

Ver-Colne Valley



General meetings 3rd Thursday each month at 10am
Greenwood Park Community Centre,
Tippendell Lane,
Chiswell Green, AL2 3HW

Charity No:1156215

VCV Web Site: www.ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

Username = valley

Newsletter: No 187 July 2024

Hi all,

I hope you are keeping well and trying to decide what to wear during these uncertain summer weather conditions.

In June we celebrated our 15th anniversary with a Groups Fair. There were about 18 groups having tables, showing what they do and to hopefully encouraging new members to join their group. During the morning we had entertainment from Singing for Fun, Ukulele Sunshine Band and the Ballroom Dancing Group, intermingled with speeches from our previous Chairs. From the various feedback given to the committee it seems it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The biggest thanks go to Julia Scott and her team for organising the event and making sure we all had a good time. A big thanks also to the Garden Allotment and Geology Groups for providing the tea and coffee throughout the morning.

Let's keep VCV growing as a happy and enjoyable group.

Please Note: In September we will be having our AGM and you will be receiving the information regarding this very soon. Please read it, as it contains items that will need voting upon at the meeting.

I sincerely hope that the years to follow will be as successful as our previous years, fingers crossed.

On a finishing note, to help us to become more environmentally friendly, please bring your own cup for tea / coffee, so that we can do away with the use of plastic cups.

Regards

Nick (Chair)

**There is a QR Code on the first page of this Newsletter. To use this, scan the code, from any directions for 360 degrees using the camera on your smart phone. It is a direct link to the home page of the VER-Colne Valley website. Not all phones are compatible unfortunately.
Bob Gettleson. Web master**

To contact any committee member please go to

<https://u3asites.org.uk/ver-colnevalley/contact>

and select with whom you would like to communicate.

Committee News



Refreshments

Group	Month
Grumpy Old Men	July
Grumpy Old Women	August
Singing For Fun	Sept
Table Games/Spanish	October
Walking Group 1 Amblers	November

Speakers' Corner

GILL DAVIES

July 18th Pierre du Bois

- Pierre is Strategic Lead for communications at the Paul Strickland Scanner Centre within Mount Vernon Hospital.
- He is coming to talk about the progress that has been made with scanners in medicine.

August 15th Fran Sandham

- Our speaker for August is Fran Sandham who has lectured at a large number of U3As across the country over the last few years, wondered if we might be interested in an exceedingly popular illustrated talk about a remarkable solo walk across Africa?

September 19th Lucy Allen

- September's speaker is another rather surprising lady, Lucy Allen who is a female stunt woman appearing in a number of well-known productions. She will tell us some amazing stories of her rather exciting life!

Groups News

Hi Everyone,

Good to see so many of you at our Groups' Fair, and what a great morning we had! A huge thank you to all the groups taking part, I had many comments about the wonderful displays, and I know some groups attracted new members which is wonderful. Also, a big thank you to the Geology and Garden Allotment group for taking charge of refreshments - you did a fantastic job!

Also, another big thank you to all the cake makers, we had such a varied selection and I know several people went back for seconds...

If your group would like to attract more members, please let me know as I can advertise this on my notice board and provide a sign-up sheet. The Groups Directory is displayed at every GM, please come and see as there might be something new that interests you.

Finally, I have a list of members interested in Art Appreciation, but I need someone to come forward to run this, unfortunately until that happens, I will have to put this group on hold.

Take care for now and see you all soon.

Julia

Newsletter: Tina Photi: Email: newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk
Sound & Lighting: Roger Barry / Trevor Spinage
Catering & Supplies: Steve Bowler
Welfare: Pam Kimber: Email: _____

Closing date for articles for Newsletter
NO LATER than the morning of **Friday 2nd August 2024**

Please note articles received after the deadline will be published in the next newsletter if appropriate.
Please send your articles to newsletter@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

Dates for your diary

Event	Date	Contact	Current Position
 Amblers	26 ^h July 2024	Joy Dabson	Contact Joy
 Walking Group 2	2 nd August 2024	Angela Wright	Contact Angela
 Denbies Vinyard	5 th August 2024	Barbara Croom	A few places left.
 Walking Group 3	13 th August 2024	Penny Collins	All VCV members welcome
 Fiddler on the Roof Regent's Park Open Air Theatre	22 nd August 2024	Maggie Fenn	Sold out but put your name on the waiting list
 Garden Appreciation Audley Manor	30 th August 2024	Cindy Binnions / Pam Baladi	Details to be confirmed
 Walking Group 2	30 th August 2024	Angela Wright	Contact Angela
AGM	19 th September 2024		
 Garden Appreciation Swiss Gardens	September 2024 Date to be arranged	Bronwyn Hewer / Zandra Johnson	Date to be confirmed
 Voulez Vous Aha, Abba tribute band plus lunch	2 nd October 2024	Barbara Croom	On sale July GM
 Lion King	Wednesday 9 th October	Maggie Fenn	Sold out but put your name on the waiting list
 Garden Appreciation West Lodge Arboretum	October Date to be arranged	Sue Leakey / Anne Mitchell	Date to be confirmed
 Walking Group 2	25 th October 2024	Angela Wright	Contact Angela
 Garden Appreciation Proposed Garden talk	November Date to be arranged		Date and venue to be confirmed
 Walking Group 2	29 th November 2024	Angela Wright	Contact Angela
 VCV Annual Dance	Saturday 30 th November 2024	Nick Photi/ Gill Davies	Details to follow
 Garden Appreciation Christmas Garden visit	December Date to be arranged	Brenda Kember / Cathy Jones	Date to be confirmed
 Walking Group 2	27 th December 2024	Angela Wright	Contact Angela
 White Christmas	3 rd January 2025	Maggie Fenn	Sold out but put your name on a waiting list



AMBLERS - Joy Dabson

Please meet for an 11am start, car park, The Boot pub , The Green, Sarratt, WD3 6BL Friday July 26th.

Day Trips and Events

Trips Contact Barbara Croom – trips@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

Denbies Wine Estate



Date – Monday 5th August

Price - £37.00pp

Depart GWP – 8.45am

Depart Denbies – 3.15pm

Our visit to the vineyard is split over two sections. A 50-minute train tour takes us at a leisurely pace to some of the most beautiful viewing points in the vineyard. A recorded commentary enhances your trip making this an informative and comfortable way to experience the magnificent views of the vineyard and the North

Downs. Cameras are recommended.

The indoor experience begins with a short film in the Denbies' cinema with an insight into the workings of the vineyard and English wine production. Learn about the geology and history of the estate, experience the changes of the vineyard through the seasons and appreciate the wine making process from vine to bottle. This is followed by a short walk down to the cellars to try a selection of Denbies' wines.

Our group will be split into two, one half doing the train tour first followed by the indoor visit after lunch, while the other group go vice versa.

There are still a few places left – get your name down for this fascinating trip

On Sale in July

Voulez Vous Aha

Date – Wednesday 2nd October

Price - £57.00pp

Depart GWP – 10.00am

Depart venue – 3.30pm



The Tereza Joanne is a permanently moored boat on the Thames hosting a variety of shows and events. The one we are going to see – Voulez Vous Aha – features ABBA Chique, one of the best tribute bands in the business. It is a matinee performance which includes a two-course lunch. The main course will be served soon after our arrival followed by the first half of the show. Dessert and a hot drink are served in the interval, before the second half of the show. The bar will be open throughout the afternoon.

The set lunch is corn fed chicken breast with creamy mashed potato, French beans and chef's gravy, followed by white chocolate cheesecake with optional cream, and tea or coffee. The main course is gluten free.

For the dessert the gluten free or lactose free alternative is fresh fruit salad.

The vegetarian/vegan option is pie served with creamy mashed potatoes, French beans and chef's gravy.

This is going to be a really fun afternoon – you can sing along or get up and dance to the music. Get your tickets early.

Theatre Trips

Theatre Trips Organiser: Maggie Fenn
Email: theatre@ver-colnevalleyu3a.org.uk

The interest list does not guarantee a ticket. Payment is required before your name is added to the booking list for the event.

LION KING

Wednesday 9th October 2024

Theatre Lyceum Theatre, London
Pick up Point Greenwood Park
Departure Time The coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am
Return Time Approx 5.15
Price £47



FIDDLER ON THE ROOF



Thursday 22nd August – Matinee performance
Theatre Regents Park Open Air Theatre
Pick up Point Greenwood Park
Departure Time The coach leaves promptly at 10.30 am
Return Time Approx 5.30 pm
Price £46



WHITE CHRISTMAS

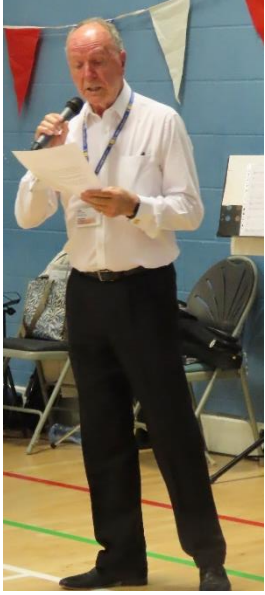
Date: Friday, 3rd January 2025, Matinee Performance
Theatre: The Mill at Sonning
Pick-up point: Greenwood Park
Depart: The coach leaves promptly at 10.30am
Return: Approx 5pm
Price: £89



DO NOT FORGET TO PICK UP THE HANDOUTS

Keeping looking at your emails, as we are hoping to book another show for 2025, around about Feb/March depending on availability.

News and Features



News and Features

'Sister Act' - Penny Haigh

We set off promptly from Greenwood Park at 10.30. There was a good run into London with some amazing driving skills from our usual coach driver Andy. We were set down near the Dominion Theatre in excellent time and it was off to lunch. After some very dubious map reading two groups arrived at Zizzi's. Most were soon seated but one group moved back and forth before a table was selected. After lunch, which was enjoyed by all, we queued up individually and paid. A new experience!



It was time to go to the theatre where we were treated to an absolutely amazing and colourful show. Often with matinee shows you can get understudies but not this time! Alexandra Burke was the main character [Deloris] and what a voice. Ruth Jones was the Mother Superior, Lemar the 'baddie,' Lee Mead the policeman and Lesley Joseph [now 76] was brilliant. Her movement and energy on stage puts us all to shame. The performance ended with a well-deserved standing ovation for what could be described as a feel-good show.

Then it was back to the coach and an easy drive home. Thanks to Maggie and her very able helper.

Train Travel

We have had a summer, or a few days at least. Travelling by Train group enjoyed a lovely hot summer's day by the sea. Boarding the train at St Albans our eventual destination was Hastings.



If you wish to receive the monthly National u3a Newsletter follow the link below, they also do a "Bitesize" edition, signing up is easy. (Control and click to follow link) [You can sign up via website.](#)

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

[July 2024 East of England Bulletin Final.pdf \(mcusercontent.com\)](#)

U3A National Office
The Third Age Trust
156 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8EN

U3A National Office Contact
Open Mon to Fri 9.30 to 16.30 Phone: 020 8466 6139

Website: www.u3a.org.uk

Email: national.office@u3a.org.uk

News and Features

The River Lee Cruise -Text Trevor Spinage Photography Colin Barry

It was a fine, sunny day when we set out from Greenwood Park on our way to Ware for lunch and an afternoon cruise on the River Lee. What could possibly go wrong? Well, we got stuck in a traffic jam all the way to Hatfield although we still arrived at the riverside restaurant in good time.



We had ordered our meals in advance from a selection of six main courses and four desserts. Quite how the restaurant staff coped with serving our 50 meals as well as many other customers at the same time I do not know.

With the meal over we went through the restaurant to the river where we boarded our boat Rex, one of four operated by the Lee Stort Boat Company. It was a bit crowded on board, 50 passengers and three crew being the maximum it could carry.



With everyone seated we set off upstream, passing some impressive riverside dwellings on the way and soon coming to a lock. We were promised the experience of going through a lock on this trip, but it was not this one. So, we turned around and set off downstream while our captain told us the history of Ware, how it dates back to Roman times and was on Ermine Street. He also told us about Ware's most famous artefact, the Great Bed of Ware, a large four poster bed, around ten feet by eleven feet, which could accommodate at least four couples! It is now housed in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.



We arrived at Hardmead lock which we would be going through. Although the lock was open for us to enter, we moored up just outside it and waited; then we waited some more. Something obviously wasn't right, but all was silent from the crew. At last, the captain took up his microphone and admitted that the fan belt of the engine had broken. There was no spare on board and since no one volunteered the use of their tights we were stranded until the crew could find a solution. One possibility was for our coach to come to our rescue.

However, the main road was on the other side of a railway line. Although there was a level crossing of sorts, it was unmanned with no indication of approaching trains. That was definitely not the answer. The sensible option was for the boatyard to send someone down by road with a new fan belt which would be collected by one of the crew. Meanwhile the captain kept us entertained by leading us off the boat and down to the lock where he explained that what had been a humble lock keeper's cottage was now a much sought-after property which had last changed hands for a million pounds. And we waited - in the sunshine.

News and Features

Some fitter members of our party decided they could walk back to the bar at the restaurant in about half an hour. The rest of us decided to stay on the boat; with the now added attraction of a free bar.

Eventually the new fan belt arrived and was fitted by one of the crew. We were mobile again. However, we now had to make a decision. We could either return directly to the boat yard or continue the original course of the cruise through the lock to a point where we could turn around to re-enter the lock again and then return to the boat yard. The feeling on board was that we couldn't stand the extra excitement of going through the lock twice, so we turned around and set off upstream. We soon passed the restaurant where we had started and saw Chairman Nick standing on a footbridge waiting to lead us to where our coach was parked.

On the way back to Greenwood Park, surprisingly, nothing happened. Despite the problems, we all had a really good day out and were very grateful to Barbara Croom for organising it.



- 1 What is the study of mushrooms called?
- 2 Which movie, starring Brad Pitt and Edward Norton, is based on a novel by Chuck Palahniuk?
- 3 What is the capital of Malaysia?
- 4 What is the name of the peninsula located in the northern part of Norway, Finland, and Russia?
- 5 Who composed the music for "The Messiah"?
- 6 Who succeeded Neville Chamberlain as Prime Minister in 1940?
- 7 What is the currency of Hungary?
- 8 Which animal can be seen on the Porsche logo?
- 9 Who composed the music for "Aida"?
- 10 Where did backgammon originate?
- 11 Named after the mallow flower, mauve is a shade of what?
- 12 Who played Queen Elizabeth II in the first two seasons of "The Crown"?
- 13 Who is Bibendum better known as?
- 14 What is the most spoken language in the world?
- 15 Which were the original pieces in a Monopoly game?

1. Mycology; 2. Fight Club; 3. Kuala Lumpur; 4. Kola Peninsula; 5. George Frideric Handel; 6. Winston Churchill; 7. Fort; 8. Horse; 9. Giuseppe Verdi; 10. In Persia; 11. Purple; 12. Claire Foy; 13. The Michelin Man; 14. Mandarin; 15. Boot, dog, racing car, iron, ship, thimble, top hat and wheelbarrow

1.