

BRANCH NEWS

Happy New Year

This newsletter is for present and prospective members of Carterton U3A.

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www.carterton-u3a.info

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It is *for you* and *about you*. If you have items of news, information or views you would like to have included, then contact;

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Thoughts from the Chair

Happy New Year to all members, I hope you enjoyed Christmas and are looking forward to another year as a U3A member.

We held our Christmas Social in December and had over 60 members and friends served with a Christmas meal and music for those who wanted to dance afterwards. The Social Committee worked hard to organise this complete with Christmas trees and decorations in the hall and deserve a vote of thanks.

We are constantly looking to improve our U3A and two new groups have started! On 12th Jan, 11 members formed the "Cycling Group" and went for a ride round Carterton and Brize Norton via Kilkenny Lane. A gentle start but talk soon turned to venues further afield which might include pub stops!!! Which brings me nicely on to the Wine Group which also held its first full meeting in Jan. Due to limitations of meeting venues we decided to have a maximum of 12 members. With only two spaces left let me know quickly if you would like to join.

We have lots more planned but if you have anything to suggest, please let us know, as this is YOUR U3A. Myself and the Committee are there to reflect your views and interests. If we get it right, tell us, and more importantly, if we get it wrong, definitely tell us.

Martin McBride



Bath Christmas Market 30th
November 2011

It was quite a pleasant morning when we set for Bath, but rain was forecast for later.



Our journey to Bath was without any hold-ups and it was still dry and bright on our arrival. For 18 days, the quaint streets and square between the stunning Bath

Abbey and the internationally renowned Roman Baths are transformed into a Christmas shopper's haven - the Bath Christmas Market.

In the heart of Bath's main shopping district, more than 130 traditional wooden chalets adorn the streets; each one offering unique, handmade and unusual gifts,



It is with sadness that we announce the death of Jean Nulty who will be missed by us all.



decorations and food items - everything needed for the perfect Christmas celebration.

Most passengers enjoyed a meal in the town and a visit to the nearby shops. We returned to the coach just as the rain started to fall and everyone was well weighed down with shopping bags. Our journey home was straightforward and we arrived back in Carterton just before dark.

Pam Howard



We hope to have access to the Community College library in February for future meetings when we will continue with the project, "Facets of Our Lives".

A group-biographical about ourselves - the present day residents of Carterton.

Jenny McBride

I was born into an army family but disappointed my father by being the first male in four generations not to join the military. Instead I served an aircraft engineering apprenticeship with Hawker Aircraft. I then worked for two or three years as an aircraft production engineer in the late fifties, before transferring to the oil industry in the Arabian Gulf in 1961. I worked for three companies in Bahrain until 1993, with several short company assignments to Kuwait, Australia and the United States.

When I least expected it, and was having thoughts of early retirement, the chance came to work on the design, construction and commissioning of a new refinery in Thailand, so I spent two years in Dallas on the design, six months in Japan on the safety analysis and two years in Thailand on the construction and commissioning. A lovely place to work, but all good things come to an end.

“Thailand A lovely place to work, but all good things come to an end”.

That was followed by a couple of short-term assignments in Algeria and Saudi Arabia, working on commissioning of two large gas separation plants and on the training and assessment of local staff. I finally wound up with five years in the Libyan desert working on oil production and treating, and on commissioning and operation of a gas separation plant.

So in 2002 I finally retired, divorced, and came to Carterton to live with one of my daughters. For a year or so I filled time by freelancing on refinery documentation and procedures, but then found U3A.

Not quite the light and the salvation, but a reasonable time-filler at least! With a small computer background in the oil industry I drifted into preparing and running the monthly slideshows, and helping Martin with the Computer Group and the Digital Camera Group. I also help John with a little bit of updating on the website.

Walking Group

Burford to Fulbrook

On an overcast morning it was a pleasant surprise to have fourteen members join me on this walk. We welcomed four new members to our group Linda, Helen, Carol and Dave.



The walk started from the car park in Burford, past the church and down to the bridge over the river.

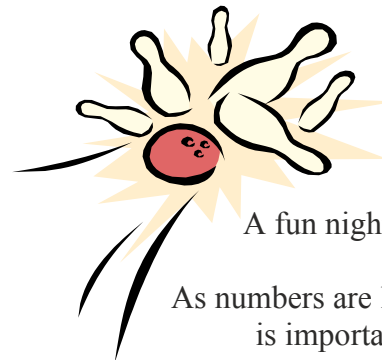
There was a short climb up some steps, over a stile, across two orchards before reaching a road at Westhall Hill, Fulbrook.

We walked down into Fulbrook, took the footpath into a field where there were cows and bulls, which we hastily crossed and then followed the path back onto the road. We walked back to Burford stopping at the first coffee shop that we came to. Most of us had coffee, toasted tea cakes or cake.

We were a very lively and friendly group and the chatter was constant. Our next walk is the long and short walk on the same day, 6th December, and then meeting up for lunch at The Plough Alvescot.

Thank you for your company.

Pam Howard



Skittles Night
Friday 17th February
Carterton Football Club.

A fun night of skittles with supper.

As numbers are limited to twenty five it is important to book early.

See Ken for booking form. “First come first served”

There is a good choice of menu and cost will be £8.50 (£8 for meal and 50p admin. charge). Dessert is also available at £2.50.

Ken 01993 843309



The book reading group are reading *The Distant Hours*, another best seller by Kate Morton. It is a tale of three aristocratic sisters, a dilapidated castle, a series of dark secrets and betrayal, casting whispery spells which make it hard to put down. Our next meeting is in January at the home of Barbara Brooks.

Rosemary Hogbin



Royal Albert Hall

An absolutely fabulous night of classical music was enjoyed at the Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 19th November by U3A members.

We left Carterton at 3.30pm and arrived at the Albert Hall in time for us to wander in to Kensington and grab a coffee or a beer before the show.

The main event started at 7.30pm and we were treated to outstanding performances by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, The Royal Choral Society Choir, the Band of the Welsh Guards and supported by sopranos Stephanie Corley, Carolyn Dobbin and tenor Philip O'Brien.

The show included a spectacular series of lights, lasers and fireworks. A wonderful selection of music, with outstanding performances of Bizet,

Delibes, Mozart, Sousa, Rossini, the new Irish composer Karl Jenkins and many more, with a number of great pieces with full audience participation, such as Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance (Land of Hope and Glory), Strauss' Radetsky March, and of course Rule Britannia, with everyone clapping, singing and waving their Union Flags.

The culmination of the evening was the amazing performance of the 1812 Overture with lights, bells, fireworks, musket and canon fire. To round up the evening an encore of the Can-Can was played, complemented by the Albert Hall dancers in full costume with their long white you know whats.

Once again what a fabulous evening we all had and we would like to thank Pam Howard for the wonderful seats and all the arrangements.

Henry Howard

Walking Group

Long, 5 miles – Short, 2.5 miles
Alvescot 6th December 2011



Nineteen members for the long walk left the central car park in Carterton and drove to The Plough at Alvescot where the cars were parked.

The weather was dry (just) but a little cold. The terrain was flat but very muddy in places.

We found ourselves in Clanfield ahead of time so we visited the church. There was plenty of chatter and laughter from all of us. We reached Alvescot at the same time as the six members for the short walk and so finished the walk together.



Boots were quickly changed and we were soon seated at our tables in the seasonally decorated dining area where we were served our pre-ordered meals.

Some had pud's and some coffee.

Thank you to Brian and Maxine for leading the short walk and thank you to the walking group for their support and friendship during the last year.



Our next long walk is on Tuesday 10th January and the short walk on Tuesday 17th January both starting at The Factory Outlet car park at 10.00am.

Pam Howard

Social Committee Event

Your social committee is aware that some members would like daytime events, so we are starting with a "beetle drive".

With sufficient support we will try further afternoon events, but we need your views on what you would like, so ideas to Ken or any Social Committee member. Events can be indoors or outdoors.

Beetle drive and cream tea
Wednesday 21st march 2-4pm
W.I. Hall in Carterton.
Cost £3 per person.

Come along and have some fun, very easy to play.

Tickets from Ken or Eveline.



Thirteen members of the History Group were given a conducted tour of Oxford Town Hall which was the third building on this site. The first building was the

Oxford Guildhall built in the 13th century and replaced by a rather austere looking Town Hall in the 18th century. The present Town Hall was built in 1893 on the site in an elaborate Gothic style.



First, we went into the Lord Mayor’s Parlour which was panelled in wood and decorated with shields in the plaster ceiling and on the walls. Oxford has had a Mayor since 1211 and a Lord Mayor since 1962 with photographs of the previous Lord Mayors on the walls. The Main Hall was decorated in blue paint and white carved wood with a wonderful decorated curved ceiling and huge delicate silver chandeliers. With a stage, organ and a balcony surrounding the room this is used for weddings, concerts and entertainments.

In the Assembly Room, also named the Banqueting Room, there was a huge fireplace tiled with ornate

carvings and pillars with a Minstrel Gallery over it. Around the walls were paintings of Oxford residents of note. Next door was the Old Library which once held law books. We were allowed into the Court Room to see where the Crown Court is held and looking in the Dock we saw the steps down to where once prisoners were brought in from the cells, after being taken there in an underground passage all the way from the Oxford Prison; thankfully no longer used.

Next the City Council Chamber which meets every 2-3 months and here political parties are segregated on three sides and each councillor has their own named seat and desk, the Chairman having a very large, grand carved wooden seat under a canopy.

The last visit was down to the basement where precious silver items are kept in locked cases and then up to the Reception where we saw the huge silver mace that is still used for special occasions and present at Council meetings. This was a very enjoyable and informative tour and we were all amazed at the sheer grandeur of it all. Not at all like our very own Town Hall!



Social Committee ~ Future Events

Race Night - 20th April (Friday evening)

Full details to follow in the New Year.

Group Activities - February		
Group	Day/date	Activity/location
Art	Wednesday 8th	14 Humphries Close, 2 to 4 pm
Book reading	To be decided	Contact group leader for details (845101)
Bowls	Thursday 2nd	Bowls Club, Arkell Road 9.50am to 12 noon
Bridge	To be decided	Contact group leader for details (841479)
Canasta	To be decided	Community Centre, Contact group leader (212654)
Card making	Various	Contact group leader for details (837078)
Computing	Every Monday, 3pm	Community College
Craft	To be decided	Contact group leader for details (840164)
Cribbage	Wednesday 1st, evening	Bowls Club
Cycling	To be decided	Contact group leader for details
Digital photography	Thursday 2nd, 3pm	Community College
Family history	Tuesday 14th	Contact group leader for details of venue
Fun with wine	Wednesday 15st, 2.30pm	Contact group leader for date
History	Monday 20th, 2pm	Contact group leader for details (842663)
Lunch club	To be decided	Contact group leader for details (843309)
Scrabble	Tuesday 14th, 2pm	Beehive pub
Steam trains	28th or 29th	Contact group leader for details (212654)
Theatre & trips		Contact group leader for details
Walking (Long)	Tuesday 7th	Carterton/Alvescot, circular walk
Walking (Short)	Tuesday 21st	Shipton u Wychwood