



Meet at Community Centre
Prebendal Avenue
1.30 p.m. for Notices at 2.00 p.m.
Refreshments available
Cost will be 20p per person
Speaker booked for 2.45 p.m.

Date	Speaker	Title
16 th November 23	Keith Muras	KGB Part 2 A follow-on talk from that given in March
21 st December 23	Sun Jester	Christmas Entertainment

Geoff Short – Chair

On Saturday 28th October 2023, Geoff sent the following email to the committee.

This is to let you all know that I spent 12 hours in Stoke Mandeville Hospital yesterday - the result is that I have had a mini stroke which has left me feeling somewhat exhausted! Hopefully, I will be back to full health quite soon but, in the meantime, there are a couple of things I would ask you to do.

I have had an e-mail from Christine Bufton advising me that Jean Maunder died unexpectedly a couple of days ago. Christine tells me that Jean was a member of our u3a from the very beginning. The funeral arrangements are on Friday 17th November at 2.30 p.m. Watermead Crematorium. Our thoughts are with Jean's Family at this time.

Thanks to you all and hopefully I will back in harness soon!

The committee all wish Geoff a speedy recovery and will relieve him of the work undertaken by the Chair for as long as he wishes. Please send all work enquiries to the Secretary/Editor (Dave Rogers).

Dave Rogers – Acting Chair

Prizes for the Christmas Raffle should be brought to the November Meeting for storage in our new cupboard or direct to the December meeting. Our Treasurer, Sandria Chaudhry, has agreed to organise ticket sellers on the day and produce our major hamper prize.

To date, we have had only one request for u3a diaries for next year. If anybody else wishes to purchase one, please contact me on secretary@u3a.co before the December meeting.

In view of problems with discovering which groups are still running, the Acting Chair has decided to postpone their production till next year. Much as you will love to have them as a Christmas present, the committee, still, has to decide on a new format. Dave is looking for a volunteer to gather the necessary information and redesign the layout.

Dave Rogers – Editor

History of The Lord Mayor's Show

By 1206, King John had lost control of Normandy and most of the other English holdings in France, as well as the support of the English nobles. He believed that the only way to restore his authority was to ensure the survival of the Angevin Empire, but reconquering Normandy required money. So, John increased taxes and restricted the feudal rights of the nobles, but, by 1215 King John's disastrous reign was still falling apart. His armies were still retreating in France, he was completely broke and his Barons were on the edge of open revolt.



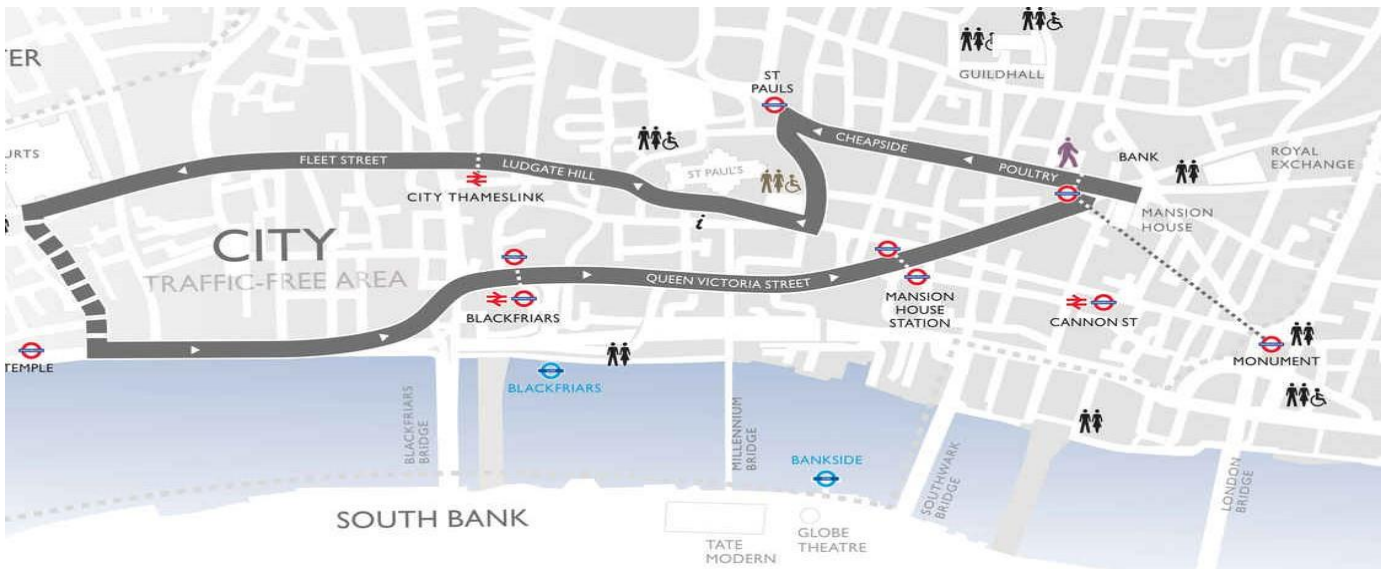
For years London had been trying to organise itself into a 'commune' - a sort of early city state that would be able to declare its borders, make treaties and defend itself. In an attempt to pacify his Barons prior to the signing of the Magna Carta, King John issued a Royal Charter (1215) that allowed the City of London to elect its own Mayor. The elected person had to present the confirmation of his election and swear fealty to the Crown. To do the latter, the Lord Mayor had to travel, every year, to Westminster to pledge his allegiance.

The Lord Mayor's journey was the celebrity spectacle of its day and over the centuries it grew so splendid and so popular that by the 16th century it was known everywhere as the Lord Mayor's Show. It has been a mediaeval carnival, a renaissance spectacle and a military parade, and it is still the longest and most splendid civic procession in the world. It features in the [plays of Shakespeare](#), the [diaries of Pepys](#) and the [adventures of James Bond](#) and of course in the pantomime story of [Dick Whittington](#).

Truth and fable are mixed together in the pantomime - Richard Whittington (1356 – 1453) was the fourth son of Sir William Whittington, a knight from Pauntley in Gloucestershire. Since he was unlikely to inherit the family manors, Richard made his way to London to seek his fortune; he married Alice Fitzwarren, but she was not the daughter of a London merchant as stated in the pantomime; he was Mayor of London three times; and he did lend money to the King and was conspicuously charitable. But he was not a poor boy and he did not have a cat with which he ventured on a ship to Barbary. Yet he was considered by his fellow Londoners to be outstanding, and, in the words of a contemporary poem, he was of all merchants the "lode star and chief chosen flower".



The Lord Mayor's Show has survived two bouts of the plague, the great fire of London, city-wide riots just before the 1830 Show and a particularly thunderous 1867 editorial in the Times which declared that "the Show will vanish but the Banquet is safe". It has moved from land to river and back again while a modern megacity grew up in the open space that once lay between the City of London and the remote village of Westminster. The route of the modern show, held every year on the second Saturday in November, was [fixed in 1952](#), but still it occasionally has to be diverted around roadworks or construction. In the 20th century the Lord Mayor's Show was the first outside event ever to be broadcast live and it still attracts a TV audience of millions.



The parade starts at the Mansion House and travels along Poultry, Cheapside, New Change to St Paul's Churchyard where the Mayor is blessed in front of Public Grandstands. From St Paul's, the parade continues along Ludgate Hill and Fleet Street to The Royal Courts of Justice where the Mayor swears his allegiance to the crown whilst the procession re-assembles on the embankment. The Mayor walks to his coach on the Embankment for his return along it and Queen Victoria Street to the Mansion House.

In 1711, there was an incident when Lord Mayor Sir Gilbert Heathcote was thrown off his horse, which had been frightened by a drunken woman. He broke his leg and so a carriage was hired and used for a number of years afterwards. In 1757, this carriage was built and it's been in use ever since. Made from gilded wood, with plush, red silk interiors. It was designed by architect Sir Robert Taylor in the Berlin style; built by Joseph Berry of Leather Lane in Holborn; cost £1,065 and three pence; and was first used by Sir Charles Asgill during the reign of George II.



Towards the head of the procession, you may see two [wicker giants](#). They are Gog (left) and Magog (right), the traditional guardians of the City of London, and they have been carried in the Lord Mayor's Show since the reign of Henry V. The custom of carrying effigies at festivals was widespread in the Middle Ages both in England and on the continent, and the giants of myth were among them. Gog and Magog symbolize one of many links between the modern business institutions of the City and its ancient history.

It would be easy to think every instalment of the Lord Mayor's Show is the same – three miles of floats, a golden carriage, and fireworks to cap the day. It's very much the Lord Mayor's personal show. He has a lot of input and it reflects his theme for his mayoral year; his personal interests, business contacts, service associations and so forth.

In 2018, the theme was "Shaping Tomorrow's City, Today." The Mayor's interest was very much in the digital City, so, you have autonomous cars, driven by AI, which the Lady Mayoress travelled in, as well as several other tech companies taking part in that day. Also, in 2018, the running order was changed, there wasn't any fireworks display post-show, nor a flotilla down the Thames in the morning.

This was done to actively keep showgoers nearer the centre of the City to help create a more exciting party atmosphere. [In place of these traditions](#), Bloomberg Arcade and St Paul's Churchyard acted as two main areas for people to congregate, with food stalls, activities for kids, and live performances and workshops scattered about the sites.

The Lord Mayors Show was on Saturday 11th November this year (2023). The 695th Lord Mayor of London will be Alderman Michael Mainelli of the Broad Street Ward. The timetable for his show was published in October. If it was true to tradition then it would have started with the River Pageant. The glorious Thames Barges would have set off from Westminster at 8.30 a.m. and Tower Bridge would have opened in salute at 9.25 a.m. The parade would have set off from Mansion House at 11.00 a.m., stopping at the Royal Courts so the Lord Mayor can swear allegiance and then return to Embankment at 1 p.m. The procession arrives back at Mansion House just after 2 p.m. The day then should conclude with fireworks on the river at around 5.15 p.m.



Jasmine & Simon Reeks – Local History Group

Thursday 23rd November Rupert's Retrospective at the Methodist Church
Rooms 4&5 upstairs. 10.30 for 11.00.

Please do not arrive before 10.30 unless you have volunteered for "duties", who can arrive after 10.00. The meeting will be free of charge but do check in at the desk upstairs. Offers for help with refreshments and washing up – thank you Sandie and Pat. Any offers on a donated cake – thank you Rosemary.

No meeting in December but our planning meeting is booked for 25.01.2024 at the Methodist Church at 10.30. Don't forget, we will be checking members' details so we can keep in touch.

Thanks to all our organisers and facilitators for without you there would be no group.

I think we have had a good and varied year.

Thursday 25th January Planning Meeting. Methodist Church Rooms 4 & 5 upstairs. 10.30 for 11.00.

Volunteers for setting up and refreshments, please. We are hoping to arrange a sandwich lunch at the Temple Bar Café after the meeting, it depends on whether you think this is a good idea. Menus will be available at the November meeting and must be returned with the money at the December Meeting, please. We will then be able to see whether or not this is viable. Depending on numbers, some may need to be seated downstairs so we need to know who cannot manage the stairs.

Ann Burman – Quiz Group



The next Quiz meeting is on Tuesday, 21st November at Foxhill Bowls Club. Starting at 2.00 pm. There is no Quiz meeting in December because of its proximity to Christmas.

Any problems please contact Ann Burman on 01296 422084 or Chris Blaik on 01296 425964

Jim Wilding – Group Leader

History Of Transport

Our next meeting will be at 9, Mill Mead, Wendover at 2.30 on Wednesday, 15th November, when the subject will be “Coaches” and we will make try again to make arrangements for a visit to the Oxford Bus Museum!



Musical Appreciation

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 28th November, 2.30, at 9 Mill Mead, Wendover.

David Mummery – Webmaster

Climate Change

Some u3a's now have a group on Climate Change. They recognize that the subject must be discussed in the hope that more people will address their concerns for the well-being of the planet, and especially for the sake of our children and their children.

At Chichester u3a, Geert Mak from Holland was the speaker. Some u3a's are grasping the nettle and making it an open discussion to increase peoples' awareness. The biggest problem is that the climate issue is complex and global, and the world has no experience to draw upon, no instruments or institutions. The effects will be seen over many decades, which means that most of the damage caused by climate change will be felt by later generations, whereas the generation that can still do something to prevent it – our own – is little troubled by it as yet.

Greenhouse gases are a global problem, inflicting damage all over the world no matter where the gases are emitted, and often not until many years later, so every country and every generation taking action now will pay the cost but see few of the benefits. From a political point of view, therefore, tackling climate change is a thankless task. To press ahead with the necessary measures and projects, governments and politicians will need to renounce practically all the existing laws and politics. They need to think globally and very much long-term. They need to develop a head-strong, liberated mentality that's open to a completely different worldview and a completely different political culture.

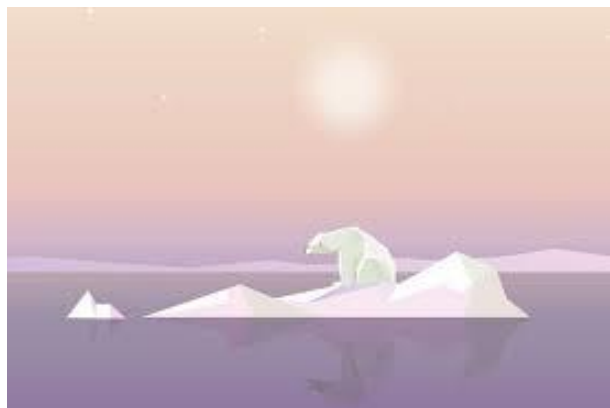
The major cause of climate change is the burning of fossil fuels. Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide (and other Greenhouse gases) into the atmosphere, which traps heat radiating from Earth toward space. We call this the greenhouse effect. Too much fossil fuel has been burnt in the last 80 years and therefore too much carbon dioxide has been released into the atmosphere. Although the burning of fossil fuels is the main cause of climate change there are other contributing factors:

Deforestation: During photosynthesis trees absorb carbon dioxide. However, cutting them down means there is more carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as the trees are no longer there to store and remove the carbon dioxide, furthermore, burning them releases the carbon they had stored.

Agriculture: Farming practices are responsible for releasing greenhouse gases into the air. The large amounts of grazing animals are responsible for nearly 30% of all our carbon emissions.

Landfill: When biodegradable waste such as food, paper and card is sent to landfill sites - it releases methane gas into the atmosphere.

When the weather is so warm it will increase the possibility of more disease, sleepless nights, and the need for water. Unfortunately, water is a finite source, and wars are predicted in the fight for survival by nations desperate for this essential for life.



We cannot ignore the perils, and we need to give hope to future generations – and, as I have said, this means our children. What are they to inherit? We have had the best years of life ever – even taking into consideration living through WWII. Let us give them a life – there are manifold dangers enough without climate change.

Simon Reeks – Gadget Group

Another busy month, covering issues such as dramatically improving Wi-Fi speed, resurrecting a nearly terminal PC, recreating lost shortcuts / account access and even "persuading" a reluctant bathroom window to close!

I have continued to receive comments about "missing" TV channels on Freeview. There have been several changes to the channel structure over the last few months - whilst many (typically newer) TVs and boxes automatically retune some do not (typically older devices). Let me know if you need any help retuning your TV.

If you need a (free!) PC, advice about the new Windows 11 (highly recommended) or indeed any other (non-Apple) "gadget" subject, please contact me and I'll see what I can do, by phone/email on 01296 482735 or reeks@fangio.co.uk



Next Contribution Date Friday 15th December 2023

Third Age Trust

Thank you to everyone who took part in the 40th AGM of the Third Age Trust. It was lovely to see so many of you in person at Kents Hill Park - and over 400 of you joined online. I hope you found it an informative event.

For any of you who missed the AGM, the whole event has been recorded and is being captioned. We can share this with you soon. In the meantime you can watch the full AGM, without captions, on [the dedicated AGM website](#).



Could you be a friendly face to someone in the community who has been affected by mental health issues? Do you have skills or interests you could share with someone or just the time to listen?

“Jane is a new mum in her 40’s who has struggled this first year after her baby was born. She is looking to regain her confidence and reduce her anxiety with support”

“Keith is looking for someone to talk to on a regular basis. He has no close family and has lost contact with the few friends he had. He would like to eventually meet now and then for a coffee or a walk”

'Sally is in her 50's and has anxiety and depression. She relies on her family a lot and would love to meet a befriender of a similar age for walks, chats, coffees and perhaps to look round the shops. She would like someone to encourage and support her and give her the confidence to do everyday activities.'

'Tom is 70 and recently widowed. He would like to meet a befriender to go for walks in the local park and perhaps help him rekindle his love of fishing'

Could you offer one to one support to Jane, Keith, Sally or Tom? This could be on the phone or face to face, once a week for around 6 months to help them build their confidence, self-esteem and start to believe in themselves again.

Volunteers can help by just being there for someone. Not being a family member, friend or professional worker means the role can be particularly meaningful.

We provide training and ongoing support to volunteers and pay expenses.

Please contact Vicky Royal on 07930 801681 for more information about befriending or 01494 463364 for general information about our services and volunteering opportunities or e-mail sunhouse@bucksmind.org.uk

SE Region Autumn Gathering

Click on this link to join on the day:

Thursday 16th November at 09.45 on Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83005892888>

All About Subject Advisors

Who they are & how they can help your u3a

The Gathering is open to all u3a members but may be of particular interest to Group Leaders / Convenors. There is no need to register, just click on the link above any time after 09.45 on Thursday morning.

Provisional timetable:

10.00	Welcome	Susie Berry, SE Region Trustee
10.05	Introduction	Hilvary Robinson, SA for Mahjong & Georgia Laws, u3a Staff Team (Learning Development Manager)
10.20	Creative Writing	Marcia Humphries
11.00	Climate Change & Environment	John Baxter
11.45	BREAK	
11.55	French	Sylvia Duffy
12.40	Questions	
13.00	Close	

Marcia says: I can show you that Writing groups are magic. I can help you set-up a group & support it as it grows. u3awriting@hotmail.co.uk

John says:

I will talk about possible objectives for a u3a group that is focused on climate or sustainable living. u3asecondnature@gmail.com

Sylvia says:

I encourage people to be involved in both the language and the culture. sylviaduffy@uwclub.net

Thames Valley Network

Thursday 30th November 2023 at 2.30 p.m. on Zoom

Rear Admiral Chris Parry will be returning with his talk called “My Falklands War”. For this talk, Chris will offer insights into the Falklands War, based on his own experiences as a member of the helicopter flight of HMS ANTRIM. His talk will include details of his own part in the operations, including the rescue of 16 SAS from a glacier; and the eventual restoration of the Falkland Islands to British sovereignty.

This event is free of charge. Please book electronically by clicking on the TICKETSOURCE icon immediately below the event on www.u3atvnetwork.org.uk This is by far the best and easiest option. You will receive an acknowledgement immediately and the Zoom link a few days before the event.