo Affair with us in 2024. He taught in Grammar Schools for over 40 years and is the author of a best-selling book on Contemporary British Politics. Andrew gives his audiences insights into the times through which they have lived with a sharp eye for detail and anecdote. His incisive character portraits of many very different men and women at home and abroad whose extraordinary lives have shaped today’s world, are uniformly vivid

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and compelling. He looks, as well, at the huge social, cultural and attitudinal changes which have shaped today’s world and at many urgent and often controversial issues which divide us. Now he turns his attention to the reign of Queen Elizabeth II and gives us a vivid pastiche of our many post-war social & cultural revolutions, the upheaval in values and the growth of a more permissive culture. Do you remember it and can you believe what we have all experienced?

2 November 2026 Boxmoor Playhouse

Anne Fletcher: The Story of the Man who Broke the Bank in Monte Carlo

Anne Fletcher is an historian and writer. She has a successful career in heritage and has worked at some of the most exciting historic sites in the country including Hampton Court Palace, St Paul’s Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, Bletchley Park and Tower Bridge. She is the great-great-great niece of Joseph Hobson Jagger, ‘the man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo’.

This is the story of a man who went from Yorkshire mill worker to Monte Carlo millionaire. Amongst the men ‘who broke the bank at Monte Carlo’, Joseph Hobson Jagger is unique. He is the only one known to have devised an infallible and completely legal system to defeat the odds at roulette and win a fortune. But he was not what might be expected. He wasn’t a gentleman or an aristocrat, he wasn’t a professional gambler, he was a Yorkshire textile worker who had laboured in the Victorian mills of Bradford since childhood.

What led a man like this to travel nearly a thousand miles to the exclusive world of the Riviera when most people lived and died within a few miles of where they were born? The trains that took him there were still new and dangerous, he did not speak French and had never left the north of England. His motivation was strong. Joseph, his wife and four children, the youngest of whom was only two, faced a situation so grave that their only escape seemed to be his desperate gamble on the roulette tables of Monte Carlo. Today, his legacy is felt in casinos worldwide and yet he is virtually unknown

7 December 2026 Boxmoor Playhouse

Ukelele and Folk Singing Groups: Christmas Party

Come and celebrate the Christmas Season with us! The Ukulele and Folk Singing Group will entertain us. There will be mince pies and a sing-a-long It will be a fitting end to a very successful year of Monthly Meetings.

Lee Pace

Monthly Meeting Refreshment Rota

6 July	Boxmoor	Italian Language and Culture
3 August	Boxmoor	Garden Visiting
7 September	Northchurch	Exploring Towns and Villages

From our Members...

Classical Music Appreciation

Our summer term continues at 10am in St Francis Church Hall, Glenview Road, Hemel HP1 1TD with the following presentations:

- June 11: First half: Bob Day – 1812 and beyond.
Second half: Sacred music by Fauré and Poulenc.
June 25: Robert Hoare: the life and works of Brahms
July 9: Adrian Davis: Bespoke Britten
July 23: Bring your own.
August 6: Paul Burton: Music through the ages.

We then take a 4-week summer holiday break and start the autumn term on 3 September. All are welcome to join us and bring a friend who may wish to give us a try.

Do you have some favourite classical music which you might like to share with our group? We would be happy to help you put together a session (or indeed a half session of 45-50 minutes) for a future date.

If you wish to explore any ideas you may have, or with any other queries, then please contact: jack.scrutton12@gmail.com
Jack Scrutton



Music Miscellany

We continue in fine fettle with offerings from our presenters as they tell us what influenced them and tickled the fancy.

We continue to enjoy wonderful insights into the popular music of the last 100 years, bringing back early and recent memories.

2026 has filled up nicely including new presenters. All welcome to come at any time. The revised programme is:

- 4 June Lesley: *An army of thieves*
2 July James: *Later with Jools and Elvis* (DVDs)
30 July Coord: *BYO + Wings and OGWT* (DVDs)
27 Aug Mike: *More musings* (A/V)
24 Sep Norman: *A break from Jazz?*
22 Oct Lee: *Let's Face the Music*
19 Nov Mark
17 Dec Bob: *Now & then* followed by *Christmas spectacular*
Bob Day

Armchair Traveller

In February we travelled to Sri Lanka with Shiela and John Cosford. The presentation included a tour of Colombo Fort District followed by visits to several temples then up the coast to Negombo known for its long sandy beaches and centuries old fishing industry. At Mihintale there were spectacular views across the plain, then on to Anuradhapura to visit the Bodhi Tree and the Ruvanvelisaya Dagoba. Next stop Sigiriya to climb to the top of Pidurangala Rock for views of Lion Rock.

Time for a Game Drive in Minneriya National Park to seek out the elephants before heading to Dambulla to visit the Golden Temple. Kandy in the central highlands was our next stop to visit the Temple of the Tooth before embarking on a train to Ella, travelling through the tea plantations of the highlands. Our final two stops were Yala N.P. for more wildlife observation and then off to Galle Fort to end a very interesting visit.

We travelled to Western Australia and Bali with Paul Burton in March, starting in Perth on the picturesque Swan River. We visited Kings Park with its Boa trees, Government House, St Georges Cathedral and the Botanical gardens, and a few days touring SW Australia. The highlights were; Freemantle, the Margeret River area with its vineyards, Pinnacles in Nambung N.P. before driving down the coast to Cape Leeuwyn, where the Southern Ocean meets the Indian Ocean.

We then flew to Broome for an extensive tour of Kimberley N.P. The highlights of the trip were; a scenic flight over the Mitchell Plateau and the Mitchell Falls, a cruise on the Ord River, viewing million-years-old dinosaur footprints, a further flight and boat to Horizontal Falls, a walk to Cathedral Gorge and finally another flight to the Bungle Bungle N.P. Then off to Darwin for a flight to Bali for some well-earned R & R.

In April we were nearer to home with a trip to Andalusia first staying in Granada. Here we visited the Alhambra Palace with its amazing Moorish architecture, the Cathedral and Royal Chapel, the burial place of the Catholic Monarch's Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand and finally the Albaicin neighbourhood with its narrow alleyways. Our next stop was Cordoba where we spent time in the Mosque – Cathedral and walked the streets and alleyways of the old town.

Third stop was Carmona, built on a ridge overlooking the central plain of Andalusia. We took a short tour of the town before visiting Seville the main objective. Here we first visited the Bullring followed by Cathedral, the burial place of Christopher Columbus. Then on to the Alcazar and finally the Maria Luisa Park and the Plaza de Espana with its huge semi-circular building accessed by four bridges over the moat. Our final stop was Ronda where we again visited the Bullring and strolled the streets of this interesting town with its gorge separating the old and new neighbourhoods.

Future presentations will include, Tuscany, Rail Journeys in Germany, American Heartland, a tour around Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota and Iowa and a second American trip to California.

John Clarke

Community Action Dacorum (CAD)

CAD is a local organisation that provides a range of community services in our local area. You are likely to have seen their Volunteer Centre which is based in The Roundhouse – the round building outside Boots in The Marlowes in Hemel Hempstead. Our u3a is a member of CAD and we have been investigating the many services that they offer which would be of interest to our members:

Transport

Community Cars – a social car scheme which can provide transportation to health and social appointments

Minibus hire – as we are members, u3a groups can hire a minibus at preferential rates; volunteer drivers are also available.

The Library of Things

CAD have a range of useful items available for hire including slow cookers, sewing machines, leaf blowers, carpet cleaners and pressure washers – see their website for a full list.

Tech & Tea

On the first Friday of the month there is a free drop-in session at The Roundhouse offering Tech support covering topics such as emails, online shopping or safety online. Sessions run from 11.30 to 1pm.

Further details of these and other services can be found at the Community Action Dacorum website <https://www.communityactiondacorum.org/> You can also call in at The Roundhouse or phone 01442 253935.

Carolyn Wallis

Ukulele Group

On Saturday 18 April Dacorum Ukulele group joined forces with several other U3A groups from the surrounding area to take part in Redbourn Ukulele Festival.

We performed 9 songs in our allotted 30 minute slot with great enthusiasm and expertise under the guidance of our leader Sue Parsons. These included 'Puppet on a String', 'Big Yellow Taxi' and 'Green Green Grass'.

It was good to have some of our beginner players with us as well as the 'old hands' and a good time was had by all.

Jacky Atkins

Russian Group

Our Russian group meets weekly in a private house and, apart from plenty of enjoyable chat about life in general, we mostly study Russian – puzzling over grammar, reading authors in the original version, or sometimes a bit simplified, doing exercises to practise linguistic points, etc. Once a month we have a Russian-speaking Lithuanian lady join us to keep our feet on the ground. The group is currently full and we have a waiting list so cannot take any more members.

Chris Hayward

Shorter Walks Group

The new Shorter walk group has had a great deal of interest from over 35 members.

The first walk was held on 14 May attended by 15 members, thanks to Peter Hamson for leading the walk. We started at Potten End Village hall weaving through the woods, across fields. We found some remaining bluebell fields, and gained insight about the Battle of Berkhamsted common along with seeing remains of the training trenches. We safely crossed paths with a few golfers too!



Next walks are scheduled for:

- 11 June, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 9 July, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 13 August, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
- 10 September, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

If you're interested in joining or would like to lead a walk please contact Liz Penney at group050@u3adacorum.org.

Going forward we will continue to include a cafe or pub at the end of each walk and hope more of you will join!

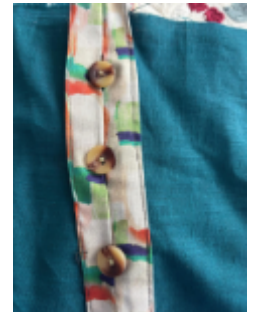
Liz Penney

Sewing Group



Some examples of projects made by the sewing group members.

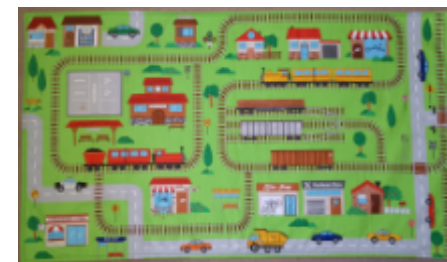
A quilted patchwork cushion, a 70th birthday card in cross stitch for someone special and 2 quilted children's play mats. The cushion and play mats were made from fabrics donated to us so we will be donating them to a charity.



Also shown is a sample of a very clever and

easy way to make button holes without the headache!

Jenny Barnfield



Bus Trippers: A different day out

Our trip this month started with a train to Harlesden where we boarded the first bus of five. We visited three different examples of social housing, one in a conservation area, one of historical importance and another a listed building. I mentioned a fourth nearby but not on our route.

We stopped briefly at the sites of four headline making events – a triple murder, the hideout of a spy who escaped from prison and later returned to Moscow, a fatal train crash and a property damaging tornado.

We looked at some remarkable buildings including two hospitals, a prison and an office block now used as a gallery which we visited.

Our lunch break was on the site of an old gas works, now a supermarket, where we watched young people learning to canoe on the canal.

An interesting journey of about ten miles using buses and some walking in the rain.

I'm planning further adventures and hope to start by bus from Hemel rather than using the trains.

Jane Campbell

Backgammon

Nick Ray reports that the Backgammon section is thriving with an average of 10 players coming along every first Thursday of the month.

Since I started this section nearly 2 years ago now the standard of the players has increased and it is a joy for me to pass on my knowledge.

We are fortunate to have a really nice group of people who really enjoy learning how to play the game along with being able to socialise at the same time.

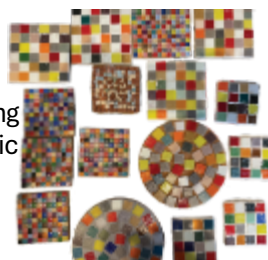
Before our last session in May, eleven of us went to the Green Man in Leverstock Green for a bite to eat which was enjoyed by all as you can see from the attached photo.

Nick Ray

Arts, Crafts and Skills

The u3a Arts Crafts and Skills group spent a relaxing morning at The Kings Arms Berkhamsted creating Mosaic tile coasters and chatting over a cup of coffee.

Susan Woodhams



Industrial History

By the time this Digest arrives with you, the Industrial History group will have enjoyed another of their annual charabanc trips. This year Harvey arranged a trip to Stoke-on-Trent and the Potteries. In a tightly choreographed meeting schedule, our April meeting provided a prelude to the trip as Arthur Cunningham told the story of Josiah Wedgwood, the world-famous potter and entrepreneur. Not only did we learn about Wedgwood's life, his production techniques and marketing prowess (which led to him becoming one of the wealthiest entrepreneurs of the 18th century) but also his role as a prominent slavery abolitionist. His anti-slavery 'Am I not a man and a brother' medallion, depicting a black person in chains, brought public attention to abolitionism.

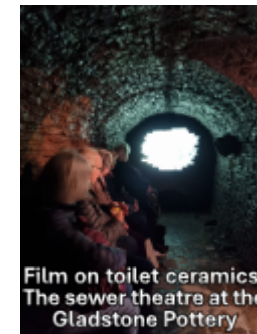


For our June meeting Derek Pullen is talking on "The history of Iron", and in July Chris Cosham will be telling us about the Northamptonshire Leather Industry.

All our meetings and topics for the year are listed on the u3a website:

See <https://u3adacorum.org/industrial-history-group-024/>

Alan Olive



Italian Step 2

The Italian Step 2 group outside the the new Italian restaurant in Hemel Hempstead old High Street after enjoying an Italian lunch and conversing in Italian with the chef.

A more constructive way of putting into practice the Italian language while enjoying authentic Italian cuisine and a good time was had by all.

Tina Leach





Shorter Walks - Bluebells



Armchair Traveller

Horizontal falls

Cathedral Gorge



Ukulele Group at the Redbourn Ukulele Festival



Gardening Group: Tea at Chenies



Attending the Dacorum OPALS event



Flower Arranging Group's Summer Baskets

Scalextric Group

The u3a Scalextric group held its first meeting on the evening of 16 April. Small set put out and racing enjoyed by those present. Tea, biscuits and chats as we got to know each other too.

Presently the group is held in a house until we confirm the direction the club might go in. We have identified a venue and storage for a permanent track in a nearby school. Once at the school the meetings will start at 6 pm. We'll

use the intermediate track to race while the construction of the 4 lane track proceeds, which will be 12 feet by 7 feet with 4 lanes of and will be stored at the school. We propose to have fortnightly meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursday evenings of each month. Cost £2-3 per session. With cars and controllers available to borrow, or bring your own!

More members are joining and more contributions of cars, track and controllers generously donated from lofts where they have lodged for years, unused.

Poor health has held up the construction of the large 4 lane track. There is a possibility of different venue that's available in the mornings rather than the school which is only available in the evenings. With the lighter evenings we managed to put up a 2 lane circuit in the garden at the last meeting. Any contributions and interest will be very welcome. Don't forget you can always come

along and have a try free of charge.

Do come along and try your hand. None of us are much good, more "Sunday afternoon Morris Minor" than F1! Or just enjoy the tea and biscuits at my favourite price, FREE!

ANY DONATIONS OF "loft" scalextric gratefully received to keep the costs down
Mark Gifford.



Jenny Burton

Patchwork

We are a small friendly group who enjoy exploring different types of patchwork. We have two or three throws made using Harry Potter fabrics that we are looking to donate to a suitable cause. Probably for children in the eight to twelve age range, we would welcome suggestions

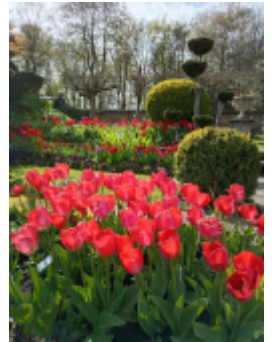


Gardening Group

Snowdrops in abundance began our spring, on our visit to a garden in Little Missenden. Lots of uncommon varieties had been spreading for years from nearby gardens and alongside the River Misbourne into the garden.



In March the woodland garden, Montana in Cholesbury, brought more spring flowers and unusual trees. April was the tulip festival at Chenies Manor; a huge variety of tulips, benefiting from being planted in large groups, but many other interesting plants too, in this very varied garden. There is always something stimulating here: my favourite was an olive tree, 'cloud pruned'.



In May we go to Beech House near Beaconsfield, then we plan to go to Capel Manor gardens near Enfield.

Thanks to the Digest, we have been able to welcome some new members, and we are now up to capacity.

Barry Watson, Linda Duckworth

Garden Trips and Tours

On Thursday 16 April the group visited Tulley's Tulip Fields in London Colney. We had a lovely morning walking amongst the rows of beautiful tulips of different types and colours. There were plenty of seats and lots of photo opportunities. We then enjoyed lunch at The Colney Fox!



Sue Croucher

On 21 May we visited Waterperry gardens in Oxfordshire. The gardens were beautifully laid out and were a feast for your eyes. They included many types of trees, shrubs, roses and perennial plants such as lupins and geraniums. They also grew vegetables and orchard fruits growing as cordons. There was also a church, amphitheatre, museum and a tea shop. The weather was lovely that day too!

Exploring London

We started our year in March when Bernard Lamb took us exploring from Highbury to Dalston. The Tuesday group are pictured in Compton Terrace Gardens. The terrace began in 1805 described as 'large villas suitable for city bankers and other professionals such as doctors'. Since the council ceased maintaining the gardens, budget cuts, a group of volunteers look after this tranquil green oasis.



We explored Highgate 'village' in April led by Caroline and Stephanie. Located on a steep hill, 129 metres above sea level, good views of the city. The village grew up along the circa 1380 'new' drovers road to service both the animals and the drovers before their descent into the city. The Tuesday group is sat around the fountain of Lauderdale House one time home of Nell Gwyn, famous mistress of Charles II.



In May we were off to White City and Shepherds Bush led by Tony Ford. The Thursday group are pictured outside the old BBC Television Centre, which had us reminiscing about favourite Sixties and Seventies programmes. In addition to Lime Grove location of the old BBC studios we also enjoyed the recently refurbished Japanese garden originally built in 1910 as part of the Japan-British Exhibition.



Future walks include Hoxton with John Clarke in June, Hammersmith – Chiswick House with Hilary Wood and Woolwich with Sue Miller. Details of each walk will be emailed to all members the 3rd or 4th week of each preceding month, this includes details of how to apply direct to the Walk Leader.

Sue Miller

165 Science and Technology group

We started off this year very tragically as we had to cancel the first talk abruptly, when we were told of the death of Ray Wilkinson in an air crash. Ray had been due to talk to us about Aerial Photography as part of his enthusiasm for flying light aircraft. Sadly, this had led to his untimely death. He had given us two talks in the past which reflected the warmth of his personality and the way he really enjoyed talking to groups like ours. He will be much missed.



In February we had a very entertaining presentation by Paul McMahon with the intriguing title of "Bridget goes to Mars". He described his working life at Stevenage on designing and fabricating a fascinating variety of interplanetary space devices under the aegis of the European Space Agency. There was an amazing number, some being adjunct devices of the International Space Station, others being independent satellites orbiting the Earth. In particular, Artemis 2 had an important component built by Airbus under ESA contract. His last project was a Mars lander, due to be sent off in a couple of years, when Mars and Earth are closest. He showed us some videos of the simulated Mars terrains in Milan and in Stevenage where the lander is put through its paces, dealing with all the likely obstacles it would encounter. Bridget was revealed to refer to Brigitte Bardot, the sex star of the 60s, who was mistakenly taken to refer to the BB (a bread-board apparently) one of the engineers had mentioned while they were showed some media people around. So, the late French superstar was never alas herself intended to be sent to the Red Planet.

In March we were lucky to have a very informative talk from Dr Hunter Danskin from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero. His intention was to describe the Department's view of where energy supplies were coming from in the near future and he homed in on those for the average home. His details of where they go, through heat losses through the walls, windows and roofs were listened to with great attention by the audience but especially how to prevent them by cost-effective insulating measures. I was particularly struck but the revelation that although 30 cm (1 foot in old money) of roof insulation still remains the quantity recommended, in practice over 90% of the heat loss was stopped by a layer of just 10 cm. Even then, care had to be taken not to push the insulating material right to the edges of the loft but to stop a bit short to prevent water condensation there. He had a pretty lively time answering the many questions that arose although as he said to me afterwards, that was a reflection of the attention that was being paid during his presentation.

Norman Parkyns

OPALS

(Older Persons Activity Learning & Safety)

Early in March we were invited to run a stall at an OPALS event organised by Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue service at Grovehill Community Centre. The aim of the event is to provide information on local services available to older residents.

As well as stalls run by many local organisations there were informative talks from Trading Standards, Fire Service, Cyber Fraud and Age UK among others. With over 70 attendees at the event, we were delighted to see several of our members participating in the event and our committee members running our stall were able to chat to many other attendees who were interested in what our u3a can offer. We hope to welcome some of them as new members soon.

Carolyn Wallis



One, Two, Three Four Five

One two three four five
Once I caught a fish alive
Six seven eight nine ten
Then I let it go again

Why did you let it go?
Because it had a greenish glow!
I know that you really can't
Fish near to Winscale Power Plant

Diana Knapp

Little Boy Blue

Little Boy Blue
Come, blow on your horn,
The sheep's in the meadow
The cow's in the corn.

Where is the boy
Who looks after the sheep?
He's up in the hayloft
With little Bo Peep!

Will you go and fetch him?
No, Not I
He'll come to his senses
Bye and Bye

Diana Knapp

Ukulele Group

On Saturday 18 April Dacorum Ukulele group joined forces with several other U3A groups from the surrounding area to take part in Redbourn Ukulele Festival.

We performed 9 songs in our allotted 30 minute slot with great enthusiasm and expertise under the guidance of our leader Sue Parsons. These included 'Puppet on a String', 'Big Yellow Taxi' and 'Green Green Grass'.

It was good to have some of our beginner players with us as well as the 'old hands' and a good time was had by all.

Jacky Atkins

So What's Circle Dance all about anyway?

The circle dance movement that emerged at Findhorn Foundation in the 1970s grew out of a broader interest in community living, spirituality, and cultural exchange. At its heart was a desire to revive and share traditional folk dances from across Europe and the Middle East, particularly those from Balkan, Greek, and Eastern European traditions, in a way that was accessible to everyone. These dances were typically taught in a circle, emphasising inclusion, connection, and a shared rhythm rather than performance or technical perfection. Early pioneers such as Bernhard Wosien played a key role, bringing a repertoire of sacred and traditional dances to the Findhorn community, where they were embraced as a form of moving meditation.

Over time, the practice evolved into what is often called "sacred circle dance," blending traditional steps with contemporary choreography set to a wide range of music, from classical to world and even modern compositions. The movement spread internationally, carried by teachers and participants who experienced its meditative and communal qualities at Findhorn. Today, circle dance groups can be found around the world, often linked by a shared ethos of mindfulness, inclusivity, and cultural appreciation. While some groups maintain a spiritual or ritual dimension, others focus more on the social and health benefits, such as gentle exercise, stress reduction, and fostering a sense of belonging.

If you want to see it in action, there are links to videos on our Group Page on the u3a Dacorum Web Site"
James Robertson

Exploring Towns and Villages

In April, the Exploring Towns and Villages Group visited and learned about Little Gaddesdon. Anne and Richard prepared for the group exploration through lots of research and reconnaissance visits. Local history linking to the wider national events is always interesting.

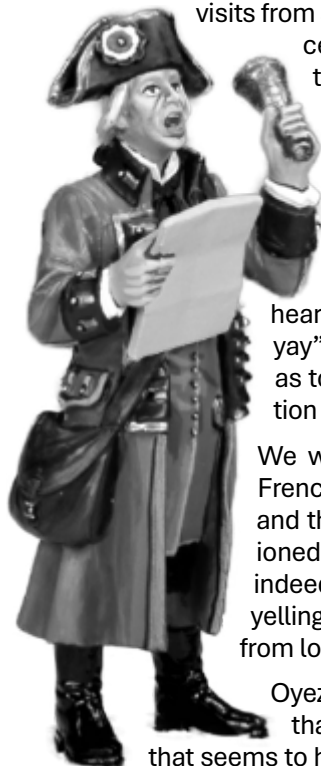
In May, Jean and Laura led a visit to Harpenden. Through lots of research and a preparatory visit they helped us understand more about Sir John Lawes. Particularly interesting was the history of one road which we hadn't realised had been the main street of Harpenden.

As always, the social aspect of being in this group is the best part.

Our group is 'full' and we have a waiting list but if you'd like to set up another group please contact Gillian or Heather
Heather Jones, Gillian Lawton

Pay attention there!

It's always difficult to warn a gathering of people that one is about to make an announcement. I lived in Dartmouth a few years after WW2 and we had regular visits from ships such as destroyers. Those of the Royal Navy preceded any announcements over the ship's PA system by the shrilling of the bosun's pipe whereas those of the US Navy had a voice saying "Now hear this!", which always amused me.



I always remember from my earliest days pictures of Town Criers in a red robe and hat to match, ringing a bell and shouting what looked to me like "Oh yes, Oh yes". It was only many years later when I actually heard one that I realized that they were saying "Oh yay, Oh yay" or something like that. I wasn't really much the wiser as to why they should say that but I finally got an explanation only recently.

We were discussing the various senses of the body in a French lesson and were reminded that "hearing" is "ouïe" and the corresponding verb is "ouïr". It's rather an old-fashioned word now but the imperative form, meaning "listen!" is indeed "oyez". It turns out then that these town criers are yelling words in old Norman French, a charming hangover from long ago.

Oyez makes a much better sound to compel attention with than "listen" and certainly than the detested "listen up" that seems to have crept in from across the Atlantic. As I was presiding over a meeting of the Science and Technology group the other day, I had to start the meeting by trying to cut across the buzz of conversation that our members (bless them) like to have. I thought it a good opportunity to trying calling out "oyez, oyez" to bring them to order. It worked like magic: all conversation ceased as they tried to work out what on earth had got into me.

So there you are. Oyezing is a totally practical way of getting someone's attention and I'm tempted to adopt it from now on.

Norman Parkyns

The Scrapyard In The Sky

**Having done my three score and ten
Now heading for the scrapyard in the sky
Where our kin folk may have gone before**

**Where our bones and sinuses
Are moulded into heavens knows what
And we become molecules in the sky**

**Where billions upon trillions of us
Have gone before to play havoc
On the poor folks left below**

**Since matter is neither created or destroyed
We simply change our form
In the scrapyard in the sky.**

**Like modules flitting here and flitting there
Roaming free
Doing just as we please**

**Free to roam on a massive scale
We move the currents like ocean waves
Cause electrical storms that can disrupt power supplies
Gigantic waves or hurricanes that blow ships off course**

**Sparks can fly like sun spots in the sky causing
Satellite navigation systems to malfunction
Disrupting communication down here on earth below.**

**They may even cause the earth to quake
Or streams and rivers cease to flow
Some spirits never leave
The earth and scare
Those sleeping their beds below**

**Hence some ghouls and ghosts
Still scare us half to death
While creeping around unseen at night....**

Make me think and may be you too...

Chris Wallis (27 October 2019)

Group Listings

If you wish to attend a group for the first time, or if anything is unclear, please contact the person listed to express your interest, to find out how it works, and whether there is space. This list is correct as at February 2026.

085 Armchair Traveller St John's Church Large Hall	John Clarke group085@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
039 Art Club Gadebridge Community Centre	Patricia Angell group039@u3adacorum.org	Alt Fridays 10:00 - 12:00
223 Arts, Crafts, Skills Kings Arms, Berkhamsted	Susan Woodhams group223@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Monday 10:00 - 12:00
190 Astronomy St Francis Church Hall	Patricia Rowe group190@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Thursday 14:00 - 16:00
364 Backgammon Leverstock Green Village Hall	Nick Ray group364@u3adacorum.org	First Thursday 15:30 - 17:30
360 Badminton Hemel Hempstead Leisure Centre	John Larkin group360@u3adacorum.org	Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00
363 Book Group Oakwood, Berkhamsted	Margaret Elwick group363@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Thursdays 14:00 - 16:00
029 Book Reading HH St Johns Church Small Hall	Jenny Thirlwell group029@u3adacorum.org	2 nd /4 th Mon 10:00 - 12:00
183 Bus Trippers Various Locations	Jane Campbell group183@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Wed Various Times
007 Calligraphy Leverstock Green Village Hall	Jane Roberts group007@u3adacorum.org	Mon 2 weekly 13:00 - 15:00
048 Card Making A (HH) Sundew Road	Catherine Lindsay group048@u3adacorum.org	1 st Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00
177 Card Making B (BK) The King's Arms, Berkhamsted	Lesley Drake group177@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Friday 14:00 - 16:00
011 Circle Dance Carey Baptist Church	James Robertson group011@u3adacorum.org	1 st , 3 rd Tues 11:00 - 12:30
080 Creative Writing B Wrensfield	Kay Reid group080@u3adacorum.org	Thu 3 weekly, 14:00 - 16:00
082 Creative Writing C Gravel Lane, Boxmoor	Janet Goacher group082@u3adacorum.org	1 st Thursday 14:00 - 16:00
046 Cribbage and Scrabble Adeyfield Community Centre	Althea Jones group046@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Mon 14:00 - 16:00
064 Cycling Various Locations	Sue Potiuk group064@u3adacorum.org	1 st Thursday 10:00 Start
090 Discussion B BK Sacred Heart Berkhamsted	Tim Thompson group090@u3adacorum.org	4 th Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
081 Exploring London Various Locations	Sue Miller group081@u3adacorum.org	Last week of Month

197 Exploring Towns, Villages Visits by Car Share	Heather Jones Gillian Lawton group197@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Thursday Various Times
073 Flower Arranging Highfield Community Centre	Carol Cotton Valerie Norris group073@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Thu, Not August 14:00 - 16:00
159 Folk Singing Adeyfield Free Church	Brian Jackson group159@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Wed 10:00 - 12:00
202 French Book Club Highclere Drive	Lyn Parkyns group202@u3adacorum.org	Last Tue 2 - monthly 15:00 - 17:00
214 French Conv - Adv Member's Home	Bernadette Streater group214@u3adacorum.org	1 st & 3 rd Tues 10:15 - 12:00
018 Garden Visiting Various Locations	Linda Duckworth Barry Watson group018@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Wed, Feb to Oct, 14:00 Start
017 Garden Trips and Tours Various Locations	Sue Croucher group017@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Thursday 10:00 Start
019 Genealogy A BK Winter Zoom, Summer Northchurch Social Centre	Kath Jones group019@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Monday 14:00 - 16:00
051 Genealogy B HH St Pauls Highfield & Zoom	Margaret Fairburn group051@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Monday 10:00 - 12:00
059 German Improvers St Johns Church Small Hall	Heather Al-Jawad group059@u3adacorum.org	Mon 2 weekly 14:00 - 16:00
024 Industrial History St Johns Church Full Hall	Alan Olive group024@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
095 Italian (Lang and Culture) St Johns Church Large Hall	Lorna & Jim Grimes group095@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Thur 10:00 - 12:00
092 Italian Conversation (Int) Member's Home	Marie McHale Anette Corbach group092@u3adacorum.org	1 st & 3 rd Thur 14:30 - 16:30
156 Italian (Step 2) Adeyfield Community Centre	Tina Leach group156@u3adacorum.org	Every Friday 13:30 - 15:30
188 Japanese Conversation Various Locations	Christine Watson group188@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Thu 10:00 - 11:30
026 Jazz Appreciation St Francis Hall, Boxmoor	Bernard Newton group026@u3adacorum.org	Thu 4 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
175 Knit and Natter Tile Kiln Lane Leverstock Green	Lana Linden Group175@u3adacorum.org	Wed 2 Weekly 14:00 - 16:00
076 Latin Beginners Various Locations BK	Christine Watson group076@u3adacorum.org	2 nd and 4 th Wed 14:15 - 15:45

076 Latin Intermediate Various Locations BK	Christine Watson group076@u3adacorum.org	1 st and 3 rd Wed 14:30 - 16:00
027 Literature A BK Various Locations	Cherry Stainforth group027@u3adacorum.org	Tue 2 - weekly 10:00 - 12:00
028 Literature B Various Locations Berkhamsted	Judy Roythorne group028@u3adacorum.org	Mon 3 - weekly 10:00 - 12:00
157 Lunch Club A Various Locations	Jerri McCann group0157@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Tuesday Ring for Times
203 Lunch Club B Various Locations	Jerri McCann group203@u3adacorum.org	4 th Tuesday Ring for Times
215 Magic Club Leverstock Green Village Hall	Mike Sapsard group215@u3adacorum.org	Fri 2 - Weekly 14:00 - 16:00
060 MahJong St Pauls Church Parish Room	Jenny Thirlwell group060@u3adacorum.org	1 st , 3 rd Wed 10:00 - 12:00
361 Maths and Puzzles St Francis Church Hall	Roger Witts group361@u3adacorum.org	Third Monday 14:00 - 16:00
065 Military History St Johns Church Large Hall	Graham Kendall group065@u3adacorum.org	1 st Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
025 Money Matters St Johns Church Large Hall	Tom Bloch Janet Wheeler group025@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Monday 10:00 - 12:00
035 Music Apprec (Classical) St Francis Hall, Boxmoor	Sue Frost Jack Scrutton group035@u3adacorum.org	Thu 2 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
089 Musical Miscellany St Francis Hall, Boxmoor	Robert Day group089@u3adacorum.org	Thu 4 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
037 Nature Study Various Locations outdoors	Christopher Lindsay group037@u3adacorum.org	Every Tuesday 10:00 - 13:30
038 Needlework Ivy House Lane BK	Lesley Drake group038@u3adacorum.org	Tue 2 weekly 10:00 - 12:00
067 Opera - Introduction Rider Close Bovingdon	Maggie Moore group067@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Friday 14:00 - 16:00
075 Out with Friends St Johns Church Full Hall	Deborah Sargeant group075@u3adacorum.org	1 st Friday 10:00 - 12:00
036 Painting for Pleasure Northchurch Social Centre, Outside in Summer	Sue Bloch Linda Tomkinson group036@u3adacorum.org	1 st Thursday 10:00 - 12:00
040 Patchwork Adeyfield Community Centre	Jenny Burton group040@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Wed 13:00 - 15:00
045 Pencil Drawing Adeyfield Community Centre	Jean Houston group045@u3adacorum.org	1 st Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00

061 Philosophy Quaker Meeting House, HH	Denis Maclure group061@u3adacorum.org	Tue 2 weekly 14:30 - 16:30
151 Photography Club St Johns Church Large Hall	John Larkin Terry Thirlwell group151@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Wednesday 14:00 - 16:00
041 Play Reading A Warners End Comm Centre	Catherine Ayling group041@u3adacorum.org	1 st Tuesday 09:30 - 12:30
042 Play Reading B Bk Various Homes, Zoom Personal Account	Ruth Treves Brown Gillian Southgate group042@u3adacorum.org	1 st Wednesday 10:00 - 12:00
071 Poetry Appreciation Chalfont Close, HH	Margaret Ainsworth group071@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Wednesday 14:00 - 16:00
088 Poetry Writing Gravel Lane, Boxmoor	Audrey Naylor group088@u3adacorum.org	Mon 3 weekly 14:00 - 16:00
167 Railways Summer Rail Visits, otherwise Adeyfield Community Centre	Jane Campbell Victor Campbell group167@u3adacorum.org	Last Thursday, (not Dec) 10:00 - 12:00
182 Reading BK Cedar Road Berkhamsted	Denis Maclure group182@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Friday 10:00 - 12:30
213 Rug Makers Windmill Road HH	Jane Campbell group213@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Tuesday 14:00 - 16:00
084 Russian Beechwood Park	Chris Hayward group084@u3adacorum.org	Thursday 10:00 - 11:30
365 Scalextric Slot Racing Barnacres Road	Mark Gifford Gary Fox Francis Griffin Group365@u3adacorum.org	Thursday Evenings two weekly
165 Science and Technology St Johns Church Full Hall	Norman Parkyns David Eastham Group165@u3adacorum.org	Last Wed 14:15 - 16:00
185 Sewing Bee Adeyfield Community Centre	Jenny Barnfield group185@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Tuesday 10:00 - 12:00
050 Shorter Walks Various Locations outdoors	Liz Penney group050@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Thursdays 10:00 - 12:00
187 Spanish Lang and Cult Potten End	Shirley King group187@u3adacorum.org	2 nd and 4 th Wed 14:30 - 16:30
221 Swimming (Berkhamsted) Berkhamsted Leisure centre	Moir Brook group221@u3adacorum.org	3 rd Friday 12:00 - 14:30
217 Table tennis A Adeyfield Community Centre	Sarah Glennie Group217@u3adacorum.org	1 st , 3 rd Wed 14:00 - 16:00

224 Table tennis B Adeyfield Community Centre	Mark Chapman group224@u3adacorum.org	2 nd , 4 th Wed 13:00 - 16:00
005 Tea Dance Apsley Community Centre	Mike Sapsard group005@u3adacorum.org	Tues 2 weekly 14:00 - 16:00
181 Ukulele Grove Hill Community Centre	Anne Twiggs Sue Parsons group181@u3adacorum.org	1 st and 3 rd Weds, 09:30 - 12:00
220 Urban Sketchers Various Locations	Althea Jones group220@u3adacorum.org	2 nd and 4 th Tue, Oct - Apr 4 th Tue 10:00 - 12:00
099 Walking Various Locations	Peter Hamson group099@u3adacorum.org	Usually 4 th Tue 09:30 start
204 Wild Flower Study Various Locations	Jennifer Dickson group204@u3adacorum.org	2 nd Wed or Thu 10:00 - 12:00
078 Wine appreciation St Johns Large Hall	Kay Hobday group078@u3adacorum.org	First Friday 14:30 - 16:30

u3a Dacorum Committee Members

Members of u3a Dacorum may contact any committee member with suggestions, ideas, and complaints or for advice on matters relating to u3a activities.

Trustees:

Chair: Carolyn Wallis	chair@u3adacorum.org
Vice Chair: Jane Campbell	vicechair@u3adacorum.org
Treasurer: Henry Wallis	treasurer@u3adacorum.org
Secretary: Vacant	secretary@u3adacorum.org
Groups: Louise (Lee) Pace	groups@u3adacorum.org
Digest Editor: John Dodkins	editor@u3adacorum.org
Speakers: Louise (Lee) Pace	speakers@u3adacorum.org
Hall Bookings: Ellen Duffy	halls@u3adacorum.org
Beacon: John Dodkins	beaconadmin@u3adacorum.org
Trustee: Mary Wyon	trustee2@u3adacorum.org

Committee Associates:

Membership: Jean Sniders	members@u3adacorum.org
Web Admin: Mike Sapsard	mike.sapsard@gmail.com
Beacon & web: Anne Menzies	admina@u3adacorum.org
Equipment: Terry Thirlwell	equipment@u3adacorum.org
Group News: Alan Osborn	news@u3adacorum.org
Minutes: Deborah Porter	minutes@u3adacorum.org
Minutes: Lesley Drake	minutes@u3adacorum.org
Publicity: Liz Penney	publicity@u3adacorum.org

Astronomy

March April and May brought us excitement in the return of astronauts to the Moon!

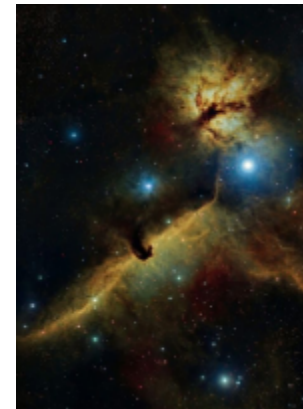
We call this **MoonJoy!**



This beautiful image was taken during Orion's lunar flyby as the crew journeyed farther from home than any humans before them, surpassing the record previously held by the crew of the Apollo 13 mission, and reaching a distance of 40,6772 km from Earth.



The launch was exciting on 1st April but the return 10 days later brought even greater excitement as the burning capsule plummeted back to earth at 40,000km /hr!

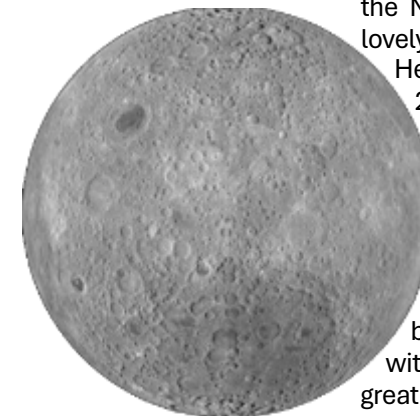


In April, we had a guest speaker, Phil Stead from Southwest Herts Astronomical Society, who showed us his nifty new type of telescope called a SeeStar. We oohed and awed at some of his wonderful images. Here is his latest image of the Horsehead nebula.

We recapped the Artemis mission in May and its future and had a closer look at some of the craters on the Moon. Enjoy this image of the Far Side of our lovely Moon.

Here's a quote from Christina Koch of the Artemis 2 Crew: "When we burned this burn towards the moon, I said that we do not leave Earth, but we choose it. And that is true. We will explore. We will build... But ultimately, we will always choose Earth. We will always choose each other".

Do come and join us for a meeting, new members are always welcome. We are friendly and with our diverse knowledge among us, we have great discussions where everybody chips in.



Patricia Rowe

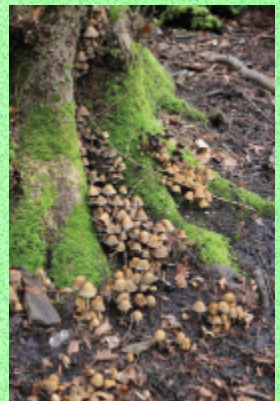


The Nature Study Group is one of the rare U3A groups that meets every week, but it does have the distinction that each week is at a different location. Since I joined a year ago we have been to, amongst other places, Heartwood Forest to enjoy the bluebells, Rickmansworth Aquadrome to see nesting herons and both Whiteleaf Cross and Ivinghoe Beacon for the added bonus of spectacular views across The Chilterns.

It's a friendly group, and while nobody is an expert on everything, there is always someone to help identify the incredible birds, trees, flowers and insects we see on our walks. Sometimes though modern technology like the Merlin app on a phone is required to help us out.

The walks themselves are fairly short, rarely longer than a couple of miles, and slow enough to stop and look at anything interesting we might find along the way. Sometimes there is a theme, like trees at Ashridge or birds at College Lake, and sometimes we finish near a cafe for a coffee, cake and a chat.

Keith Taylor



Nature Study Group