



Christmas
BADGEMORE PARK

Christmas Lunch
As you are all aware we will be going to Badgemore Park on the 2nd December this year for our festive Christmas lunch. All further details can be found on our notice board.
Please sign up if you are interested in joining us and indicate your menu choices on the sign-up sheet. A non-refundable deposit of £10 per person is required on sign-up as we have to pay a non-refundable deposit to Badgemore Park to secure the booking.



Our AGM

There will be an official notice of our AGM in the October newsletter but, for now, we would like to invite as many members as possible to come along and join us on Tuesday 17 November when we will hold our brief AGM at 14.30 with the normal speaker meeting to follow at around 14.45. We would very much like to welcome some new committee members to help the existing committee in the coming year so please do speak to, or email, one of us if you feel able to stand for election. Your support would be much appreciated!

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>
Registered Charity number 120292



Ridgeway u3a

Newsletter September 2026

Issue No 203

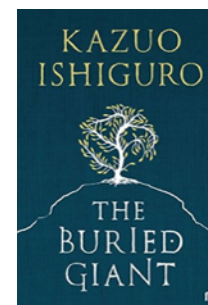
Coffee and Catch-up

We have tables booked at the Spire & Spoke, Hill Road, Watlington, for Friday 25 September, from 11am. We look forward to seeing you there.



Monday Book Club

We enjoyed a successful discussion about **The Buried Giant**, by the British/Japanese author and Nobel prize winner Kazuo Ishiguro, probably because views were strongly divided as I believe is often the case with this book.



One member of the group finished it with some skipping and two others managed to read a useful amount but succumbed in the end and gave up! However, other members had read the book before and really liked it – in

some cases more so the second time as they were able to build on their initial impression and to take more time over it. Some disliked the genre of fantasy fiction/knights and dragons etc. but others, who didn't like talking trees in the previous book, were happy with the tale and vice versa so not as simple as preferring realism. But everyone had things to say and entered into the discussion with enthusiasm.

Ann Sibly

Red Lion Book Group

Kiliane Bradley's The Ministry of Time

The opinion of the whole group was this book was rubbish, a plot that made no sense, time travel from past times and the future, random characters popping up and disappearing no redeeming features at all.

Claire Parsons



Tuesday Book Club

In August we read **A Gentleman in Moscow by Amor Towles.**

This book takes place in The Metropol Hotel in Moscow just after the Russian Revolution through decades up to the time of President Khrushchev.

The story is fictional, but the historical time is correct. Count Rostov is under house arrest for the rest of his life and banished to an attic room in the hotel. In spite of this, he lives a varied and fascinating life with an exciting end to the book. It is long and several of us had been unable to finish it in time but we all enjoyed it and would definitely recommend it.

Jane Kilroy

Local History Group

In August we visited Waterperry House (first mentioned in the Domesday Book). Sadly, instead of the history of the 18th-century house and Miss Beatrix Havergal's famous Gardening School for Young Ladies, we had an in-depth talk about the modern Indian-inspired frescoes covering many interior walls of the house, which is mainly used for spiritual retreats for the study of philosophy.

Advance notice: We will have the following talks in the West Room, followed by tea:

October: The History of Lewknor Village, by Peter Gardner.

November: The History of Benson by Catherine Murray.



Last Speaker Meeting

Staying vigilant in an uncertain world

Ridgeway u3a was pleased to welcome Sonia Robertson from Oxfordshire Trading Standards to its recent meeting. In her very informative talk, and in a time of ever-increasing threats from scams, frauds and rogue traders, Sonia highlighted the work that Trading Standards is doing to combat these. She also emphasized the important role that members of the public can play in being vigilant both in protecting themselves, their friends, neighbours and family, and also reporting potential cases to Trading Standards.



Sonia began her talk with a brief introduction to the work of Trading Standards which covers around three hundred separate laws relating to matters such as food safety, product safety and vehicle sales in addition to raising awareness of, and dealing with, issues relating to scams, frauds and rogue traders. Oxfordshire Trading Standards is part of a national agency which, amongst other things, works with banks on banking protocol to support vulnerable people.

As Sonia pointed out, we can all be vulnerable at times and criminals, who can be both charming and persuasive, prey on such people who, often through shame, social isolation, loneliness or other factors, don't even

want to admit to being victims. As a result, the financial and psychological impact of scams, fraud and rogue traders, cannot be fully known but, once individuals respond to a scam, it is likely that they will be targeted again. Sonia therefore stressed the importance of reporting these criminals to trading standards so they can lead the fight back against such activities.

Overseas scams, imposter scams, investment fraud, romance scams and tech support scams are just a few of the scams which are currently circulating and Sonia stressed that these change on an almost daily basis so it is important for individuals to be cautious when dealing with emails, phone calls or doorstep callers. It is also worthwhile updating passwords and two/three factor authentication for emails, bank accounts etc on a regular basis as, although it can be a laborious process, it's preferable to being scammed! And, of course, report any suspicious activity to Trading Standards. For further guidance, please refer to the Oxfordshire Trading Standards website at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/business/trading-standards/about-trading-standards>

Join us at **St Leonard's Church, Watlington at 2.30pm on Tuesday 20 October** when we welcome back geologist Dr Jill Evers to talk us through **'Fossils and how to become one'**

WRITING FOR FUN

Last month's topic, 'A Total Wipe Out,' produced very varied pieces from all our members. It will be interesting to

see what we come up with this time on 'Freedom.' In the meantime, or strictly accurately, over many years, 'My Life in Seven Acts' has been written by one of our group. It is a beautiful book, but is for her family and a few friends. It inspired all of us to think about doing our own, until we thought about the years involved!

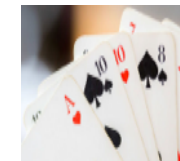
Carol Nall, carolmarynall@gmail.com

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



Lunch group

We are proposing, as part of 'Try something new' for national u3a week 19th-27th September, to go to Bijan's Restaurant in Henley-on-Thames (Persian food) on Wednesday 23rd September at 1pm. Please register your interest at the upcoming speaker meetings or by email to froggattellen@gmail.com

Film and Theatre Group.

Our proposed next visit is to Agatha Christie's 'The Mousetrap' at the Theatre Royal Windsor on 15th October at 2.30pm, seats start at £29.50.

Alternative suggestion Jersey Boys New Theatre Oxford Wednesday, 27 January 2027 • 14:30 seats start at £26.00 these tickets will go quickly Please register your interest at the next speaker meetings or email peterdollman52@hotmail.com