



# Newsletter

## February 2018

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Photograph by  
David Garmont

## MANAGEMENT REPORTS

### November 2017 Management Committee

The Committee were told that 2,012 members had now enrolled for the 2017/18 season. The Treasurer anticipated that this would rise to 2,050 by March 2018, which would be an increase of over 6% on the previous year. There are now over 160 Groups operating within the Swindon U3A umbrella., and although growth brings its own pressures and challenges, the vast majority of members are thoroughly enjoying their experiences.

It was disappointing that fewer than half of the Group Organisers were able to be present at the annual GOs' meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> November. Those present took part in small discussion groups looking at questions such as "How do you engage with/welcome new members to your group?", "What are your group's objectives?", "How has your group changed or evolved over time?", and "How many people in your group take some responsibility – however small?". The feedback is being collated by General Secretary Margaret Goldie.

As a result of questions and discussion at the GOs' meeting, it was agreed that a formal letter should be sent to all Group Organisers re-iterating the law on Data Protection and our policy on what information can be held, and clarifying what information it is acceptable for GOs to hold. This policy will also be available on the website. GOs will be asked to sign an acceptance form, so that the Committee can be clear that the organisation keeps within the law.

Vice-chairman Avril Muirhead has set up the first meeting of the new Events sub-Committee meeting for January and they will consider the planning of future events, including the 2018 Freshers' Fair, a second New Members' meeting for early Spring, and the AGM in October.

**John Williams**

Chairman

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## **December 2017 Management Committee**

The Committee agreed that progress was being made on a number of issues, including its Work Plan 2018 which has 3 main themes: How we wish to take our U3A forward – our aims and objectives; Streamlining the governance structure as the organisation grows in size; and Establishing positive links between the Committee and the Membership.

The governance structure has involved re-constituting the sub-committee structure so that there will now be five sub-committees responsible for Events, Administration, Groups, Publications, and IT Development and Information Governance. Each will be chaired by a member of the Management Committee with at least one other MC member present. Membership from non-committee members and volunteers is welcomed. We need all the input and support we can get, from members with relevant experience and knowledge. New role descriptions for MC members will be approved in February.

The report and largely positive feedback from the November Group Organisers' Meeting is to be published on the website. We are also seeking a volunteer to take on a new role as Data Protection Officer outside of the Management Committee.

The Treasurer reported that membership was up to 2,030 as of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2017.

***John Williams***  
Chairman

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### Monthly Meeting – February 2018

The Cravens and Ashdown House — John Farrow,

For the last ten years, John has been a National Trust guide at Ashdown House which stands in woods between Ashbury and Lambourn, 8 miles east of Swindon. It was built as a hunting lodge in the 1660s by William Craven reputedly to enable his close friend Elizabeth, sister of Charles 1, (known as the Winter Queen), to get away from the plague in London. John will give background to the Craven family and give pictorial descriptions of the House. and the people associated with it.

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### Monthly Meeting—11<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Sevington Victorian School – Dinah Starkey and Celia Jennings

Sevington Victorian School is a perfectly preserved Victorian schoolroom near Chippenham. Dinah and Celia will be telling the story of the redoubtable Miss Squire, who ruled there for more than sixty years, and describing the experiences and reactions of the children who visit the school today.

## Monthly Meeting at The Ellendune Centre

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December

Despite the bad weather there was a good turnout of members for the monthly meeting and there was much tinsel and many Christmas jumpers on display. We were splendidly entertained by our very own U3ukes and U3A Guitar groups led by Phil Goddard. The quality of playing and singing was excellent, and we were even treated to a few jokes from Phil, but I won't comment on them. In the first session we listened to popular favourites from the Beatles like "8 days a week" and the Shirelles "Will you love me tomorrow".

During the interval our wonderful volunteer tea ladies provided free tea/coffee and mince pie.

After the break we had a medley of Christmas songs and the Elvis classic "Return to sender" but my favourite, which brought back many happy memories, was "Have I the right?" by the Honeycombs; the group's signature tune.



## **Report on Monthly Meeting 8th January 2018**

### **'My life as an Auctioneer' with Gordon Brockman**

Gordon gave us a most entertaining and informative talk, within which there was almost certainly a little nugget of information for most of us ! Now with Marlborough Auction Rooms, who had their first Sale recently, he underwent a career change, had major surgery, and during his recovery period he spent a lot of time watching Bargain Hunt and Flog It ! This awakened a new interest in him, and I suppose you could say – the rest is history !

He worked his way up, learning all the way, from unpacking boxes for three years (unpaid), to Porter (paid), reaching the dizzy heights of Head Porter! It then occurred to the current Auctioneer that there was no succession plan – always a big problem ! He therefore became a trainee Auctioneer, further progressing to trainee Valuer. Throughout his talk Gordon impressed the need for his mantra of Reputation and Trust, these qualities being the key to success in a profession which takes him into peoples' homes and selling their possessions for them.

Gordon entertained us with many stories of incidents that happened during his career, all of which were absolutely fascinating. He then took us down the 'put these seven items in value order, starting with the highest' path. After much discussion, he revealed to us that only two were genuine, and the rest were fake.

He reinforced the need for purchasers to carefully examine receipt details for keywords like 'style of' (not real), 'marked Rolex' (not Rolex), and 'money back period' (if not offered, don't buy).

He then spent a while explaining the folly of going straight to House Clearance people – the moral is clear! Call in an Auctioneer first to assess items which may well have far more value than you think, then dispose of everything else. He ended his talk with the story of his highest-value sale item, which went under the hammer for £15,000 – that went to the House Clearance people and not to the family.

A timely warning for us to pass on to our nearest and dearest !

***Lesley Coleman***

## GROUP NEWS

### Coffee Morning

My friend and I have set up a new Coffee morning group in Royal Wootton Bassett and maybe surrounding areas - open to all members. Due to considerable interest we have set up 2 groups which meet fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11.15am at The Cross Keys Pub. You can be assured of a warm welcome. There is always the possibility of staying on for lunch, if anyone chooses. Come along, meet new friends, enjoy interesting conversation. Anyone who is interested and wishes to find out more please contact me by clicking on my name.

[John Turner](#)

### Proposed new Yoga Group

I am hoping to start up a new yoga group within the next couple of months to be held on Thursdays from 10 - 11.30am at Park South Community Centre in Cranmore Avenue.

There is a large bright hall, with good parking, and it is on bus route 17.

If you would like more information, please click on my name to send a message.

[Jackie Hewitt](#)

### Astronomy Group - back in orbit

We are planning to re-start this group on a monthly basis starting with the 2nd Tuesday of February. All prior members of the group will be contacted with final details. If anyone else is interested in joining us to learn more about the universe, planets and stars please contact Chris by clicking on his name.

[Chris Thackray](#)

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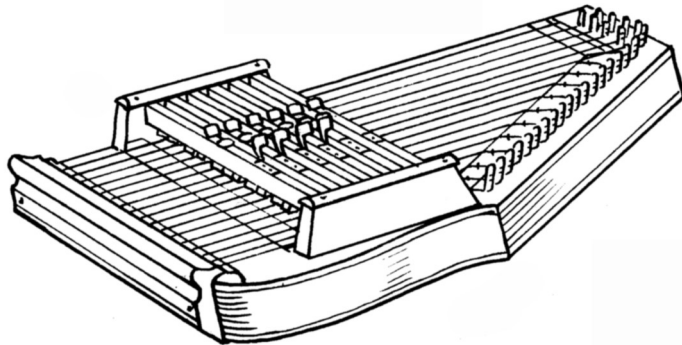
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## Proposed Acoustic Group

I am interested in putting together an acoustic group comprising people who enjoy British Folk Music. Calling all musicians who enjoy folk music, especially folk music from the British Isles. I am looking primarily for musicians who play unusual instruments that most people wouldn't normally see or hear. For example, if you play Northumberland bagpipes, lute, mandolin, autoharp, lap dulcimer or shawm and recorder I would like to hear from you. Fiddles and acoustic guitars or any unusual acoustic instruments are also welcome. I myself play hammered dulcimer. Anyone who may be interested or knows of someone who might be please contact [Stephen Nicholls](#) by clicking his name.



## OUTINGS & TRIPS

### Travel Study Group C & G

#### Visit to

#### Bombay Sapphire Distillery and Winchester

**Monday 26th February 2018**

Includes tour of distillery and cocktail. Free time in Winchester for lunch etc.

Departure times and pick-up points:

9.00am Matalan Greenbridge

9.20am Ashington Way, West Swindon

9.40am Ellendune Centre Wroughton

Depart for Swindon 4.00pm

Cost £25pp includes coach entrance and drivers gratuity

Please note that guests wearing open toed shoes and high heels will not be able to enter the still room.

Contact [\*\*\*Sue York\*\*\*](#) by clicking on her name.

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## **Travel Group D & B**

### **Visit to The Museum of London**

Learn about London before it was London and up to the present day  
Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of February

#### Departure times

8.00 am	Highworth
8.20	Malborough Rd
8.30	Bus station
8.40	Gorse Hill
8.50	Ashington way

Depart for Swindon at 4.30

Cost £20 to include drivers gratuity and coach.

All members welcome

Contact [\*\*Sheila O'Connell\*\*](#) by clicking on her name.

**Travel Group J**  
**Visit to Portsmouth**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

A visit to historic Portsmouth with options to visit the Historic Dockyard, Spinnaker Tower and/or Gunwharf Quays shopping centre.

As our visit coincides with the school Easter holidays you are advised to consider booking historic dockyard attraction tickets on-line in advance.

Departure times and pick-up points:

8.30am Ellendune Health Centre, Wroughton

8.40am Pipers Way

8.45am Coate Water

4.00pm Depart for Swindon

**Cost £18** per person which includes the coach and gratuities

All members and friends welcome.

Contact [Jayne Bellamy or Mike Carvell](#) by clicking on their names.

**Concert Goers Group invite you to**

The Colston Hall, Bristol  
Thursday 12th April 2018 at 7.30pm.  
Pre Concert talk at 6.25pm

Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra presents

Debussy – Rondes de Printemps  
Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor  
Berlioz- Symphonie Fantastique

Departure times and pickup points

16.15 Downsview Rd/Marlborough Road Junction

16.30 Bus Station

16.45 Ashington Way (W Swindon) bus stop

Queries to [\*\*Nina Stimson\*\*](#) by clicking on her name.

Payment required by 5th February, but please contact first.

Cost £37.00 includes ticket, coach and driver's gratuity.

## **Aviation Group**

### **Visit To Imperial War Museum Duxford**

**Thursday 12th April 2018**

Visit this Historic Battle of Britain airfield and museum of aviation history and discover the stories of people who lived and worked at RAF Duxford.

Departure times and pick up points:

08.00am Ellendune Centre Wroughton

08.10am Downes View Rd / Marlborough Rd

08.15am Coate Water

04.00pm Depart for Swindon

Cost £33pp includes, coach, entry to Imperial War Museum, American Air Museum, Airborne Assault Museum, Land Warfare Hall and the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum and driver's gratuity.

There are a number of catering facilities on the site where a variety of snacks or main meals, hot and cold drinks can be purchased.

Contact [\*\*Ken Ivie\*\*](#) by clicking on his name.

**Gardening Group visit**

**Kew Gardens**

**Tuesday 1st May 2018**

**Departure times and pick-up points**

8.30am Ellendune Centre, Wroughton

8.45am Bus Station

9.00am Downs View Road/Marlborough Road

4.30pm Depart for Swindon

**Cost £28pp** includes entrance to Kew Gardens, coach and driver's gratuity.

Contact [\*\*Jeanie Dickie\*\*](#) by clicking on her name.

All members are welcome

## **Travel Group J & Aviation Group Visit To**

### **The Delights & Heritage of Suffolk**

Five Days from 13 - 17 May 2018

Based at the 4\* Stokeby Nayland Hotel on the outskirts of Leavenheath

Day 1 Travel East and spend some free time in Lavenham where you can choose to visit the National Trust's Lavenham Guildhall, an early 16th century framed building that dominates the market place.

Day 2 Our Blue Badge guide accompanies the group when we visit the Norfolk & Suffolk Aviation Museum. Our guide remains with us when we continue in the afternoon to visit the National Trust's Sutton Hoo, an Anglo Saxon burial site where the Sutton Hoo treasure was discovered in 1939.

Day 3 Today with our Blue Badge guide we visit Colchester, the first Roman city in Britain. Our guided tour of the city incorporates a visit to Colchester Castle Museum.

We continue to Constable Country on the Suffolk / Essex border the birthplace of the renowned artist John Constable.

Our guided tour of East Bergholt takes in John Constable's Studio and at Dedham we see Constable's School and Dedham Parish Church. Finally we visit Flatford.

Day 4 This morning, with our Blue badge guide, we visit the picturesque fishing village of Aldeburgh. In the afternoon we visit Christchurch Mansion a Tudor building set in an ancient and beautiful park close to the centre of Ipswich. With outstanding paintings and furniture it is one of the most important visitor attractions in East Anglia.

Day 5 Our last day, we visit English Heritage's Audley House and Gardens, Saffron Walden, one of England's grandest stately homes.

Following our visit we make our way home.

Cost: £499 (Single room supplement £99)

This includes all coach travel and hotel

(Bed, breakfast and evening meal)

Extras: Entrance fees to places visited. Entrance to aviation museum is free and National Trust properties free to members of NT, gratuities.

Insurance £24 (if required)

Departure time and pick up points to be notified at a later date.

For further details contact [Ken Ivie](#) by clicking on his name.

**'Hairspray' at the Everyman Theatre Cheltenham**

For the matinee on Thursday, 31 May 2018 at 2pm. It's a brilliant 'feel good' show.

Tickets are £49 a ticket (transport is included in the price). If we have a full coach there will be a refund on the day.

I would like you to let me know if you would like to reserve a place for you, by clicking on my name below and sending me a message.

Pick-ups will be Asda Orbital 10.15am, Ashington Way 10.30am, Bus Station 10.45am. Transport will be by Barnes Coaches.

[Cherry Warr](#)

**Travel Study Group G**

**Holiday to Liverpool**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

Hotel : Radisson Blu, Liverpool, 4 nights dinner bed and breakfast

**Cost £374** (single room supplement £80)

Includes 2 hour sightseeing tour of Liverpool, 50 minute Mersey Cruise and admission to the Terracotta Warriors Exhibition.

**Deposit £40** by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Balance due by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

**Contact [Sue York](#)** by clicking on her name.

## **Desiderata by Max Ehrmann (1872-1945)**

*Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and ignorant; they too have their story.*

*Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they are vexations to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain and bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans.*

*Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.*

*Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.*

*Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should.*

*Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace with your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.*

**Max Ehrmann** was an American writer, poet, and attorney from Indiana. This prose poem: "Desiderata " which means " desirable things " in Latin, is his most famous work. Aged 40, he withdrew from his life in business to devote his time to writing. He completed Desiderata in 1927, when he was 54, but it only became well known after his death. I hope you find its beautiful and wise words appropriate for the start of our New Year.

***Provided by Lesley Basu***

## NOTICES

### **Newsletter distribution - help needed**

Newsletters are sent out every other month and over a 100 members are involved in their distribution.

Some of our responsibilities involve collecting the newsletters from the printers, batching them, then sending them out to the distributors.

We are looking for two people who can work together and share this role with us.

If you think you could help please send a message by clicking on the names below.

**[David and Jackie Hewitt](#)**

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### **First Aid Courses**

I would like to run another couple of basic first aid courses for members. Before I make any arrangements I would like to check how many people are interested. I am probably looking at sometime in 2018 to run the courses. If you are interested please contact me by clicking on my name below.

**[David Maggs](#)**

## **New Editor**

I'm the new editor of the Swindon U3A Newsletter.

While I'm new to Swindon, I'm not new to the U3A, having been a member of Farnborough & District U3A for over 13 years, the last 4 of which I was editor of their Newsletter. I attended the AGM here and found out that there was a vacancy for an editor!

I was a Chartered Mechanical Engineer, though my last job was as a part time Quality Manager. We moved to Wroughton in August, to be nearer our daughter and her family who live in East Witchel. We have joined the British Social History and Quizzing 2 groups. My other interests are Family History and Railway Modelling and so it will be no surprise that I have joined the Swindon Model Railway Club. I have been using Desktop Publishing software since 1990

***Geoff Bryan***

### **Copy Dates**

Items for the March 'What's On' must be received by

**12th February 2018**

Items for the April Newsletter must be received by

**7th March 2018**

Items for the April 'What's On' must be received by

**12th March 2018**

All contributions must be sent to the Editor using the Newsletter email address or handed in to the office.  
[newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk)

## List of Email Addresses

### General

General enquiries	enquiries@swindonu3a.org.uk
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Office administration	office@swindonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter contributions	newsletter@swindonu3a.org.uk
Webmaster	webmaster@swindonu3a.org.uk

### Management Committee

All members of committee	committee@swindonu3a.org.uk
Chairman	chairman@swindonu3a.org.uk
Treasurer	hon.treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk
Assistant treasurer	assistant.treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk
Treasurer, Assistant treasurer, Office	treasurer@swindonu3a.org.uk
Secretary	secretary@swindonu3a.org.uk
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Group co-ordinator	group.coord@swindonu3a.org.uk
Newsletter distribution	publicity@swindonu3a.org.uk
Monthly meeting speaker organiser	speaker.organiser@swindonu3a.org.uk
Portable appliance testing (PAT)	pat@swindonu3a.org.uk

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The Editor reserves the right to amend or abbreviate any entries submitted.

We should also like to point out that any views expressed are not necessarily those of the organisation or of the Editor.

**Office**

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Chapel Street, Swindon, SN2 8DA

(entry is by middle door on right hand side of building)

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Web : [www.swindonu3a.org.uk](http://www.swindonu3a.org.uk)

Charity Number 298853

**Swindon Film Society - for the best in World Cinema**

**Winter 2018 Programme At Swindon Arts Centre**

- 7 February Burn, Burn, Burn (UK)  
21 February Julieta (Spain)  
28 February Tanna (Australia/Vanuatu)  
14 March After The Storm (Japan)  
28 March Train To Busan (South Korea)

Films start at 7.45 pm

Admission: SFS members £7.00/£6.00, Guests £9.00

For full details, visit our website: [www.swindonfilm.org.uk](http://www.swindonfilm.org.uk)

**Town Gardens Bowls Club**

Have you ever wanted to play Bowls?

We have a lovely setting within the Old Town Gardens and welcome new members.

We are open April - Sept starting with a pre-season meeting in March

We have training for those who have never played before or want to start again

For more information contact: Monica Brian 01793 979100



# The Restaurant

## What's on early in 2018

We are offering a delicious

**Winter Warmer Menu**

between Fri 19th Jan and Thurs 8th Feb

Three course Lunch for £6.00pp

And...

Between the 20th Feb and 29th March

**Spring is in the Air!**

The new Menu will reflect seasonal produce

Book a table of 4 and only pay for 3!!

To make a reservation email: [faithmarles@swindon.ac.uk](mailto:faithmarles@swindon.ac.uk)

Or Tel: 01793 498244

## **Friends of the Ridgeway, Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize**

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of the Ridgeway. And to bring to the attention of members of your U3A an arts prize.

In April 2016 I wrote to you concerning the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize which culminated in an exhibition and prize giving held on April in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington.

The Ridgeway – the oldest road in Britain – historically was a trackway providing a reliable trading route from the Dorset coast along the chalk Downs to the Wash in Norfolk. Today it is not only the oldest road but part of that original route is a National Trail; it is also a wonderful resource for all the communities that live along its route, not just walkers where visitors and locals alike can enjoy walking, riding or just being there.

The Friends of the Ridgeway is committed to the preservation in perpetuity of all the natural aspects and features of the ancient Ridgeway. Details are at <http://www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk> As part of our work The Friends of The Ridgeway have established an annual arts competition and prize – the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize. The aim of the competition is to bring The Ridgeway to life not only as a long-distance trail but as an artistic inspiration, and to show The Ridgeway, its history and environs, in all their aspects throughout all seasons. The theme is 'The Ridgeway: history, ecology, and landscape across the surrounding environs '. There will be classes for painting, sculpture, photography and writing.

We are delighted to announce that we will again be holding an annual arts competition and prize – the Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize.

There will be an exhibition of works submitted for the competition as part of the Ridgeway Friends Day. It will be open to the public on Saturday 21 April and Sunday 22 April 2018 in the Thomas Hughes Memorial Hall, Uffington (Broad Street, Uffington, Oxfordshire, SN7 7RA), located in the centre of the beautiful and historic rural village of Uffington in the Vale of the White Horse.

***Anthony Burdall***

Tel: 01367 240713

Mob: 07841352938

Email: [anthony.burdall@burdall.net](mailto:anthony.burdall@burdall.net)

2 Fernham Road  
Faringdon  
Oxfordshire, SN7 7JY

## WHAT'S ON

### February 2018

Welcome to the monthly What's On information sheet of upcoming events.

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Monthly Meeting** at the Ellendune Centre 2.15pm includes a talk on "The Cravens of Ashdown House".

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February

**The cut-off date for the March What's on**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

**Travel Group J** visit to Royal Hospital, Chelsea. Cost approx. £28 to include coach, driver's gratuity and guided tours. Contact [Barbara & Peter Davidson](#). (See December Newsletter for further information.)

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Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February (new)

**Travel Study Group C & G** visit to "Bombay Sapphire Distillery" and Winchester, includes tour of distillery and cocktail and free time in Winchester for lunch etc. For departure times and pick-up points see February Newsletter. Cost £25pp includes coach entrance and driver's gratuity. Contact [Sue York](#)

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of February (new)

**Travel Group D & B** visit to The Museum of London. Learn about London before it was London and up to the present day. For departure times and pick-up points see February Newsletter. Cost £20 includes coach entrance and driver's gratuity. All members welcome. Contact [Sheila O'Connell](#)

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March

**Monthly Meeting** at the Ellendune Centre 2.15pm includes a talk on "The Queens Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard".

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> April

**Travel Group J**, visit to historic Portsmouth. For departure times and pick-up points see February Newsletter. **Cost £18** per person includes the coach and gratuities. All members and friends welcome. Contact [Jayne Bellamy or Mike Carvell](#)

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> April

**Monthly Meeting** at the Ellendune Centre 2.15pm includes a talk on "The Life and Songs of George Formby".

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Concert Goers Group** are visiting the Colston Hall, Bristol for Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra Concert. Cost £37 (if all 40 tickets sold). See February Newsletter for departure times and pickup points. Contact [Nina Stimson](#) regarding any seats still available.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> April (new)

**Aviation Group** visit to Imperial War Museum, Duxford. Historic airfield and museum of aviation history. See February Newsletter for further information. Contact [Ken Ivie](#)

## Looking further ahead

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> May (new)

**Gardening Group** visit to Kew Gardens. Departure times and pick-up points: - 8.30am Ellendune Centre, Wroughton; 8.45am Bus Station; 9.00am Downs View Road/Marlborough Road. 4.30pm Depart for Swindon. Cost £28pp includes entrance to Kew Gardens, coach and driver's gratuity. All members welcome. See February Newsletter for further information. Contact [Jeanie Dickie](#)

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May

**Travel Group J & Aviation Group** 5 days visit to the delights & heritage of Suffolk. See February Newsletter for further information. Contact [Ken Ivie](#)

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May

**Theatregoers Group** visit to the musical Hairspray at the Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham for a matinee performance. Cost £49 including transport. Payment by 16<sup>th</sup> February. See February Newsletter for further information. Contact [Cherry Warr](#)

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Friday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (new)

**Travel Study Group G** holiday to Liverpool. Hotel "Radisson Blu, Liverpool" 4 nights dinner bed and breakfast. Cost £374 (single room supplement £80) includes 2 hour sightseeing tour of Liverpool, 50 minute Mersey Cruise and admission to the Terracotta Warriors Exhibition. Deposit £40 by Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018 Balance due by Monday 14<sup>th</sup> May. Contact [Sue York](#) See booking form in February Newsletter.

### **Notices**

**Astronomy Group** - back in orbit. We are planning to re-start this group on a monthly basis starting with the 2nd Tuesday of February. All prior members of the group will be contacted with final details. If anyone else is interested in joining us to learn more about the universe, planets and stars please contact [Chris Thackray](#)

**Proposed new Yoga Group** I am hoping to start up a new yoga group within the next couple of months to be held on Thursdays from 10 - 11.30am at Park South Community Centre in Cranmore Avenue. There is a large bright hall, with good parking, and it is on bus route 17. If you would like more information, please contact [Jackie Hewitt](#)

**New Coffee morning group** in Royal Wootton Bassett and maybe surrounding areas - open to all members. Due to considerable interest we have set up 2 groups which meet fortnightly on alternate Wednesdays and Thursdays at 11.15am at The Cross Keys Pub. You can be assured of a warm welcome. There is always the possibility of staying on for lunch, if anyone chooses. Come along, meet new friends, enjoy interesting conversation. Contact [John Turner](#)

**Proposed Acoustic Group** I am interested in putting together an acoustic group comprising people who enjoy British Folk Music. Calling all musicians who enjoy folk music, especially folk music from the British Isles. I am looking primarily for musicians who play unusual instruments that most people wouldn't normally see or hear. For example, if you play Northumberland bagpipes, lute, mandolin, autoharp, lap dulcimer or shawm and recorder I would like to hear from you. Fiddles and acoustic guitars or any unusual acoustic instruments are also welcome. I myself play hammered dulcimer. Anyone who may be interested or knows of someone who might be please contact [Stephen Nicholls](#)

**Friends of the Ridgeway** will again be holding an annual arts competition 2018, the "Swire Ridgeway Arts Prize". The theme of the competition is '*Spirit of the Ridgeway*' with separate classes for painting, sculpture (including ceramics), photography and writing (poetry or prose). Further information can be obtained from website <http://www.ridgewayfriends.org.uk/> or our U3A Office

**Town Gardens Bowls Club** Have you ever wanted to play Bowls? We have a lovely setting within the Old Town Gardens and welcome new members. We are open April - Sept starting with a pre-season meeting in March. We have training for those who have never played before or want to start again. For more information contact: Monica Brian on 979100

**Swindon Arts Centre** Winter programme films

7 <sup>th</sup> February	Burn, Burn, Burn (UK)
21 <sup>st</sup> February	Julieta (Spain)
28 <sup>th</sup> February	Tanna (Australia/Vanuatu)

Films start at 7.45 pm. Admission: SFS members £7.00/£6.00, Guests £9.00. Visit website [www.swindonfilm.org.uk](http://www.swindonfilm.org.uk)

Always be kinder than necessary.  
**James M. Barrie**