

OXFORD U3A
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – 2018

GROUP

Convenor

ART APPRECIATION

John O'Brien

This group meets once a month, usually around 11.00am on a Thursday for an hour's duration, to visit some of Oxford's outstanding cultural centres. Our aim is to highlight some of these collections and exhibitions but also appreciate Oxford's wide spectrum of architecture within its colleges and departments. Each event is under the supervision of a professional expert, providing a useful insight. Knowledge of art and design is not essential; these group activities are very informal and fun too.

BOOK CLUB

Betty Carman

Details: Time – 10.15am–12.15pm, second Friday of the month, in the Mary Towner Room at West Oxford Community Centre, Botley Road, Botley, OX2 0BT. Close to a good bus route and with parking facilities; refreshments are also available from the cafe. Discussion of diverse writings, biography, historical novels, poetry, and any genres which are members' favourites.

CHURCHES & PUBS

Margaret Lipscomb

Details: Time – usually 11.30am, first Tuesday of the month at a selected church, or place of worship, where we spend about an hour learning about the history of the place, usually with an introduction or talk by the minister or member of the congregation. This is followed by lunch in a nearby pub, café or restaurant.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Bruce Graham

Details: Time – 2.30pm, second Tuesday of the month, at the host's house in Kidlington. Photographic themes are set each month, the results of which are discussed at the following month's meeting.

FRENCH

Jean Robert

(Intermediate)

Details: Time – 10.00–11.30am, on 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month, in members' homes in Oxford. Conversation, reading, translation etc, with members planning programmes and leading the group in turn.

GERMAN CONVERSATION

Ursula Kneisel

Details: Time – 11am–12.30 on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in each other's homes.

We start with coffee and biscuits, and a lively discussion on various topics often including politics, followed by reading a simple short story, an article from the Internet, occasional poems, exercises in grammar, or quizzes.

HISTORY

John O'Brien

Details: Time 2.00pm, on first Friday of the month in a member's home.

Before the year starts we decide on a general theme and each member selects a specific relevant topic pertaining to this, which we hope will interest others too! Monthly, each

subject is presented by an individual member – a discussion then follows. The overall theme for 2018 is *Historical Aspects of Certain Countries*: India; Ethiopia; Vietnam; Kenya; Paraguay; Russia; Mauretania; Chile; and France.

LATIN

Rosemary Burton

Details: Time – 2.15–4pm, currently on alternate Wednesdays but may move to another day from March.

This is a group for people with a good previous knowledge of Latin who would like to refresh and extend their knowledge of Latin authors. We are currently using Jones and Sidwell's *Reading Latin*, but will shortly be moving on to McDonald and Widdess, *Latin Anthology for GCSE*, which contains selections from original Latin writers, arranged under themes such as 'Vice and Virtue'. The group is not suitable for beginners.

LUNCH CLUB

Liz Storrar

Details: The Lunch Club provides an opportunity for members to get to know other members in a friendly and relaxed environment. Lunches take place on the third Tuesday of the month at different restaurants and are organised by various members within the group. All Oxford U3A members are welcome. Lunches are advertised in the monthly email update and will be announced at Thursday meetings.

OPERA

Helen May

Details: Time – 2pm, monthly on Tuesdays at the home of Helen May. Music by video, DVD or CDs followed by a general discussion.

PHILOSOPHY

Barbara Topley

Details: Time – 10am, first Wednesday of each month at the Convenor's home. Short presentation by one of the group on a topic in philosophy, decided upon in advance, followed by general discussion in the group led by the chair.

POETRY READING

Ann Edmunds

Details: Time – 2pm, at members' houses in turn on the third Tuesday of the month, except July, August and December. Each member reads own choice of poem on a theme or from a poet chosen in turn.

READING FOR PLEASURE

Elizabeth Bremner

Details: Time – 2.15pm, fourth Tuesday of the month at a member's house. Discussion on the book of the month chosen by members in turn. No meetings in July, August and December.

SPANISH CONVERSATION

Elizabeth Bremner

Details: Time – 10am, second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Three members act as hosts in turn. The aim of the group, which consists of people with experience in Spanish, is to learn to speak and write the language with particular emphasis on good grammar.

SUNDAY CLUB

Margaret Lipscomb

Details: Meeting on the second Sunday of the month – time and place to be arranged in advance. An informal group, meeting usually from mid-day or 2pm onwards, for various outings and activities. Excursions include visiting gardens, galleries or museums, taking a river trip, attending music recitals or talks, etc. depending on the time of year and opportunities available. All outings are usually followed by enjoying tea and cake together. New members and ideas for activities always welcome.

WALKING FOR PLEASURE Wendy Thomas

We aim to arrange one walk each month between March and November. These walks are almost always on a Saturday chosen to suit the leader. Most of our walks are in areas around Oxford itself or start in nearby towns and villages which are readily reached by public transport. If there is sufficient interest and some walkers with cars, we may be able to explore a few of those places not too far afield which are not easily reached by public transport but which offer fine walking opportunities. You don't need to be a seasoned walker, just somebody with a pair of stout shoes who likes the open air, can cope with the occasional bit of mud (!) and is able to walk up to four or five miles at a leisurely pace. We reserve the right to postpone a walk if the weather is awful or a leader unwell.

We can always do with more leaders so maybe **you** have a favourite walk you would like to share with us; on the other hand, there may be somewhere you would like us to take you on a walk, e.g. somewhere noted for particular flowers or birds or butterflies: you will find us very willing to listen to your ideas. New members always welcome.

If you are interested in joining one of these groups please contact the SIGs Coordinator. If you have an idea for a new group or would like to set one up, please contact the SIGs Coordinator, Margaret Lipscomb: sigscoordinator@u3aoxford.org.uk