

Jeff Evans ended his talk by speculating on the future of sport on television with coverage now widely shared by the BBC, ITV, Sky, TNT and other big digital companies. He posed the possibility of another way forward where sporting authorities broadcast directly to consumers via the internet – time will tell.

**Join us at St Leonard's Church, Watlington at 2.30pm on Tuesday 21 April 2026** when **Ian Grant**, a retired Metropolitan Police Officer, will be updating us on his work in training **Medical Detection Dogs** and their role in detecting the odour of human diseases.

Non-members (£4 fee) and members (free) are welcome. Refreshments will be served following the talk.

**Ellen Froggatt**  
([froggattellen@gmail.com](mailto:froggattellen@gmail.com))

### WRITING FOR FUN

Unfortunately we've had to cancel our March meeting as two of our members are unavailable. Being a small, but select group, this makes a big difference. Their reasons cannot be faulted. Hopefully we'll be up and running in April when we'll be dealing with 'That Takes The Biscuit.'

**Carol Nall,**  
[carolmarynall@gmail.com](mailto:carolmarynall@gmail.com)

**Editor, Peter Dollman,**

Articles for the Newsletter need to be sent to [peterdollman52@hotmail.com](mailto:peterdollman52@hotmail.com)  
by the 2nd Wednesday of the month

Please visit our website for news of Ridgeway u3a and TVN events  
<http://ridgeway.u3asite.uk>  
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### Chocolate

Would you be interested in coming to a talk on chocolate given by our local chocolatier Melissa. This will be in September/October. If you are interested please sign up on the list at the back of the church.



### Lunch Group

The next lunch will be on Wednesday 22nd April 2026 at The Fox and Hounds, Christmas Common, Watlington, OX49 5HL, meeting at 12 noon for 12.30 pm.

We do not have a menu at the moment but please sign up at back of church if interested. If you require any further information please **contact Annette (07771 992724) or Judith (01844 281270)**

### A possible new Group

Called the Film/Theatre Group. It would happen on a two monthly basis. if you have other suggestions or would like to become part of the group contact my email:  
[peterdollman52@hotmail.com](mailto:peterdollman52@hotmail.com) or speak to me at the upcoming speakers meeting.



# Ridgeway u3a

## Newsletter March 2026

### Coffee and Catch-up

We have tables booked at the Spire & Spoke, Hill Road, Watlington, for Friday 27th March, from 11am. We look forward to seeing you there.



### Tuesday Reading Group

In February we discussed **Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver.**

This is a social critique and powerful novel written as a present-day David Copperfield by Charles Dickens.

Demon Copperhead takes us through his life from birth to maturity growing up in the Appalachian mountains in America, the home of the author, at the height of the opioid crisis.

It is a very long book. Some of us didn't get through it and others who had enjoyed it before felt unable to read it again as it is a



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harrowing story.

Nevertheless we had a good discussion around this whole subject also spotting the characters that matched several in David Copperfield and their similar names.

It is not necessary to be familiar with Dickens to enjoy this book.

**Jane Kilroy**

### Monday Book Club

At our recent meeting, we discussed **'The Wren, The Wren' by Anne Enright.**

Although we agreed it was well written, few of us enjoyed the book. It was considered that the male characters were misogynistic in their treatment of the women and some of us felt that the sexually explicit descriptions were not always necessary. It was suggested that 'The Gathering' another novel by the same author might be more enjoyable!

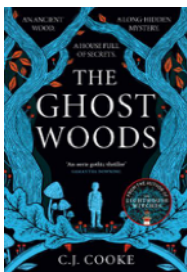
**Barbara Noakes**



## Red Lion Book Group

### C J Cooke The Ghost Woods

This is a gothic tale set in two time frames. 1957 and 1965 and is about the plight of young women who stay at Lichen Hall which is a home for unmarried mothers. Here they give birth and their babies are adopted (possibly sold) It showed the almost Victorian strictures of society at that time. There were hints of ghosts and of being possessed and a child with 2nd sight. No one in the group liked the book. We felt it was a genre we just didn't buy into.



Claire Parsons

## Local History Group

Last month Rosemary Taylor gave us an inspiring talk on John Piper stained glass windows, with excellent pictures to illustrate the wonderful colours of his abstract art. John Piper was a prolific artist, fabric designer and painter who lived in a converted farmhouse in Fawley. Aged 50 he started to design in stained glass. His friend John Betjeman introduced him to glassmaker Patrick Reyntiens with whom he began a lifelong partnership. His first commission was a window in Oundle School, followed by windows in many schools and churches including Eton College, Iffley, Bledlow Ridge and other local churches, and his masterpiece the great window in Coventry Cathedral. June's delicious tea afterwards was much appreciated. This month on Wednesday 18th March we will have a visit to Haddenham Village Museum, High Street,

Haddenham. It is very small but with a huge array of domestic objects, some with relevance to Haddenham but most are everyday things that were used by everyone up to about 30 years ago. We will have a talk about the objects in the museum and the history of the village by Alan Rose, the Curator.

The talk will start at 2.30 p.m. Entrance to the museum is down a little alleyway on the left of the building. There should be ample parking spaces along the road. Toilets are in the adjoining Methodist Church. There will be a charge of £2 per head to go towards upkeep of the museum.

We hope to have tea in Norsk Cafe a few hundred yards up the High Street, but it is very popular and they do not take bookings, so if it is crowded we can go to Haddenham Garden Centre instead.

It would be a great help if you could let me know if you would like to come, as I promised to tell Alan Rose the approximate numbers, Please let me know if you would like a lift.

On 15 April we will be visiting the Kraft Village in High Wycombe for a tour of the Chair Making Museum and tea. There is also a Kraftinwood Woodturning Workshop, Contemporary Art Gallery and gift shop.

Sue Carlyle

## Last Speakers Meeting

**".... they think it's all over – it is now!"**

There can be few, if any, people in the UK who have not heard this famous quote from Kenneth Wolstenholme even if they have no interest in sport and are too young to remember

England winning the Football World Cup in 1966. In his recent talk to the u3a on the history of sport on television, Jeff Evans took us even further back into the mists of time to recall some of the earliest televised sport; one camera on the Centre Court at Wimbledon in 1937, Preston North End's 1-0 victory in extra time at the FA Cup Final in 1938 – the first football match to be televised in its entirety.

The Second World War put a temporary halt to the progress of televised sport but the post-war development of audio-visual equipment, the arrival of Peter Dimmock as Assistant Head, later Head, of BBC Outside Broadcasting, and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth

II in 1953 conspired to create a demand for live broadcasts of sport and national events which the television companies were now in a better position to satisfy. During his time with the BBC, Dimmock was instrumental in securing broadcast agreements for boxing, cricket, ice hockey, rugby, swimming, tennis and major state events. Nothing symbolised this new era for television more than the 1953 FA Cup Final when Blackpool defeated Bolton Wanderers 4-3, in a match widely known as Stanley Matthews final, and the trophy and medals were presented to the teams by Queen Elizabeth II in her coronation year.

Sportsvie, a pioneering, weekly

sports programme, was launched on the BBC in 1954 with Peter Dimmock as the host. It covered such historic events as Roger Bannister running the first sub 4-minute mile and Lester Piggott, possibly the greatest flat race jockey of all time, winning his first Epsom Derby on Never Say Die. Commercial TV joined the fray in 1955 but covering such 'populist' sports as boxing, wrestling and horse-racing – their major concern being where to put the adverts!

Major developments continued with the arrival of Grandstand on BBC1, Match of the Day, originally on BBC2, and World of Sport on ITV, the latter covering such esoteric activities as canal-leaping and lumberjack or logger sports! Personalities began to have a



*Queen Elizabeth II presents Stanley Matthews with his FA Cup Winners medal in 1953*

bigger role in the presentation of televised sports with David Coleman making his name on the BBC and Dickie Davis on ITV. Commentators such as Barrie Davis and John Motson also began to change to way in which sports were covered with more detail on the players and not just the action.

The advent of colour television in 1967 saw another giant leap forward in sports coverage with the arrival of such iconic programmes as Pot Black and later the World Snooker Championships. Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket in Australia in 1977 revolutionised the coverage of cricket on television with the introduction of coloured clothing and large television screens at cricket grounds.