

A Day to Remember!



Chat from the Chair

First of all, it's great to see our Phil Rowling back in harness also as 'The Editor in Chief' of the Newsletter!

Our thanks must go to Min Gardiner for stepping into the breach over the past few months to keep the Newsletter available for our members.



'Thank You' to the ladies and gents who come early and set up the room for us – chairs, tables and teas all appear magically!

Once again, we had an excellent turnout at the last meeting to welcome our guest Malcolm Wells, MBE.

Regarding his presentation, following on from the amount of feedback I've received from members, Malcolm will be returning to us in June 2024.

Members donated £46.50p to Literacy in a Box. This will be used to purchase school equipment which will be sent to the 41 schools he currently supports in Zambia.

On Thursday, 18th May, our guest Speaker will be Mr Brian Free-land with his presentation – View from the Wings. Scurrilous or otherwise! (Most intriguing?) To find out more please come, and listen to Brian, enjoy a cuppa and maybe win a raffle prize and of course, there's Sue's Monthly Draw.

Kind regards,
Barbara

Forthcoming Meetings

May 18th

Brian Fleetwood-Freeland

The View from the Wings.

June 15th

Mike Dawson

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

July 20th

No Speaker: Our Garden Party

*We shall be holding a Summer Meeting using **The Coffee Shop on the Green** as last year as our meeting point. Members are asked to bring their own refreshments strictly for their own use.*

August 17th

Mel Rees

Telling us more about his life.

September 21st

Michelle Cleave

Savill Gardens

October 19th

Bobbi Derbyshire

"Where do authors get their ideas from?"

Our last speaker

MALCOLM WELLS, MBE

We last met the entertaining Malcolm Wells when he came to talk to us about Canine Partners being at that time their head of community fundraising and national speaker.

In his talk last month to our club entitled “So Far So Good” he enlarged upon his career from school with an A Level in Music to a role with the Literacy in a Box charity.



On leaving school his cello playing impressed the selection board of the Royal Artillery Orchestra and he went on to play at Buckingham Palace banquets and state occasions as well as in front of 100,000 football fans at Wembley for an England/Brasil match.

The Army trained him as a paramedic at the time of the first Gulf War and he served in a base hospital and a mobile field hospital that he said was reminiscent of “M.A.S.H.”!

On leaving the Army after 24 years’ service, he then spent 16 years working as a national speaker for Canine Partners and spoke to many large audiences including the national Rotary conference [where Phil was in the audience].

As mentioned Malcolm’s latest incarnation is as a fund-raiser for the Literacy in a Box charity for whom he has worked for the last three years.

This project gives children in third world countries the basics of education; pens, pencils, paper, chalk and rulers. Each box contains enough basic school materials for 25 pupils and costs £295 including shipping.

Malcolm was awarded the MBE for his charity work.

Catching up with the Groups

The Book Group

This month our author is Frank Gardner OBE, a British journalist and the BBC Security correspondent.

So it is of no surprise that this book titled *Crisis* veers towards the situation in Columbia between warring drug cartels. Not our normal genre for the book club, but I figured it is good to step out of our comfort zone and try something new (not certain the book club ladies will agree with me, once they have read it!)

So, our main character is Luke Carlton. Ex -special boat services commander and now on contract to M16. In the Colombian jungle a body is found. Our man Luke is transported in to sort things out. In true British style of course he comes up trumps but not after a gruelling time when everything and everybody that Luke holds dear comes under threat.

Sir Roger Moore's review of this book says it was written by someone who has been there, done that, and knows what it's about. I would have to concur with that; it was a cracking read.

Our next book club meeting is Thursday 25th May.

Take care everyone, enjoy the warmer weather (here's hoping).

Wendy Dauven

MOTO

MOTO NEWS:

A very well attended "business" meeting held at The White Lion in April. A few days later four MOTO members headed off for a short break on the Isle of Wight. Summer programme: A Coronation Party in May, pub lunch and canal trip in June plus another visit to Riseley Village Tea Rooms in July. A possible theatre trip in August or September.

JOAN CHILDS: Sad to report that our lovely Joan died two weeks ago. Difficult to believe she was 93 years old. Always kind and generous. Very supportive in re-establishing MOTO following the pandemic. She will be missed by us all.

JUDITH SHAW 0118 973 2724 mobile: 07508 724876
email: jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk

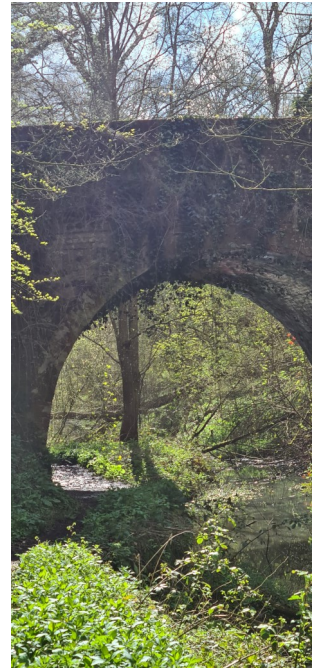
Walking Together

WITH MIN GARDINER AND ROMY WHITE

We had a healthy turnout of ten for our walk in Greywell.

Starting from one of our favourite pubs, the *Fox & Goose*, we walked along the disused portion of the Basingstoke Canal now reverting to a more natural look. Then we took one of the routes to Five Lanes End, pausing to try to spot the lark which was singing high above us, before walking back to the village and a splendid lunch at the pub.

Next month on May 11th we hope to see the bluebells in Ambarrow Woods, meeting as usual in Potley Hill School car park at 0930 for a prompt departure at 0945. Please feel free to join us for a pleasant stroll in the woods.



Winner of Monthly Draw

Walker extraordinaire Romy White, pictured in her natural habitat of the outdoors, was the winner of last month's Prize Draw drawn by speaker Malcolm Wells at the April meeting.



On a Musical Note



A quick reminder that the Singing Group meet at the Tythings [with a lift upstairs to the Gallery) same time, same place, i.e. 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm the first Wednesday afternoon of each month.

7th JUNE: If you have a couple of hours free and would like to have a go at singing some well-known songs, you would be most welcome – as mentioned before, we are not a choir just a friendly-bunch who like singing!

5th JULY: Hope to see you there!

AUGUST: Closed - (Resume 6th September)

The Singing Group's Pre-Coronation Soiree was a great success with a goodly number attending. Along with the refreshments and mystery prizes we had a good selection of songs courtesy DJ Graham.



BARBARA

The Art Group

This month our activities are limited by our weekly meetings clashing with the two May public holidays plus also, the extra Coronation Monday holiday.

Therefore, we are only meeting on the Mondays 15th and 22nd this May. The provisional theme for these is firstly to draw a bird in pencil or pen and ink, and on the following week to paint a similar image of the same bird and reference which will give an alternative idea of approach and media treatment.

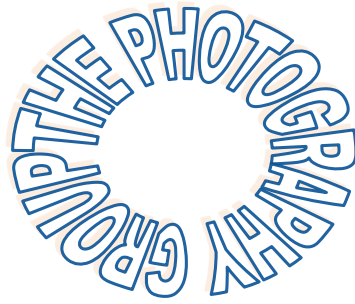
We meet at the Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall at 11am – 1pm Mondays .

Contact; Martin Brooks 01252 871333 or thebrookies73@gmail.com

Friday Afternoon Sports



Twelve of the Friday Afternoon Sports group led by Val Green met up for a meal on Tuesday 18 April at the White Lion Yateley, and a good time was had by all.



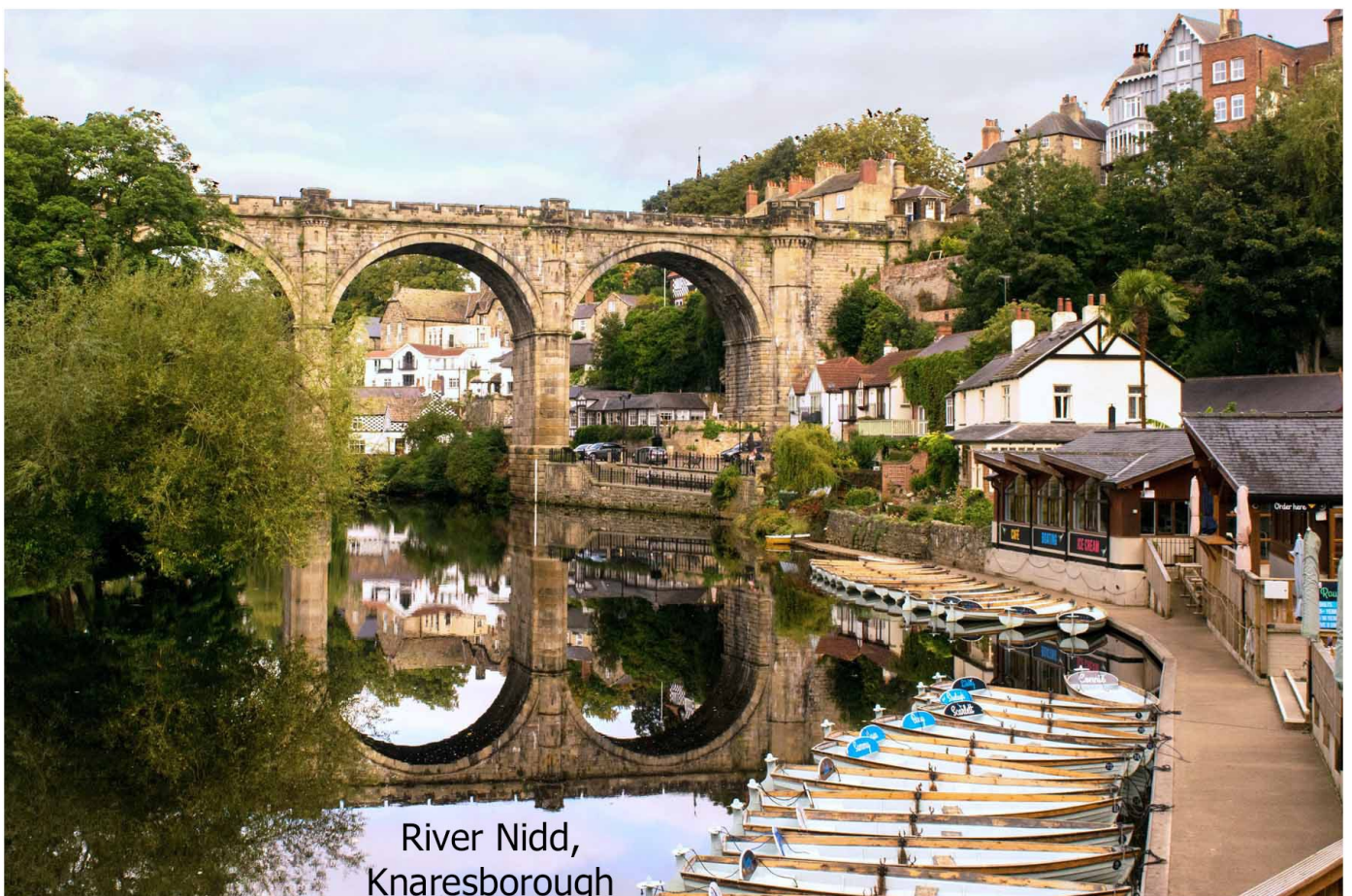
**The Photography Group
meets at the Tythings:
23rd May 2.30 p.m.**

**Subject: Celebrations
Not necessarily HRH**

Looks familiar?

The subject matter for last month's Photography Group meeting was "Bridges".

Our Yorkshire signing, Brian Coan, presented this picture that would have been easily recognised by those of our members who have visited Warner's Nidd Hall Hotel; Knaresborough being but a stone's throw away and a popular town to visit.



River Nidd,
Knaresborough

Falling in love with Myrna Loy

I first met Myrna whilst watching a modern compilation of 1940's newsreels and film-clips that were an accompaniment to the music of Glenn Miller's 1939 recording of *In the Mood*.

With a backdrop of Fred and Ginger, the Andrew Sisters, jiving couples and movie greats we meet this super star of her generation dubbed The Queen of Hollywood in her heyday often portrayed as everyman's Dream Wife by her studio.

For this outing playing wife Nora Charles she is joined by one of her regular and perhaps most popular partners William Powell, Nick in *The Thin Man* series [1934-47].



Originally starting in silent films playing exotic mistresses and foreign vamps it wasn't until 1934 that Myrna's teaming up with Clark Gable and William Powell saw her transformation to become one of America's leading movie stars; playing 'the perfect wife,' a paragon of charm, sophistication and intelligence.

I watch the *In the Mood* video most days finding it a good warm-up routine prior to my Joe Wickes morning exercises. When I first started looking (at the beginning of the long lockdown) I was immediately captivated by this attractive but immensely funny woman whose sole object was to sit in a deckchair that she had just erected but which immediately collapsed as she but her bottom to the canvas.

At the time I didn't know who she was and had to do some research hunting with Google through pages of black and white pictures of film stars of my mother's generation. At last I had a name and to my surprise it was one I recognised and this enabled me to open out her wonderful Hollywood history and her wider life outside the glitter of the silver screen. (In 1948 she had become a member of the US National Commission for UNESCO, the first Hollywood celebrity to do so).

She was born in 1905 and was active on the screen [including TV] from 1925 to 1982 being last seen on our screens at the 63rd Academy Awards ceremony in 1991 when she was the recipient of an honorary award "for her career achievement". She accepted via camera¹ from her New York City home, simply stating, "You've made me very happy. Thank you very much." It was her last public appearance in any medium.

Luckily for me, she can appear daily on my computer at the press of a key. How wonderfully modern technology performs for old romantics

PHIL

[YouTube: Glenn Miller *In the Mood*. DON'T Productions](#)

About time for some laughs



Bob loved the outdoors. Wound up with quite a collection.



Losing weight doesn't seem to be working for me, so from now on I'm going to concentrate on getting taller.

Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The gps blurted out you have reached your final destination.

Apparently there's a third option between burial and cremation.



This picture was taken few seconds before the disaster 😂😂



Can someone tell me what she's looking for 😂😂



How is that kid who swallowed those coins doing?

No change yet.



A little girl asked her brother "What is love?"



He replied: "Love is when you steal my chocolate from my lunch bag everyday... and I still hide it in the same place."

Instead of all the negative postings, here is a pic of some topless chicks in short skirts



Just once.

How often do planes crash?



How about a Quiz?

First part

A simpler quiz! What a whizz!
So, find the link,
It's too easy, I think.

- 1) A Small bird
- 2) Kept in an aquarium?
- 3) Made from sugar?
- 4) A source of wealth?
- 5) Tall yellow flower?
- 6) Ate the porridge?
- 7) Awarded to the race winner?
- 8) 50 years wed?

Second part

What is the common theme of
the clues below?
(A trifle tougher, I know)

- 1) Girl's name
- 2) Boy's name
- 3) Male voice
- 4) Leather worker
- 5) Old form of transport
- 6) Broken tiara
- 7) Poorly fish
- 8) Small pig

Questions by Chris Cross

Last month's answers here they are.
Did you do well? What a Star!

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| 1) What vegetable did Walter Raleigh introduce to Britain? | Potato |
| 2) Which sign of the zodiac is not represented by a person or animal? | Libra (scales) |
| 3) What rodent is associated with a computer? | Mouse |
| 4) What does a bird have two of, stomach or heart? | Stomach |
| 5) What is the common name for snow, sleet, rain, and hail? | Precipitation |
| 6) What is stored in a camel's hump? | Fat |
| 7) In which country was Al Capone born? | Italy |
| 8) What space station was launched by Russia in 1986? | Mir |
| 9) How many feet in a fathom? | Six |
| 10) In which year was Terry Waite taken hostage? | 1987 |
| 11) What is built on Bedloe's Island? | The Statue of Liberty |
| 12) How many minutes are there in one day? | 1440 |
| 13) Who did Putin succeed as President of Russia? | Yeltsin |
| 14) In TV's Rainbow what animal is George? | Hippopotamus |
| 15) What sport featured in the film Cool Running? | Bobsleigh |

Answers by Hank Keys

More from Martin

Eight personal observations

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but the ability to keep your mouth shut in any language is priceless.

"The starting pay is £25,000. Later it can go up to £50,000". Great! I'll start later.

Trust science. Study shows that if your parents didn't have children, there is a high probability you won't either.

When I get a headache, I take two aspirins and keep away from children, just as the bottle says.

Just once I would like the user name and password to say, "Close enough".

Becoming an adult is the dumbest thing I've ever done.

Tip for a successful marriage: Don't ask your wife when dinner will be ready when she is mowing the lawn.

So, do you drive across town to a gym to walk on a treadmill?

Alas a poem is just not there
No matter how I sit and stare.
Inspiration - it just hasn't come,
My mind, it seems, has gone quite numb.

Writing these rhymes is a very odd thing,
Not normally my field, but they make me grin.
I enjoy the composing I admit.
But this month – Zilch! That's the nature of it.

So, if you feel you've got an ode up your sleeve.
Sent it to Phil, who I believe,
Would love fresh input to add to the mix
That he gathers for our monthly fix.

In addition to the formal roles previously described the Committee Members also pick up various committee activities between them, for example:

- Running the Raffle - buying the prizes for the monthly raffle within the agreed budget, then at the monthly meeting displaying them and collecting money from the attendees. All money is accounted for to the Treasurer
- Looking after the technical equipment - storing the sound system, projector and screen between meetings, liaising with the Speaker Secretary to make sure the right kit is available for the monthly speaker
- Deputise for those in the main roles as necessary
- Assist with organising meetings and events
- Group co-ordination
- Web-site maintenance

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Barbara Brooks	01252 871333	thebrooksies73@gmail.com
David Dickinson	01252 879056	daviddickinson9@btinternet.com
Marilynne Gardiner	01252 877510	xansamaz@aol.com
Carol Pascoe	01252 651872	capascoe@ntlworld.com
Sue Puxley	01276 513031	suepuxley@virginmedia.com
Philip Rowling	01252 870879	rowlingphilip@gmail.com
Meg Thomson	01276 33727	megtho@ntlworld.com

Group Meetings

	Venue	Time/date	Contact
Art	Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall	Mondays 11:00 – 13:00	Martin Brooks thebrooksies73@gmail.com Phone: 01252 871333
Books	Private House	Last Thursday in the month 14:00	Wendy Dauven deedauven@gmail.com Phone: 01276 513984
Bowls (summer)	Hawley Bowls Club, Blackwater & Hawley Leisure Complex	Every Wednesday April to September 10:30 to 12:00	Dave Dickinson daviddickinson9@btinternet.com Phone: 01252 879056
Canasta	Private house	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays 14:00	Clive Singer clive.singer1@gmail.com Phone: 07901 568126
MOTO, a group for members on their own	Arranged monthly	Various	Judith Shaw jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk Phone: 0118 9732724
Photography	The Tythings, Yateley	4th Tuesday of the month, 14:30	Phil Rowling rowingphilip@gmail.com Phone: 01252 870879
Rummikub	Private House	Tba	Lyn Sado sadlyn@ntlworld.com Phone: 01252 872221
Singing Group	The Tythings, Yateley	First & third Wednesday of the month, 14:00 to 15:30	Barbara Brooks thebrooksies73@gmail.com Phone: 01252 871333
Various Sports Table Tennis, Curling	Frogmore Leisure Centre	Friday 13:00	Val Green greenvalley2043@gmail.com Phone: 07990584571
Walking Together (approx. 5 miles)	Meet in the Car Park at Potley Hill Campus	2 nd Thursday in every month 09:00 for 09:30 start	Rosemary White romyandjohn@hotmail.com Phone: 01276 503813 Min Gardiner xansamaz@aol.com Phone: 07450256948