



We know it may feel a little early to be talking about Christmas, but with the festive season just five months away, we thought now was the perfect time to share what we have planned for the festive season this year. If you would like to join us please sign up and select your menus which can be found by the notice board.

2-courses including coffee & mini mince pie £34.50pp. 3-courses including coffee & mini mince pie £40.00pp A £10.00 non-refundable deposit will be required when booking. If you would like any further information please contact June Waterson or any committee member.

07720547935 June.waterson@btinternet.com

PARTY IN THE PARK

Our stand at Party in the Park on Saturday 27 June was attractively decorated to show the wide range of activities enjoyed by members of Ridgeway u3a. It was 'manned' throughout the day by members of the committee in co-ordinating shades of blue and yellow, to reflect u3a colours, and committee member, June Waterson, had provided wonderful cupcakes decorated with the u3a logo. Unfortunately, 27 June was one of the many hottest days of this glorious summer which had an adverse effect on the number of visitors to the community stalls in The Paddock and other events in the High Street. The committee will review our participation for next year's event as it is a significant commitment for members of the committee. We would be delighted if any member would like to get involved in 2027! **Ellen Froggatt**



Editor, Peter Dollman,

Articles for the Newsletter need to be sent to 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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Ridgeway

u3a

Newsletter July 2026

Issue No 201

Coffee and Catch-up

We have tables booked at the Spire & Spoke, Hill Road, Watlington, for Friday 31 July, from 11am. We look forward to seeing you there.



Monday Book Club

We had a lively and interesting discussion about the latest book 'The island of missing trees' by Elif Shafak with a roughly 50:50 split between those who enjoyed / did not enjoy the book. Those who were disappointed felt that the role of the fig tree in the narrative was implausible!

Other books by the author Elif Shafak were recommended however, particularly Rivers in the Sky.

Barbara Noakes



Red Lion Book Group

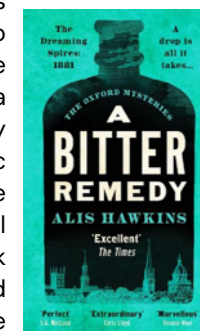
Ali's Hawkins A Bitter Memory. This book was set in 1870's Oxford where a few female scholars have been allowed to attend some lectures. There is a death possibly caused by a tonic sold to cure male "issues" The group all found the book informative and shocking at the limitations women faced in the male dominated domain of higher education. The heroine was considered odd because she had attitudes about a woman's place in society that are now considered normal. We felt the book was over long, but was an interesting insight on a slice of Victorian society.

Claire Parsons

Tuesday Book Club

Our June book was The Road Home by Rose Tremain.

We all read this book and most of us



enjoyed it. As it was one of the hottest days of the year we cancelled our meeting so did not discuss it together. Caelia had kindly offered lunch in her garden that day and this has been postponed to July or August.

Jane Kilroy

Local History Group

On 28 August we will visit Waterperry House at 2pm at a cost of £5.50 per person. You can also go into the chapel, small museum, garden centre and café (but not the gardens unless you pay an extra £12.95!).

In September we are planning a visit to



the Trenchard Museum at RAF Halton which preserves and displays items from the early history of the Royal Air Force and the training of aircraft apprentices. We will need to confirm names, car number plates etc in advance and show photo ID on entry to the RAF base.

Sue Carlyle

Last Speakers Meeting

Not just the sounds of the 60s!

It's Now or Never, I'm a Believer, Be my Baby, All my Loving and Hi Ho Silver Lining were just a few of the hit songs



Paul Lillie with painting

from the golden age of 1960s pop which Paul Lillie brought back to mind in his entertaining talk to Ridgeway u3a members recently. From early Elvis Presley to The Kinks, Paul reminded us of a panoply of singers and groups whose influences ranged from country & western to gospel music via rhythm and blues, music hall, traditional jazz, black soul and sitar music to name but a few.

Paul used his fine singing voice to great effect in recreating some of these timeless hits while his audience needed little encouragement to join in as the lyrics of often long-forgotten songs came almost unbidden to mind as soon as the music began. Not content with interpolating songs into his talk, Paul used his artistic skills to create visual images of some of the great names of 60s pop beginning with Ronnie Spector, founder member of the Ronettes and sometime wife of Phil Spector, the record producer famous for introducing the 'Wall of Sound' heard to most spectacular effect on the Righteous Brothers classic, You've Lost that Lovin' Feelin'.

As Paul sketched the outline of other famous artists of the period on the canvas, the audience enjoyed

themselves in debating who exactly was about to emerge from under Paul's brush and it wasn't difficult to identify such seminal figures as Paul McCartney, John Lennon, Bob Dylan, Jimi Hendrix, Mick Jagger and, of course, Elvis himself.

Paul began his talk with the re-invention of Elvis as a family entertainer in the early 60s with the result that teenagers of the period looked to black soul singers like Aretha Franklin and girl groups such as the Crystals and Supremes for a more youthful, edgy sound. Meanwhile, The Beatles were perfecting their craft in Hamburg, based on the songwriting genius of Lennon & McCartney, before Brian Epstein made them international stars. At the same time, the middle-class, well-educated Rolling Stones were cultivating their rebellious side to become the bad boys of the 60s pop scene.

As the 60s progressed, the pop scene became more political, particularly in the USA with Bob Dylan introducing his version of electric folk and protest songs and Jimi Hendrix famously playing 'The Star-Spangled Banner' on electric guitar at the 1969 Woodstock Festival which was widely seen as a personal protest against the Vietnam War and levels of violence in America.

Paul ended his talk by reminding us that Elvis Presley re-invented himself yet again towards the end of the 60s, very possibly prompted by the assassination of Martin Luther King in 1968, with hits such as 'If I can dream' and 'In the ghetto'.

As Paul himself remarked, it's impossible to cover all the musical genres and artists of the 1960s in a single talk but his skillful combination

of music and art gave us a welcome flavour of that defining period in pop music.

Join us at St Leonard's Church, Watlington at 2.30pm on Tuesday 18 August when Maggie Taylor will be exploring 'The History and Life of Teddy Bears'.

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

Ellen Froggatt

<http://ridgeway.u3asite>

WRITING FOR FUN

The theme for our June meeting was, 'A Mixed Bunch,' and Marian Davis, one of our members, wrote the following:

We are a mixed bunch of that I'm sure with different ideas some saucy, some pure.

We write our separate topics and all is so worthwhile some can be emotional and some can make you smile.

It's so good to get together and writing can be fun there is no competition and no one's ever won.

Our stories can be true of which we're all aware some can be fictional and make us stop and stare.

So join our group and write with us and let your pen flow free sit and talk for a while and enjoy a cup of tea.

Carol Nall, carolmarynall@gmail.com

Bridge Group

This group meets on the second Wednesday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30.

If you are interested in joining, please contact the group convenor: Berly Brown at bkb@tinyworld.co.uk or 01491 613251

