



Blackwater Valley Newsletter

Volume 16 Edition 9

September 2023



Mel Rees
says
Goodbye

Chat from the Chair

I hope you have enjoyed the summer whatever you were doing!

Everyone seemed to thoroughly enjoy Mel Rees' visit in August. He painted a wonderful picture of everyday life, which had us in stitches! In a short note received back from Mel, he considers our group one of the friendliest he has met and has always enjoyed his visits!



A talk on Savill Gardens through the seasons will be our next afternoon presentation (21st September). Have a look at the short preview overleaf – a lovely place to visit one Sunday afternoon?

I hope you will come along for this most interesting talk – don't forget Min's raffle, Sue's monthly draw (good luck everyone) and of course refreshments and chat with friends...

I know I have mentioned this before but we do need two more Committee members urgently. The Committee meetings are held on Zoom – (takes up an hour per month).

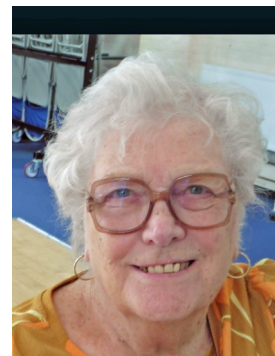
If you think you can help the group, please contact one of the Committee. Thanks.

Regards
BARBARA

Welcome to our new member

At the last meeting we welcomed a new member Dawn Jubb.

Dawn lives in Crowthorne



Forthcoming Meetings

September 21st

Michelle Cleave: *"Savill Gardens"*

October 19th

Bobbi Derbyshire: *"Where do authors get their ideas from?"*

November 16th

David Allen: *"Merry Christmas Mr Dickens"*

December 21st

The Christmas Party: *"Carols and Entertainment"*

January 18th

Chris Davis: *Ascot Brewery Today*

February 15th

Paul Whittle: *The Venetian Connection*

March 21st

Philip Rowling: *"From Gutenberg to Microsoft"*

April 18th

Sarah M. Slater: *The Ghosts of Hampton Court*

May 16th

Paul Barwick: *'White Mouse' Nancy Wake*

June 20th

Malcolm Wells: *'So Far So Good [2]*

Our last speaker

Where does one start a report on a visit by Mel Rees? He is such good value as a speaker and we could take an easy way out and just print journal entries of his previous visits viz:

"U3A meeting today and we had Mel Rees from the Hog's Back Brewery to talk to us. He was very good value and had everyone rolling in the aisle. Not from the free beer, however!"

"My last time out as Chairman and an AGM. I got to the hall around 1300 and it started to fill up. I like to have thought it was for my farewell but in reality it was for the very funny Mel Rees who was making another appearance. The AGM was quickly kicked into touch and Mel was on stage. Again he was superb and we were all in fits of laughter at his "life story".

That sounds a lot like last month when a very patient Mel sat through our "interesting" AGM before getting to his feet to deliver his "shallow and meaningless talk" [his words].

Again his life experiences proved very funny and immensely entertaining and our u3a audience were very happy to be in his company for the forty-or-so minutes he was "on stage".

Mel is retiring from the speaking circuit at the end of this year but said that as BVu3a was one of his favourite audiences he would always be prepared to come at short notice if ever we were let down by a speaker.



Mel draws out the winning number for the Monthly Draw

EDITOR

Catching up with the Groups

MOTO

A very well attended and useful “business” meeting/ lunch took place at The White Lion, Yateley in August. Fingers crossed we have now managed to plan our programme up until the end of the year. Early in September a handful of us are going on a day trip to Chichester. Later in the month Irene is generously hosting a McMillan coffee morning which we hope will be well supported by MOTO members.

JUDITH SHAW (Phone: 0118 973 2724 Mobile: 07508 724876 Email: jmshaw17@hotmail.co.uk)

THE PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Last month’s magazine wrongly printed the starting time of our meetings as 14.00. Please note that the next meeting will be in the Gallery of the Tythings on Tuesday 26th September starting at **14.30 hrs.**

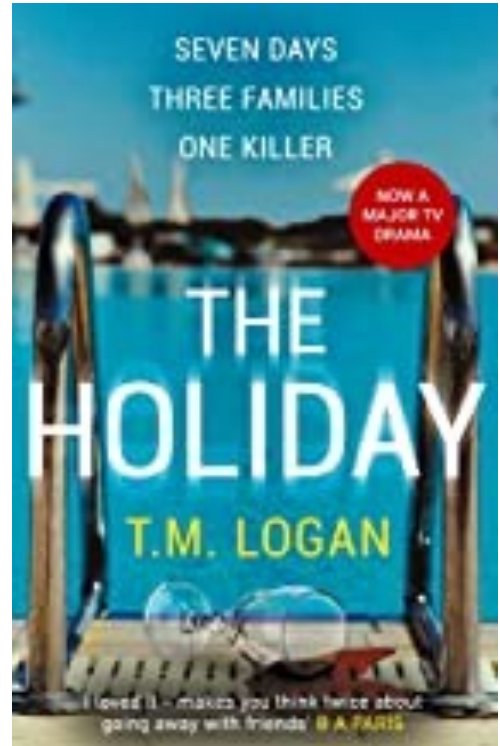
The subject matter is : Open Doors

Contact: Philip Rowling 01252 870879

The Book Group

So here we are approaching the season of mist and mellow fruitfulness, the burning question is, what happened to the Summer? Ah well, maybe next year or a lovely Indian Summer is on the way.

Rather appropriately this month's book is *The Holiday* by T. M. Logan. The book was made into a Channel 5 series and then later a major Netflix drama. The book spent ten weeks in the Sunday Times paperback Top Ten and was also a Richard and Judy Book Club book.



I always find it interesting to delve into the background of books that get developed into a drama series. The original book story was based in the South of France. But when the film was made, production was in Los Angeles, then it moved to England, then back to California to complete. Wonder why they couldn't just film the whole thing in the South of France?

Anyway, back to the book, a group of three families head off to France for a relaxing summer vacation. Soon things take a sinister turn when a body is found at the bottom of a cliff. Now, at the time of actually writing this article, I haven't read the book, due to a problem at the Library. However, hoping to actually get hold of the book shortly and be able to finish it before our next meeting which will be on the 28th September at 2pm. If I get desperate might have to tune into Netflix!

WENDY DAUVEN

Walking Together

WITH MIN GARDINER AND ROMY WHITE

It may be old age creeping up on us but neither Romy nor I can find a record of anyone who volunteered to lead the September and November walks. If we're wrong, please let us know! If you are inspired to lead the group on a merry path on September 14th or November 9th please let us know ASAP!

If no one volunteers then Romy and I will fill in. However we would like you to remember that the aim of the u3a is for everyone to participate fully in groups which includes leading walks. If you are unsure about anything please ask Romy or me, we are always happy to help maybe even doing a recce with you if necessary. In a couple of months we will start asking for volunteers for next year so please get your thinking caps on.

MIN



Previously, Min described last month's walk on August 10th thus: *Starting from the Cricketers Guildford GU3 3AA our walk of just under 5 miles takes us to Wood Street Village through a mix of open grassland and wooded countryside. I recommend wearing long trousers and walking boots as a precaution against brambles, ticks and (if we get more rain) mud!*

As a description it was accurate as you would expect coming from Min; we did indeed start from the *Cricketers* and we got to Wood Street Village. However, the open grassland and wooded countryside with the precautionary mention of brambles left us all, Min included, feeling at times like we were pushing the *African Queen* along a tributary of the *Congo*. I know I have a reputation for mild exaggeration, call it hyperbole if you wish but I would swear that the brambles were growing faster than we could walk. Needless to say under the guidance of our leader we ended up safely at our watering hole and there did partake of an excellent lunch and looking forward to next month whatever that may bring.

PHIL



On a Musical Note

Hello again, I hope this finds you well and ready for our next singing sessions listed below.

Diary Dates:

At the Tythings – 2.00pm – 3.30pm

Wednesday 4th October

Wednesday 1st November

Wednesday 6th December 2.00pm – 4.00pm

***** Christmas Party*****

Singing with Alexa at 7 Sandhurst Lane - 2pm – 4pm

Wednesday 20th September

Wed. 18th October

Wednesday 15th November

December date to be confirmed

If anyone would like to come along, please do. Meet up with friends, songs from DJ Graham's play list and chat over refreshments!

See you soon,
BARBARA



The Art Group

The Art Group is restarting after it's August break on Monday 4th September at it's normal time of 11.00am at the Darby Green and Frogmore Social Hall, in Frogmore Road, Frogmore.

The subject/theme suggested for this session is a Skittle Alley (or an allied image).

All BVu3a Members are welcome if they fancy a little creativity.

Contact; Martin Brooks 01252 871333 or thebrooksies73@gmail.com

Invitation to join New Group

Gardening with Catharine Airey

At the AGM we had recently, I asked if anyone would like to join a garden group. If anyone who wasn't there would like to join please let me know. My e-mail address is catharineairey@hotmail.co.uk.

I am thinking of having a meeting initially to determine how you would like it to take shape. Anyway, if you are interested at all please let me know. As I write this it is so hot, I am just praying that my new garden I have been slaving over can cope. The answer is probably better than I can!

CATHARINE

About time for some laughs

Nominees for the Idiot of the World Award (Part one)

Number One Idiot

I am a medical student currently doing a rotation in toxicology at the Poison Control Centre. Today, this woman called in very upset because she caught her little daughter eating ants. I quickly reassured her that the ants are not harmful and there would be no need to bring her daughter into the hospital. She calmed down and at the end of the conversation happened to mention that she gave her daughter some ant poison to eat in order to kill the ants.

I told her that she better bring her daughter into the emergency room right away.

Number Two Idiot

A man, wanting to rob a downtown Bank of America, walked into the branch and wrote this, "Put all your munney in this bag." While standing in line, waiting to give his note to the teller, he began to worry that someone had seen him write the note and might call the police before he reached the teller's window. So, he left the Bank of America and crossed the street to the Wells Fargo Bank. After waiting a few minutes in line, he handed his note to the Wells Fargo teller. She read it and, surmising from his spelling errors that he wasn't the brightest light in the harbour, told him that she could not accept his stickup note because it was written on a Bank of America deposit slip and that he either must fill out a Wells Fargo deposit slip or go back to Bank of America. Looking somewhat defeated, the man said, "OK" and left.

He was arrested a few minutes later, waiting in line back at Bank of America.

Part 2 next month

How about a Quiz?

The kids are back to school, and,
as you see - so are we.

- 1) When was the bicycle invented?
- 2) Which gas forms most of our atmosphere?
- 3) Which actress was born Julia Wells?
- 4) In which park is Princess Diana buried?
- 5) In which American state is Amarillo?.
- 6) Which river flows through Rome?
- 7) What is the nearest country to the North Pole?
- 8) What is a Moorish idol?
- 9) Can the Australian Dingo bark?
- 10) What is the common name for a Suricate?
- 11) The novel *Catch 22* was set in which war?
- 12) Where did the Romans call Aquae Sulis?
- 13) Which country is nearest to the island of Rhodes
- 14) Eugenics is the study of what?
- 15) What is the largest castle in Wales'?

Questions by Pop Inns

Answers for August's Quiz

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1) What is the capital city of New Zealand? | Wellington |
| 2) Which Disney princess had Gus and Jaq as her friends? | Cinderella |
| 3) Postcode for the Houses of Parliament? | SW1A 0AA |
| 4) Numbers of chukkers in a polo match? | Six |
| 5) In which year did the Beatles split? | 1997 |
| 6) Gary & Martin Kemp were in which band? | Spandau Ballet |
| 7) Where is the British Grand Prix held? | Silverstone |
| 8) When did Big Brother first air on Channel 4? | 2000 |
| 9) How many calories in a regular Big Mac? | 550 |
| 10) In which state was Joe Biden born? | Pennsylvania |
| 11) What is the snowman's name in Frozen? | Olaf |
| 12) Name the cowboy in Toy Story | Woody |
| 13) How many keys on a piano? | 88 |
| 14) Gordon Summer is the real name of which musician? | Sting |
| 15) The Animals were a band formed in which city? | Newcastle |

Answers by T Cup

More from Martin

On every day of the week
I get up, always yawning,
Keeping quiet, not wishing to speak
(I'm like this every morning)!

Now washed, dressed, and looking decent
And silently, (so's not to disturb),
I need to see what's recent.
The News to read – superb!

So, I venture into the office,
to prepare and plan for the day.
However, I'm left rather clueless,
Will the computer start? No way!

Do I need an expert?
It was fine just yesterday.
So, I turn it all off at the wall.
Will there be a lot to pay?

The ten-year-old from next door's come in,
To have a little look,
He's turned the power on again
It's fixed! That's all it took!

True Love Ways

*The sky was blue,
The sun was high,
She said, "I will,"
And so, did I.
Some fifty years ago!*

*Times have passed,
So quickly, it seems.
Three homes we've had
Together we've been.
Since fifty years ago!*

*We are older now -
Our time's getting shorter.
But now we're creaky,
My love's ever stronger,
Than fifty years ago!*

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 |
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| Philip Rowling | 01252 870879 | rowlingphilip@gmail.com |
| Meg Thomson | 01276 33727 | megtho@ntlworld.com |

After thought

This made me chuckle, Martin

I am eighty-three years old.

I was in the McDonalds Drive Thru this morning

The young lady behind me leaned on her horn and started to mouth some ugly things as I was taking too long to place my order so when I got to the first window I paid for her order along with my own.

The cashier must have told her what I had done for as she moved up she leaned out her window and waved to me and began to mouth "Thank you, thank you!" probably embarrassed that I had returned her rudeness with kindness.

When I got to the second window I showed the server both receipts and took her food too!

Now she has to go back to the end of the queue and start all over again.

Don't blow your horn at old people we've been around for a long time!

Ain't that good! Or what?



Monthly Grand Draw Winner



Bewitched, Bothered and Bewildered could well describe June Turner's reaction to seeing guest speaker Mel Rees pulling her name [number] out of the hat at last month's monthly meeting.

Upon receipt of the money June said she had no plans on living abroad or buying an expensive EV for husband Dave.

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 rowlingphilip@gmail.com Phone: 01252 870879 |
| Rummikub | Private House | Tba | Lyn Sado sadlyn@ntlworld.com Phone: 01252 872221 |
| Singing Group | The Tythings, Yateley | The first Wednesday of the month 14.00-15.30. | 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 | 2nd Thursday in every month 09.30 for 09.45 start. | Rosemary White romyandjohn@hotmail.com Phone: 01276 503813 Min Gardiner xansamaz@aol.com Phone: 07450256948 |

