

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2026

Evening book club

"A year between the pages"



As we come to the end of the year, it's a good time to look back on what we have shared together this past year. There has been lots of conversation (not always book related), lots of discussion, always friendly, always respectful, and usually interspersed with lovely cake! We've read historical dramas, contemporary fiction, mysteries... Sometimes we said "wow that was wonderful! And sometimes we said "who picked this book and where are they hiding!". Some meetings were quiet and thoughtful, and some were buzzing as everyone wanted to have their say. We laughed. We debated. We politely disagreed, and we rarely found a book that we all had the same opinion about.

Here's to another year of books, laughter, discussion, and the joy of reading. Yvonne Brown

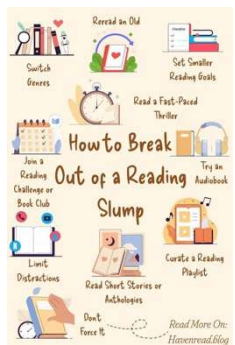
Reading is a novel idea.



Instead of holding a December meeting we celebrated Chanukah/ Christmas as a luncheon at The Three Compasses. Two of our members couldn't make it unfortunately and were very much missed. We had a fabulous meal, the service and presentation were amazing plus they also provided birthday Chocolate Brownie dessert plates for two of our group. We held a poll to choose our favourite book of 2025.



It became clear that we couldn't decide on a clear favourite so narrowed it down to three books.



The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon. Lady Tan's circle of women by Lisa See. and The Stationery shop of Tehran by Marjan Kamali. The next meeting for our members will be Thursday 8th January 10am to 12 noon where we will be discussing our latest book The Precipice by Robert Harris. Other Recommended Books include The Long Road to Kandahar by Sarah Macdonald. Mr Einstein's Secretary by Mathew Reilly. The Secret Lives of Booksellers and Librarians by James Patterson. Best Wishes, Sharon Strong

Quiz Group There will not be a quiz group in January as we're away so the next one will be on Tuesday 3rd February at 14:00 in the upstairs room at Radlett Library, Aldenham Avenue, at a cost of £4 per person. Pam and Oliver

Yoga chair-based exercise class restarts on Friday January 9th 2026 at 11.00/midday. We meet in the upstairs room above Radlett Library and there is a lift. The cost per session is £8 and Santoshni, our tutor, takes us through a gentle set of exercises, including a short standing routine. Please wear comfortable clothing and bring some water and your u3a lanyard. We look forward to seeing our regular members and offer a warm welcome to new members about to join us.

u3a 4 to 5 Mile Walking Group

The group meets on the second Monday of each month. This month we meet at Batchwood Hall for a circular walk via Childwickbury. This walk is mostly along made paths so not too much mud. The countryside on the return from Childwickbury is open, with sheep grazing and little sign of human habitation. A real delight. There are large number of rhododendrons along the way We all agreed we should repeat the walk in May when the rhododendrons will be open.
allancole44@aol.com

Longer walks had a very wet and muddy walk in December, but we only did 5 miles as we had lunch booked in The Round Bush pub!! We were joined by some past members at lunch.

January walk will be a hangover cure on New Years Day, locally, before returning to the Capital ring in February
Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. **Fiona Turner**



Fringe Theatre

I am the Leader of our Fringe Theatre group that has been running for about two and a half years now. I am writing this because a number of u3a members have patiently been on our Waiting List for some time now.

However, the group is full at present and seems to be a victim of its own success and, as such, it is unlikely that I will be able to invite anyone from the list to join any time soon if at all.

All of our group members feel sad that we are unable to welcome more people to the group and that is why I am making this plea.

We already have 12 people on our waiting list and I am sure there would be more members interested if the list was still open.

As a consequence, I would like to ask a question of you and also make you an offer.

Are there one or two Radlett u3a members who love theatre and would be willing to be Leader(s) of a second Theatre Group?

I can promise you it is really rewarding and a lot of fun as well as a great way to make new friends.

We meet monthly to talk about theatre we've seen or would like to see for about an hour and then enjoy a great social time afterwards that involves plenty of tea/coffee and cake of course!

Together with another experienced member of the current group we will gladly talk you through what we do and how we do it and guide you through the process of setting up the group. But of course you won't necessarily have to replicate what we do - you can make it yours in your own way.

If you feel you might be interested to lead a new group, please either email me at sandycohen14@gmail.com or call me on 07956 346418 or 01923 671630.

You will be under no obligation. I'd love to hear from you so please do get in touch. **Sandy Cohen**

Cooking-For-One

We met again on 18th December when we prepared and Salmon-en-croute served with charlotte potatoes, broccoli and hollandaise sauce, followed by a festive syllabub. All washed down with a Macon Lugny, a pleasing Chardonnay Beaujolais from Louis Latour.

First few dates for next year will be established at this meeting. **Chris Wood**



Music Appreciation

The Music Appreciation Group meets on Monday 19 January 2.30 at St. John's Church in Gills Hill Lane. Colin Berkovitch presents **JOSEPH HAYDN**

The son of poor parents, he had little or no formal musical education; but in his long life he was a prolific and versatile composer and is still one of the giants of music today. He still holds the record for the largest number of symphonies composed in one lifetime. We shall look at the highlights of his life and play some of his lovely instrumental music, both the familiar as well as his exquisite Church music which is often overlooked.

All u3a members are welcome, there is no restriction on numbers.

Please bring your u3a membership lanyard plus £3 for hall-hire and refreshments. **Edward Cross (07961 102197)**

Opera Group

The Opera Group will meet, online and in someone's home, on 16th January. I don't know yet what Opera I will be showing but if you are not on my mailing list and would like details please let me know.

Gary.Harding@outlook.com Mobile and WhatsApp: 07949 141214

Duplicate Bridge

The Duplicate Bridge group will play online three times in January on the 8th, 22nd and 29th. If you are not on my mailing list and would like to play please let me know ASAP. **Gary**

Film Group

The Film group will not meet in January as the normal date would be 1st January! I am not certain about the February date yet as I will be away on the normal date we would have it, 5th. I will confirm to members of the group closer to the date and also include information in the February newsletter. **Gary**



Tai Chi Christmas lunch, sadly depleted by members being unwell, but all looking happy.

Remarkable Women.

Happy New Year to you all. Our December meeting cheered us up for the Festive season, as we explore the life of Prunella Scales, actress, who died in October this year aged 93. She is best known for her portrayal of Sybil Fawlty in the BBC television sitcom Fawlty Towers, but played many other roles including her performance as Queen Elizabeth II in Alan Bennett's play 'A Question of Attribution' (1991), which earned her a BAFTA nomination. We enjoyed seeing clips of her varied performances in various sitcoms, and of course the famous clips from Fawlty Towers.



Our next meeting is on Monday January 12 at 3.15 pm as usual, when David Bagon will be talking to us about the life and music of composer Emilie Mayer (1812- 1883), who became one of the most prolific female composers of the 19th century. Often called the "Female Beethoven," Mayer composed eight symphonies and numerous chamber works, piano sonatas, and orchestral overtures, at a time when there were many barriers to women pursuing musical careers. This will be on **Monday January 12th at 3.15pm** at my home as usual. Carmel Byers. Season's Greetings! **Carmel**

Play Reading Group

Our Play Reading Group, now almost three years since starting, continues to enjoy lively sessions filled with engaging scripts, enthusiastic readings, almost convincing accents, and the occasional moment of theatrical brilliance.

We always end our sessions with a lovely tea and refreshments provided by our resident house catering manager, Pamela Kanter.

At our most recent meeting, we tried something a little different—a **play script mostly generated by AI about a Radlett u3a Coach Trip to Wales**. It sparked plenty of laughs, discussion, and surprisingly convincing dialogue - (no actors are being replaced by robots...yet!). We actually thought that the poignancy and depth of the script left some "real plays" quite shallow. Would the Fringe Theatre Group like a private performance?

As always, the group relishes exploring a mix of classic and contemporary material, including "Noises Off".

"12 Angry Men" and plays by writers such as Oscar Wilde, Noel Coward, Neil Simon, George Bernard Shaw and Agatha Christie. My aim is to please all tastes and the group verve is proof that curiosity and creativity have no age limit.

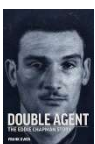
Many thanks to our members for bringing such energy, humour, and dramatic flair to every session – Break a Leg! **(NOT LITERALLY PLEASE).** **Jerry**



I WOULD LOSE WEIGHT FOR MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION ... BUT I HATE LOSING.

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO BREAK MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. THAT WAY I SUCCEED AT SOMETHING!

MY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION IS TO STOP PROCRASTINATING. BUT I'LL WAIT UNTIL TOMORROW TO START.



The Radlett & District u3a December 2025 meeting will be held at the Bushey Metropolitan Sports Venue on Tuesday 13th January at 10am when our speaker will be Michael Kushner talking about "Eddie Chapman – Double Agent". It would be appreciated if you would ensure that your mobile is switched off, or on quiet mode, during the event as mobile phones ringing is very distracting for the presenters and very disrespectful to them !!

History group.

Another year ends and another begins, each passing year appears to be more tumultuous than before and if we are around, highly unlikely, in 50 years time all that we are going now through will be history! That is why history is such an important subject.

300 years ago Madame de Pompadour was at the height of her importance to France. She was a mistress, friend and advisor to the French monarch, King Louis XV. Our next meeting we will have a presentation about her life by our own member, Aida Houghie. After Aida's 1st presentation this promises to be another fascinating talk on a subject many of us will have heard about but had little real knowledge.

We will be meeting for the last time on a Tuesday, 6th January 2026 at our usual venue, Vision Hall (upstairs), be there at 10.15am for a prompt start at 10.30am. Usual entrance fee of £4.00 to cover our expenses (please try and have the exact money with you if possible). Also please remember to wear your u3a lanyards.

Please remember that our February meeting will be on our new meeting date on the 2nd Thursday afternoon of the month.

This will be on Thursday 12th February at 2.30pm in the main ground floor hall at Vision Hall.

Finally we hope those who celebrated it had a pleasant Chanuka, hope you all have a great Christmas and most of all enjoy the healthiest and happiest 2026.

Look forward to seeing you on January 6th. Best wishes **Stephen and Harvey**

Hats Off to Our u3a Committee

Welcome Committee



They meet, they plan, they sip their tea, keeping our u3a ship afloat at sea.
With spreadsheets, lists, and emails galore, they juggle it all and then do more.
From book clubs, walks, and quiz night fun, to arranging talks for everyone.
They herd the members, but are always nice and make sure that the coffee is good at the price

No hiccup too tricky, no detail too small, they tackle it well and still smile through it all.
Lost forms, late fees, or a mix-up in hall, they sort it with grace as they answer each call.

From trips to gardens, concerts, and shows, they handle it all, as everyone knows.
They plan the programs, the workshops, the tea, but still find time for you and me.

They celebrate friendships, achievements and cheers, and quietly soothe any worries or fears.
With playreading, music, poetry and art, they bring us together, a warm beating heart.
No task is too small, no idea too grand, they handle it all with a steady hand.
They chase down permissions, bookings, and dates, and wrangle the budget through endless debates.



They cheer when excursions all go just right, and smile when the tech won't work, on the night.
They plan our lunches, socials, and teas, and keep it all running with quiet expertise.
They coordinate speakers, workshops, and shows, and somehow know exactly how everything goes.
They welcome our volunteers, calm a few nerves, and politely explain all the new parking curves.

They guide new members, offer a hand, And make everyone feel they belong in our band.
They deal with the lost, the late, and the small, And keep everything running, responding to all.

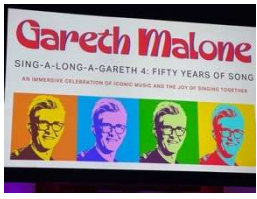


They care for our members and send cards for their ills, try hard to deal with the car parking bills
How much they all deal with is really unknown, and they are always there at the end of the phone

Time given willingly and all free of charge, hours and days spent are really quite large
As all here today I am sure will agree, what you pay for a year is a very small fee.
So, here's to the heroes, your guiding crew, whose hard work and caring see us all through,
From coffees to quizzes, trips near and far, they make our U3A shine like a star! **Adrienne**

What a time we had at u3a in the first week in December to welcome the festive season.....

Photos of all these happenings are at the end of the newsletter.....

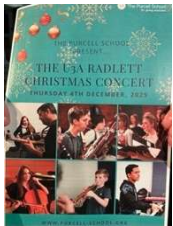


Firstly

On a windy wet December afternoon 45 of us went to Cadogan Hall for “Singalong with Gareth”. With his drummer and keyboard assistant and two great singers we were treated to everything from Coldplay to Rogers and Hammerstein with Elton John in between and of course Andrew Lloyd Webber! A beautiful tribute to Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys started the second half and then a random volunteer from the audience Lucy, with the help of AI, the musicians and Gareth made up a song about tourists being in the way in London, always taking photos. It was inspiring! Gareth is a total joy as well as an extremely gifted musician. He ended the performance to celebrate his 50th birthday with a medley of 50 songs in 20 minutes! Watching him on his guitars, dancing around the stage, was exhausting but exhilarating too ! All we can hope for is that he has many more years of song making and musical fun. He said his parents were in the audience and how very proud they must be too! He sent us home through the rain feeling elated and happy!



Secondly - our annual Blue Check Christmas lunch.....What a lovely occasion this is and every year it gets better and better as we all join in and get to know each other and become friends. Our U3A Christmas Lunch brings members together for a relaxed and festive end-of-year celebration. It’s an excuse to dress up a bit, gather together and enjoy an excellent seasonal meal, a glass of wine and friendly conversation, and a warm almost family style atmosphere, with the bonus of no washing up. If you have not been before, please make sure you book next year. The food and the ambience are great.



Thirdly – our wonderful yearly Purcell School concert, another must for next year.....

This is about the 8th year that we have been able to go to the Purcell School and have a concert put on especially for us by the incredibly talented youngsters who attend the Purcell Music School. This was originally a local history function but even though this was the finale of that group (and a wonderful way to go out) we will hope to continue it for next year as it is so uplifting to see the talent of these performers.

And finally.....

To finish the u3a year, our Christmas gathering featured a delightful talk by our Dr Peter Altman, who shared a warm and nostalgic look back at the 50s and 60s. His memories, anecdotes, slides and gentle humour stirred a real sense of reminiscence. Well attended, friendly and enjoyed by all. Thank you, Peter. **Adrienne**



Always nice to receive compliments and very much appreciated.....

Hi Adrienne, I just wanted to thank you and the committee for a lovely end of term meeting today. I so enjoyed it, Peter’s talk was super, and you had all worked so hard to make the room look so festive! Following on from such a fun evening with sing along with Gareth, we are very lucky to have such a wonderful U3A. Thank you. Best wishes for the festive season, **Glen**

Peter - I was so completely impressed by the absolutely wonderful memory jogger you had for us. So often we think that the past will not be available to us, and it’s lost forever, but today I relived....as did most of us, the times we had, the people who gave us joy and were such a part of our younger lives, and have long been buried.....MARVELLOUS!! Thank you for a morning of absolute joy!! Wonderful memories, and a time to remember with such fun.....I’d see it all over again, as would we all!!! Thank you from me, for a great story - have wonderful Christmas, **Carole Constad**.

PLEASE CAN I HAVE SOME FEEDBACK TO KNOW IF ANYONE DOES THE DINGBATS. ????????????

DINGBATS

KENNEDY FORD LINCOLN ROOSEVELT 01	STEP PETS PETS 02	S T O N E 03	OHIOWA 04
STICK 05	wh ey we igh 06	ACTIO 07	right=right 08
TTTT RRRRRRRR 09	time, ti me 10	jinks jinks jinks : : : 11	B B A B A C K 12

PLEASE NOTE:

It is important when booking an outing to please first check availability with the events organizer and have your name added to their list. This represents a firm commitment to attend this outing and you are expected to pay within a few days.

DO NOT MAKE OUR HARD WORKING COMMITTEE HAVE TO CHASE YOU FOR PAYMENT.

You will not have a confirmed place on our lists until your payment has been received.

We do not automatically offer refunds for any cancellations by our members but if you check with the Event organizer to see if we have a waiting list then we may be able to sell your ticket to someone on that list and we will refund you after receiving the new payment.

If we do not have a waiting list then it is up to you to resell your tickets to another u3a member.

When paying for outings and events please only pay by payment card (via the website) or by cheque. No cash please.

We cannot accept payments direct to the Radlett & District u3a bank account.

If you need assistance paying by credit card, to avoid long queues at the monthly meeting, please call Anthea on 01923 85 2274.

If you are paying for two members by credit card please show both names on the payments form.

PLEASE NOTE:

When we organise any of our outings by coach, we try to allow sufficient time for you to have a snack or a meal, and whenever possible, we will give advice on where to eat in the locality and recommend you to book in advance. Our committee are now getting many requests to book meals for our members. This is not part of their responsibilities and I cannot ask them to take on extra work. We are not in charge of what you want to do so please make your own arrangements.



Gielgud Theatre London

**On Wednesday 21st January 2026,
(Matinee)**

Leave Radlett at 10.30am

**This is the highly acclaimed production from Chichester Festival Theatre.
£81**

****WAITING LIST****

Contact: Vivien Summers events@radlett3a.org.uk, 01923 856728



**HEARING DOGS FOR DEAF PEOPLE
THURSDAY 29th JANUARY 2026
ROOM ABOVE RADLETT LIBRARY
2PM – 4PM
£5**

****WAITING LIST****

**COME AND MEET LIZ ARENDT AND HER WONDERFUL DOG, RUFUS.
SHE WILL TALK ABOUT HER EXPERIENCES AND THE HELP SHE HAS RECEIVED FROM THE HEARING DOGS CHARITY.
TEA/COFFEE WILL BE SERVED.**

Contact: Joan Altman joanaltmanu3a@outlook.com 01923 404920

SANTTU CONDUCTS BERNSTEIN, COPLAND AND GERSHWIN at
ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL £31 on THURSDAY 5TH MARCH - LEAVE RADLETT 4pm



****WAITING LIST****

Artists

Santtu-Matias Rouvali – conductor

Mark van de Wiel – clarinet

Frank Dupree – piano

Programme

Bernstein On the Waterfront Suite

Dove Clarinet Concerto, 'Rainbow' (World premiere, commissioned by Mark van de Wiel and the Philharmonia)

— Interval —

Copland Clarinet Concerto

Gershwin Rhapsody in Blue

Contact: Vivien Summers

events@radlettu3a.org.uk

01923 856728



TOUR OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL
2 LAMBETH PALACE ROAD
LONDON SE1 7EP

WEDNESDAY 11th MARCH 2026

**NO COACH – MEET THERE
AT 12.30pm**

£13

The Florence Nightingale Museum celebrates the life and work of the best known figure in nursing history.

The visit will include a Museum Tour led by a museum team member who will give a welcome address, explain the story of Florence's life and point out significant objects in the museum.

We will then be able to explore the museum by ourselves.

Contact: Peter Brent.

peterbrent35@gmail.com

01923 858155



TOUR OF APOTHECARIES' HALL

BLACK FRIARS LANE. LONDON EC4V 6EJ

TUESDAY 24th MARCH 2026

NO COACH – MEET THERE At 11am

****WAITING LIST****

£16

APOTHECARIES' HALL IS A FASCINATING HISTORIC VENUE IN THE HEART OF THE CITY. THE CURRENT HALL OF THE APOTHECARIES' SOCIETY IS THE OLDEST SURVIVING LIVERY COMPANY HALL IN THE CITY OF LONDON: THE APOTHECARIES ACQUIRED THEIR HALL IN BLACKFRIARS IN 1632. THE ORIGINAL HALL BURNT DOWN IN THE GREAT FIRE ON 1666 AND WAS REBUILT IN 1672.

A MAJOR RESTORATION WAS CARRIED OUT IN THE 1780S AND, ALTHOUGH THE HALL UNDERWENT MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT 200 YEARS LATER, ITS EXTERNAL APPEARANCE HAS ALTERED LITTLE SINCE THE LATE 18TH CENTURY. APOTHECARIES' HALL SECRET COURTYARD HAS BEEN REFURBISHED RECENTLY, TO A STUNNING WHITE WITH BLUE FACADE.

Contact: Helen Bocarro helenbocarro@yahoo.co.uk 01923 858155



THEATRE ROYAL TOUR
107-108 DRURY LANE, LONDON, WC2B 5BG
MONDAY 30th MARCH 2026
LEAVE RADLETT BY COACH 10am. £37

Nestled in the heart of Covent Garden, the Theatre Royal Drury Lane has survived tragedy, fire, bankruptcy & even murder, and is the oldest theatre on the same site in the world.

Join us on a magical journey through theatrical history in our beautifully renovated theatre.

Please note this is a walking tour with numerous steps and backstage areas, we recommend wearing comfortable shoes.

After the tour there will be time for you to visit nearby Covent Garden for lunch or shopping!

Contact: Sandra Clark u3asandra@gmail.com 07770 467381

NEW NEW NEW

MUSEUM OF BRANDS 111-117 Lancaster Rd, London W11 1QT ON THURSDAY 16TH APRIL 2026



****NO COACH** – MEET THERE AT 11.15am £13**

The Museum of Brands is a museum in London that focuses on the history of consumer culture from Victorian times to the present day.

Discover more than 12,000 original items, from motor cars, music and television to sweets and household goods.

5 minute walk from Ladbroke Grove tube station

Contact: Joan Altman joanalmanu3a@outlook.com 01923 404920



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO HAVE REBOOKED OUR:

TOUR OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS

AT 11 ST ANDREWS PLACE

REGENT'S PARK LONDON NW1 4LE

ON WEDNESDAY 29th APRIL. £22 MEET THERE AT 11am

NO COACH – MAKE YOUR OWN WAY THERE – NEAREST STATIONS:

Regent's Park (Bakerloo line; 4 mins); Great Portland Street (Circle, Metropolitan and Hammersmith & City lines; 4 mins);

We will have a tour of the museum, followed by tea & coffee and then a tour of their medicinal garden.

Contact: Peter Brent peterbrent35@gmail.com 01923 858155

VISIT TO BRITISH AIRWAYS MUSEUM – HEATHROW

Monday 11th May 2026 £23 Coach from Radlett 10am

COME AND SEE THE BRITISH AIRWAYS HERITAGE COLLECTION OF UNIFORMS FROM THE 1930'S TO THE PRESENT DAY, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF MODEL AIRCRAFT.

LOTS OF MEMORABILIA AND ARTEFACTS SHOWING THE DEVELOPMENT OF BAFROM IMPERIAL AIRWAYS TO TODAY'S MODERN AIRLINE

Contact: Sandra Clarku3asandra@gmail.com 07770 467381



SAVE THE DATE

**KEEP AN EYE OUT ON FUTURE NEWSLETTERS FOR:
HIGH SOCIETY at the Barbican Tuesday 30th June Matinee
CATS at the Open Air Theatre Thursday 3rd September Matinee**

A round up of our year 2025

We have 712 members and are only taking new members within our post codes

We have 9 people on the committee and would welcome anyone interested in joining us

We have 60 interest/activity groups and would love to hear from you with new ideas for groups

We have had 12 fascinating speakers at our meetings

Our Events committee have given us 34 great outings. As below

New Year's Day concert	Wednesday 1 st January
Wildlife Photographer	Tuesday 21 st January
Wellcome Collection	Tuesday 28 th January
Glenn Miller Orchestra	Sunday 16 th February
Royal Academy of Music	Tuesday 18 th February
Edward Cross House Talk	Tuesday 4 th March
Unicorn	Thursday 13 th March
Stacey Strong House Talk	Friday 21 st March
Blue Check Quiz	Tuesday 25 th March
Charterhouse Museum	Thursday 3 rd April
Chatham Dockyard	Thursday 24 th April
Middle Temple Tour	Friday 9 th May
National Theatre Backstage	Thursday 22 nd May
Cartier @ V & A	Thursday 29 th May
Mini Plant Tour	Wednesday 4 th June
Comedy about Spies	Wednesday 11 th June
Midnight Bell	Sunday 15 th June
Dinner in the Park	Tuesday 24 th June
Hemingford Abbots	Saturday 28 th June
Royal College of Physicians	Tuesday 1 st July
Last Laugh	Wednesday 9 th July
Opera Tea	Sunday 27 th July
Top Hat	Wednesday 30 th July
Speaker's House	Tuesday 5 th August
Brigadoon	Thursday 21 st August
Brighton	Monday 1 st September
Chocolate Making	Monday 8 th September
Just for One Day	Wednesday 17 th September
British Library	Thursday 16 th October
Chelsea Pensioners	Wednesday 22 nd October
Clink	Tuesday 28 th October
Kew Lights	Tuesday 18 th November
Gareth Malone	Monday 1 st December
Blue Check	Wednesday 3 rd December



JOLLY DAYS OUT



I was due to have a knee replacement operation on Wednesday 18th December.....

Got up at 6 - washed my hair and showered with the prescribed anti-bacterial stuff I had been given - put all my chargers into and closed up my holiday bag, and came downstairs to wait to be collected by my son. Mobile phone was in kitchen and took a glance at it. It had a hospital message " please call before you come for surgery" which had been left at 01.15. Was there something wrong with my pre-op assessment (I had been called back for extra tests)? Oh dear - funny time to have called.

Phoned and was told that surgery was cancelled as Doc was unwell. Phoned my son, who said "Don't panic Mum - I am just getting in the car". "Thanks, but you can now go back to bed" - which is exactly what I did. Oh dear.

However next day it was rescheduled for the following week, and hope all is well with Doc by then.

I did have it the following week and all well. Adrienne

Recipe exchange

We've had a wonderful 2025, we've made great friends through our enthusiastic group and look forward to being together in the new year. Happy cooking! Happy holidays. **Stephanie**

HERBY ROASTED PEPPERS STUFFED WITH ARTICHOKE, OLIVES & FETA Serves: 4

Stuffed peppers - retro or fantastic?

As with pineapple upside-down cake, I think they are both. These lovely parcels, stuffed with rich artichokes and feta, are a far cry from the ones that turned up in school dinners, and show just how lovely stuffed vegetables can be.

Prep: 10 mins. Cook: 35 minutes

4 long red peppers, halved lengthways and deseeded

1 x 280g jar of artichokes, roughly chopped

200g feta cheese, crumbled

100g pine nuts

Freshly ground black pepper

25g fresh flat-leaf parsley, finely chopped

1 lemon, zest and juice

50g breadcrumbs

1 tablespoon olive oil

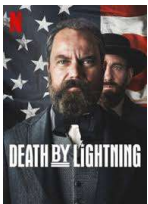
TO SERVE

Focaccia or good bread. Crunchy green salad

1. Preheat the oven to 200°C fan/220°C/ gas 7. Arrange the halved peppers in a lined roasting tin with plenty of room around them.
2. Mix the artichokes, feta cheese, pine nuts, black pepper, parsley, lemon zest and juice and half the breadcrumbs, and stuff the mixture into the halved peppers.
3. Top with the remaining breadcrumbs, drizzle over the olive oil, then transfer to the oven to roast for 30-35 minutes. until the peppers are softened and slightly charred around the edges and the topping is crisp and golden.
4. Serve hot, with a crunchy green salad and good bread alongside.



TV watching from Terri and Brian



DEATH BY LIGHTNING is a 4 part series on Netflix based on the true story of American President James Garfield's short tenure of only three months. It stars Michael Shannon as the President and Matthew Macfadyen as Charles Guiteau, a very troubled con man and loser, who started off as his admirer and then became his eventual assassin. We weren't aware of the full story before and it's so cleverly written and filmed, and very well acted by all, with amazing scenes especially in the Senate.



Then there was **TURNER: THE SECRET SKETCHBOOKS**, a documentary all about Turner, the wonderful artist. He left over 37,000 sketches when he died, many of which have never been seen before and some of them were quite pornographic. Art historians and present day British artists contributed, as well as Chris Packham, Ronnie Wood - a talented artist himself - and also Timothy Spall, who played the famous artist in Mike Leigh's biographical film Mr Turner. His story tells of a dark childhood, who as a young man displays signs of a genius and he enrolls in the Royal Academy and flourishes there, despite being a working class voice when art was for the wealthy. Later in life he finds happiness with a Margate landlady called Sophia Booth, and she inspires some of his most erotic pictures. It was extremely interesting and was on BBC2 but can be seen on iPlayer now.



PRISONER 951 in 4 parts on BBC 1 is a drama telling the true story of Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe, who went to see her parents and family with her daughter in Iran and was arrested there on trumped up spying charges. She was sentenced to five years in prison, the first nine months in solitary confinement, although she was completely innocent. Her husband Richard in England desperately tried to get her released by going to the British Consulate and the government, but to no avail. It transpired that Britain owed a debt from the 1970s to the Iran government of £400million, but the British never acknowledged this. However, it took six years before she was freed, and both Nazanin and her husband went on hunger strikes to draw attention to her desperate incarceration. She missed many years of her daughter's childhood and also life with her beloved husband. Very well acted, particularly by Joseph Fiennes as Richard Radcliffe and Narges Rashidi as Nazanin, and a good drama about such a difficult time for those two characters and their families.



We watched a film on Netflix called **JAY KELLY** starring the very gorgeous George Clooney as Jay. It also stars Adam Sandler as his devoted manager Ron who accompanies him everywhere to the detriment of his own private life. Jay Kelly is a fictional movie star who goes to Tuscany to receive an award at a film festival. He embarks on a journey of self-discovery when the life he has lived and the life he has missed out on confronts him at every turn. It was well acted and very good.



NO ONE SAW US LEAVE on Netflix is a drama series in 5 parts set in 1960's Mexico, inspired by the true story of Valeria and Leo, who married to bring two wealthy Jewish families together rather than for love. When she has an affair with his brother in law, Carlos, Leo kidnaps their two young children, with the help of his controlling father's many connections. Firstly they go to Paris, then to South Africa and then to a kibbutz in Israel, where the he and the children thrive. Valeria searches for them tirelessly with Carlos and an ex-Mossad investigator, and they find them after two years at the kibbutz. It's mainly in Spanish with subtitles and is very good. At the end you hear what happened afterwards and it shows the real characters. Our thanks to David Kramer for telling us about this series.



Then there was **MALICE** on Amazon Prime, a six part series about a manny/tutor called Adam, who inveigles himself into the family of Jamie Tanner, a very wealthy venture capitalist and an unpleasant man, played by David Duchovny. It starts showing the charming Adam, brilliantly played by Jack Whitehall (which was a surprise) being an important part of the family's life, and then you realise he has an agenda and is a true villain with a grudge against Jamie. It was good although a bit silly towards the end, and we felt the actual ending was quite clever but rather disappointing, but on the whole it was quite an enjoyable watch.



Lastly there is **THE BEAST IN ME**, a psychological thriller series on Netflix in 8 parts starring Claire Danes as Aggie Wiggs, an author, and Matthew Rhys as Niles Jarvis, a real estate mogul who moves in next door to her. He had previously been accused of murdering his wife who was missing, and Aggie, who is grieving over the tragic death of her young son and also the end of her marriage, is fascinated and horrified by him. She is a ghost of her old self and becomes a recluse after her son's loss and is unable to write. And then Niles suggests she write about the unlikely subject of his life, which she agrees to do, mainly to find out more about him. The interaction and dialogues between the two of them are remarkable and the episodes gradually get more intriguing. It's a fascinating watch.

Enjoy your TV watching. . **Terri & Brian**

Dingbat answers

- Dead Presidents
- One Step Forwards Two Steps Back
- Cornerstone
- United States
- Dipstick
- Parting Of The Ways
- Missing In Action
- Equal Rights
- Forty Niner
- Full Time / Part Time
- High Jinks
- Quarter Back / Half Back / Full Back

Each group of words has one four-letter prefix that sits in front of them to form another word or phrase.
Can you figure out what it is for each group?

1. Nail, man, out, ten
2. Sick, work, room, plate
3. Range, shot, horn, bow
4. Back, baked, way, hour
5. Note, print, ball, step
6. Arm, fly, works, sale

Answer:

1. Hang
2. Home
3. Long
4. Half
5. Foot
6. Fire



50s & 60s QUIZ ALL ANSWERS WERE GIVEN DURING THE TALK AT OUR LAST MEETING *Peter Altman*

I hope that you will try and answer the questions from what you remember from my talk rather than looking them up.

- 1950** Who played PC George Dixon in Dixon of Dock Green?
Who was executed for a murder he didn't commit and exonerated 16 years later?
- 1951** Where would you have found the SKYLON?
What was the name of the ship that capsized in the Channel and made worldwide news due to its Captain refusing to leave the ship until the very last moment?
- 1952** Where was Princess Elizabeth when King George VI died?
Who were the panelists on the first UK episode of What's My Line?
- 1953** What was the science fiction TV series that scared lots of people?
What song did Gene Kelly sing in the film of the same name?
- 1954** What major sporting achievement was made in 1954?
What new family TV series is considered as the first TV soap opera?
- 1955** What significant medical advance was announced in 1955?
What film about delinquent pupils in a New York school introduced the song Rock Around the Clock?
- 1956** What event resulted in the resignation of Prime Minister Anthony Eden?
Which actress starred in the film The Girl Can't Help It?
- 1957** What was the great scientific achievement of 1957?
What was Elvis Presley's 2nd film?
- 1958** What cost 6d for the 1st hour?
What does VOLARE mean?
- 1959** What was the cost of a Mini at launch?
Who had a hit with Lipstick on your collar?
- 1960** Who was the U2 spy plane pilot shot down by Russia?
Who played Danger Man on TV?
- 1961** Who was the first person in Space?
What US cartoon series was launched on British TV?
- 1962** Who was Oleg Penkovsky?
What series launched starring Roger Moore?
- 1963** How many shots did Lee Harvey Oswald fire at JFK's motorcade?
What was the production cost of the Cleopatra movie?
- 1964** When was the first Channel Tunnel concept designed?
In which round did Sonny Liston retire in his title fight with Cassius Clay?
- 1965** Who did Ruth Ellis shoot and kill?
What title was given to the theme tune from *Dr Zhivago*?
- 1966** What 2 words were overprinted on our 4d stamp after England won the World Cup?
What was the film from which the tune for *Strangers in the Night* originated?
- 1967** What was the first programme transmitted in colour by the BBC?
Who was *The Fugitive*?
- 1968** Which 2 decimal coins were released to get the public familiarised with the new currency?
Who was the astronaut in 2001 A Space Odyssey - stranded in his space pod because the computer HAL would not open the main ships doors?
- 1969** Why are there no good photos of Neil Armstrong on the Moon?
- 1970** What was the film in which Barbara Windsor's bikini top was pulled off?

We are sad to tell you that our member Ros Lester passed away and we send our condolences to Michael and family



