



Grey skies, cold, no wind or rain, the Germans have a lovely alliterative word for it - 'Dunkelflaute', literally the dark doldrums. Sunnier weather is forecast though not in Scotland where the Hogmanay celebrations have just been cancelled due to the bad weather forecast. On the bright side, although it's still not getting any lighter in the mornings, (until 3<sup>rd</sup> of January), the evening sun is now setting a minute later each day. Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> is the first 8 hour day, so remember to keep taking the vitamin D tablets!

A shorter than usual newsletter this month as the Christmas and New Year holidays curtail activities on the u3a front, but within the next few days the u3a ball will be rolling again so ...

### **Welcome to the January 2025 edition of eNews!**

#### **The Editor's part**

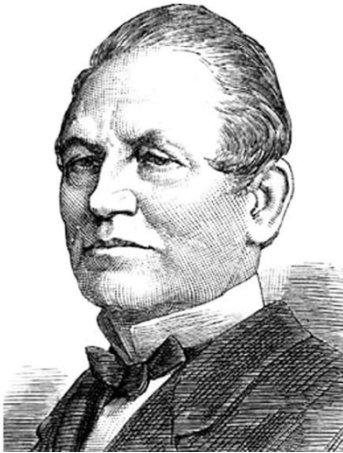
The editor has little to say this month except to repeat my thanks to the team led by Andy Wood and Nigel Worsfold for a fabulous and very funny Christmas revue. In response to some of the feedback we received we will try to hold this very popular event a little earlier in December. In the meantime here are the lovely players, with thanks to Trish Wallis for the picture.



We will be trying to increase the number of member benefits this year too. Please remember that you can join the Nuffield Fitness club at student rates, and now that December is over The Castle Inn in Castle Street will give you and up to three guests a 10% discount on a weekday lunchtime meal if you quote your membership number.

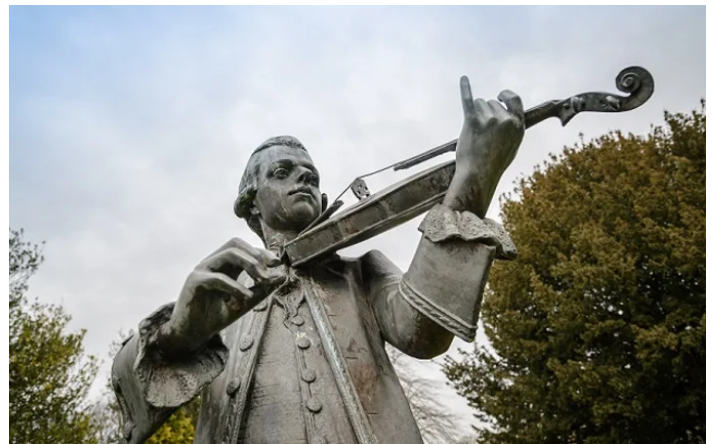
## Important dates for your diary

### Monthly Meetings



A man of contradictions and a great philanthropist, **Thomas Holloway** built a Victorian patent medicine empire, which made him one of the richest men in England. **On 6<sup>th</sup> January at 2pm** in the **Barley Room Dr Judith Hill** will talk about this enigmatic character.

**On 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2pm** in a talk entitled **Prague and Mozart's travels, Jan Parsons** will take us on a photographic journey showcasing the beautiful architecture of the places Mozart visited during his short life, interwoven with the story of his life, his music and his struggles.



### Theme Meetings



A participant in the Easter Rising and one of the founders of The Irish Free State, Michael Collins was the son of a poor farmer from County Cork. He rose from these difficult circumstances to be one of the men who shaped modern Ireland. Charismatic and ruthless, focused on the prize of an Irish Republic, which sadly he didn't live to see. **Andrew Morgan** will introduce this fascinating character in a talk entitled **Michael Collins, Irish Republican** on **17<sup>th</sup> January, at 10:30 am**.

**On 7<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am Adrian Martin** will talk about a subject dear to many of us - music. He will look at **great musicians**, come along and see if you agree with him!

**From Jane Moberly**

## Cuppa and a Chat

A number of us took refuge from the dark damp weather on 10 December to exchange news and views over a cuppa. It's always a delight that so many of you drop in and drift out of these mornings to enjoy each other's company and the simple art of conversation. The next opportunity to do so is on **Thursday, 16 January**.

## Christmas quiz

December 6 saw quizzers assembled in near capacity numbers to pit their festive wits against all comers and claim victory.

There was a moment of drama when knocking was heard from the hatch area. Marie Ash, a loyal helper and supporter, had got locked in the kitchen in the dark. Happily she managed the great escape single handedly, and no harm was done.

The winning team revelled in Santa hats, chocolate teddy bears and well deserved success.

A huge thank you to all of you who have participated in the quizzes over the past year, your enthusiasm rewards the time and effort that the quiz masters expend.

If you have yet to sample a u3a quiz, then why not give it a go on **Thursday, 6 February**?

Both these offerings give members a chance to meet up and enjoy the company of others which underpins the value of the u3a. May the New Year bring you all both some fun and good friendship.

Jane Moberly  
Membership Engagement

Details of all of the quizzes and C&Cs are on the u3a website. You can find them here <https://farnhamu3a.org.uk/social-events/>. You can reach me on [membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:membereng@farnhamu3a.org.uk)

## News from the groups

### From Mandy Caine

#### **U3A Day Trip to Salisbury on 17th December**

Our second day trip was attended by 33 members. However, this time the skies were grey but at least it stayed dry. When we were dropped off in Salisbury members could visit Salisbury Cathedral, Mompesson House, explore the streets and markets to do any last minute shopping, visit some of the amazing art galleries and craft shops or take a wander along the riverside walk.

A warm welcome was received when entering the cathedral and the volunteer guides were more than happy to share interesting facts and historical information with us which added to the visit.

Here's a picture of a stunning reflection inside the cathedral.

Mompesson House was well worth a visit where a Victorian Christmas and traditional Fairy Tales merged into an unforgettable experience.



Dates for the diary:

**30th January** – A chance to visit The Natural History Museum, V&A, Science Museum or take a wander to Harrods and Harvey Nicholls – your choice

**27th February** – Orchid Festival at Kew

**27th March** – Ideal Home Show at Olympia

For more information contact Mandy at [u3adaytrips2@outlook.com](mailto:u3adaytrips2@outlook.com)

## One Community Interest Company

**Hive Helpers** is a small local CIC ( where all the profits are distributed locally) aiming to improve the mental and physical wellbeing of adults and children in the local community through beekeeping and nature conservation activities. Amongst other activities they run free workshops for children. Here's one being run at Bright Horizons Day Nursery.



Their mission is to: INSPIRE care for pollinators; IMPACT positively on local habitats; IMPROVE mental & physical wellbeing. Read more about them at <https://www.hivehelpers.co.uk>

## Other dates of interest

### From the Maltings own programme:

Each month we highlight three or four events from the Maltings programme.

#### **Small things like these Wednesday, 15<sup>th</sup> January**

Whilst working as a coal merchant to support his family, Bill Furlong (Cillian Murphy) discovers disturbing secrets kept by the local convent.. A slow burn drama based on the novel by Claire Keegan.

One for the grandchildren, **Paddington in Peru** follows Paddington and the Browns as they go to Peru in search of Paddington's grandmother who has gone missing. A heart-warming family adventure featuring Ben Wishaw, Hugh Bonneville and Olivia Colman

To a guitarist of a different sort, **Bob Dylan** fans will want to make a note of **Girl from the North Country**, a big Screen Musical showing in the Great Hall on **14<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm**. Featuring 20 of Dylan's best-known songs as they've never been heard before this musical is set in Duluth Minnesota in 1934.

On **27<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm and 7pm David Tennant** stars in a critically acclaimed version of **Macbeth** (5 stars in both the Telegraph and the Guardian) filmed at the Donmar Warehouse. Unsettling intimacy and brutal action combine at breakneck speed in this tale of love, murder and nature's power of renewal.

Please do think about becoming a member of the Maltings. Films for £6 and 10% off food and drinks! Details on the Maltings website.

## William Cobbett Memorial Lecture

When you have finished your Christmas lunch, you might care to think about self-sufficiency in food. It is a subject which William Cobbett addressed in his *Cottage Economy*. BBC journalist Max Cotton took inspiration from Cobbett's work for his Growing Solo project, in which he attempted to live on produce from his smallholding in Somerset. The project featured in a Radio 4 series earlier this year. Max will talk about his experiences at the Maltings on **Friday, January 10,** at 8:00 pm.

Tickets £10 from the Maltings box office.

## From Richard Morris

The Surrey Churches Preservation Trust presents:

**A public lecture: Rebuilding Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris – Relearning the Art and Science of the Great Mediaeval Anglo-Franco Cathedrals: Thursday 23 January 2025, 7pm, Guildford, Surrey**

You can find out more and book here:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/guildford/st-peters-catholic-school/rebuilding-notre-dame-cathedral-relearning-the-art-and-science-of-great-mediaeval-cathedrals/2025-01-23/19:00/t-zzmzmpz>

Advance booking only - tickets are expected to sell very quickly: - secure yours without delay.

## News from the Committee

In a short meeting to make way for our (self -funded) Christmas lunch at the Castle Inn we discussed safety at some length after one member raised a concern about arrangements for members with restricted mobility. As a result we are now reviewing these arrangements with the Maltings and others and I will write to all members with clear and updated information in the coming weeks. I would in the meantime urge members to update emergency contact details on the Beacon database. To do this, search using 'Farnham u3a member login' then login in with your email and password and then enter the name of the person to contact in an emergency and their mobile or landline phone number in the emergency contact line. Press 'update personal details' to save the details and you are done. This will apply particularly to members who joined before September 2021. Any problems, please contact [members@fanhamu3a.org.uk](mailto:members@fanhamu3a.org.uk)

Our generally excellent website is also being reviewed as some sections are somewhat out of date and we want to improve ease of use too. More to come on this as we make some progress.

## ...and finally

They never stop....

- My New Year's resolution was to read more... so I turned on the subtitles on the television.

- Youth is when you're allowed to stay up on New Year's Eve. Middle age is when you're forced to. Old age is when you're just happy to see another year when you wake up.
- I think progress is a wonderful thing, it's change I can't stand.
- Every year we have the grandchildren round on New Year's day for a treasure hunt in the garden. This year we had a pretty good haul, three trowels, two pairs of secateurs and a set of false teeth.
- There's a reason why fifty, sixty and seventy don't look the way they used to, and it's not because of feminism or better living through exercise. It's because of hair dye. (Nora Ephron)
- It's hard for me to get used to these changing times. I can remember when the air was clean and sex was dirty (George Burns)
- And finally from the church noticeboard "Year eights will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement on Friday at 7pm. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy."

Have a healthy and Happy New Year!

Philip

