

# Overton and District Newsletter 18

## Special Edition FOCUS on GROUPS

As promised in the last **Newsletter** this edition's main focus is on the work of our groups and feedback from the group meetings. So firstly, a big thankyou to those groups who have sent me in a report.



### **Groups Co-ordinator's Report**

Jonathan Rouse

At the recent group leaders' meetings, we were delighted to hear very positive feedback from the leader; their groups were well attended and most were full. We went on to discuss whether there were any other subjects suitable for a new group.

We then considered whether there might be subjects where interest is at present limited to a few people with not enough at this stage to form a group. To further this idea, we decided we should act initially as facilitators to put like interested people in touch and then see if anything developed.

We envisaged situations where people may enjoy a pastime, but do not feel confident enough to join a formal club or do not wish the level of involvement or commitment this may involve.

The first things that came to mind were various pastimes such as: chess, whist, backgammon, dominoes and snooker. People have also mentioned singing or some other form of musical activity and ballroom dancing

For example, we may have 3 or 4 members who enjoy an occasional friendly game of chess but as we have said wish to play purely on a friendly basis without pressure of competition.

We will be asking members if they have any particular interest and would then try to put like-minded people in touch. It would then be up to them to make their own arrangements on a regular or ad hoc basis.

This will probably be a two-stage process. First, we would invite members to let us know if they have an interest at present is not catered for. Second, we would circulate this list to see if there are other members interested and then make the necessary introductions.

If you have an interest you wish to share let Jonathan Rouse the Group Co-ordinator know so we can prepare a list for circulation by email and at the monthly meeting. Please notify Jonathan by email on [jonathanrouse@outlook.com](mailto:jonathanrouse@outlook.com) including your name, contact details and suggested activity. Alternatively complete the form available at a monthly meeting and Jonathan will start to collate your suggestions after the April meeting. We can then prepare a list of your chosen activities for circulation by email and at future meetings.

**Jonathan Rouse**

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**Ontology** This group is led by Marianna Lutyens who asked her members what they wanted to say about their group. This was their response:

**'We Talk – nothing else to say.'**

However, Marianna has given us a little insight into the background of ontology and areas that the 'talk' may cover.

- Ontology is the philosophical study of being. According to Heidegger and Husserl there are a set of ontological categories:
- What can be said to exist
- What is a thing
- Into what categories, if any, can we sort existing thing
- What are the meanings of being
- What are the various modes of being of entities

Heidegger says: What is being – what is Being-ness in its Being.

And that's really it. We meet once a month and we talk and nothing that is said ever gets repeated 'outside'.

***Marianna Lutyens***

### Singles Holidays Group



The Group has been running for two and a half years and has become popular due to the input, enthusiasm and sharing of ideas and our friendly and interesting meetings. Our membership is currently 16 allowing us to get to know each other and bond as a group. We have a small Waiting List from time to time but this is quickly taken up. We meet after the monthly talk in the White Hart which is very close to St Mary's Hall in a private room and enjoy beverages purchased from the bar as well as perusing brochures, hearing about members' latest adventures and discussing the on-going research.



This year holidays and trips have been organised by a member of the group who has researched the initial idea and who then takes names of those interested and communication re bookings and cost is between each other. They report back to the group as a whole at the next main meeting. Contact lists of telephone numbers and email addresses are distributed annually. During the last year members have organised holidays to the Hebrides, a Country and Western weekend on the Isle of Wight, a week in Gran Canaria as well as day and theatre trips and many more are being researched as this goes to press! A Christmas and an 'end of year' lunch in July is organised

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which is fun and a good way of catching up with each other.'

This year we have drawn our horns in



and decided to visit parts of the UK partly to the uncertainty caused by Br.... but also, because many of us, do not know our own country which has much to offer! Although, we have now received brochures about UK trips/visits current costs are difficult to obtain again due to 'Br' uncertainty apparently. Unfortunately, holiday trips to Canada and Italy had to be cancelled.

*Claire Fairgrieve and June Ewing*

The committee understand that after three years Claire and June will be leaving the group in July. They have both enjoyed being part of the group and hope that other members will step forward to take the lead. We wish to thank them both for running such a successful group.

**Mah-jong Group** We now play mah-jong in the Memorial Institute Hall (Stute) on London Road, 100 yards from the traffic lights, every Monday afternoon. There is plenty of room for more players, be they beginners or improvers. Coffee and tea are available plus lovely biscuits.



It is an easy game to learn with the colourful tiles, similar to rummy with cards. So, if you feel inclined to join us, maybe just to see what it is like and try a hand or two. Please email

[adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk)

*Adrienne Major*

**Line Dancing Group** The Line Dancing Group is in full swing with about 25 members. We meet every Friday, from 10.30am to 12 noon. Our instructor David keeps us on our toes and is very coherent in his instruction. We regret that we cannot take any more beginners until September, but we have one or two vacancies for improvers. You would need to have danced for at least one year and be conversant with the terminology, i.e. 'rocking chair, coaster step, weave etc'. If you are interested please email

[adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adrienne.major@hotmail.co.uk)

*Adrienne Major*

## **NEEDED - NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

You recently received an email from Overton and District U3A with the nomination form for new committee members attached. The current committee hope that you are seriously considering putting yourself forward so that our U3A continues to exist and thrive. Nomination forms will also be available at the next monthly meeting and all nominations need to be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> May. This is also the date of our monthly meeting so forms can be handed in then to a committee member. This is in preparation for the AGM 19<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

## Monthly Meeting - March

**You the Jury** -Our speaker was Peter Thompson who was a Barrister in Chambers for 27 years at Temple in London. He was an interesting and entertaining speaker with a great sense of humor and had the audience enthralled with his experiences as a Barrister



## Summer Outing – 17<sup>th</sup> July

### Information update

#### The Postal Museum - Mount Pleasant.



Due to recent increases to the cost of coach hire the visit will now cost between £30 - £35 and will cover the cost of the coach and entry to the Postal Museum. The museum can only accommodate 50 persons per group, so one half of our party will visit the museum in the morning and the other in the afternoon. This means you are free for the morning or afternoon to do as you wish. If you are interested the Dicken’s Museum and the Foundlings Museum are within easy walking distance. You may find the following websites useful:

Dickens Museum

<https://letsgowiththechildren.co.uk>

Foundlings Museum

[www.getyourguide.com/London-Tours/Activities](http://www.getyourguide.com/London-Tours/Activities)

Post Office Museum

<https://www.postalmuseum.org>

### REMINDER APRIL MEETINGS



**17<sup>th</sup> April – Monthly Meeting**

**Cardinal Richelieu**

**Brian Freedland**

Brian began his career as Trainee Manager at the London Palladium and went on to work with The Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Theatre and Sadler’s Wells.

The village of RICHELIEU, in the Touraine, was Brian's home for five years in the 1990s, and his talk mixes happy memories of French village life with the story of the priest who became Europe's greatest-ever statesman and who built the handsome, but badly-sited village alongside the family chateau.

### Extra-Curricular Meeting

**Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm**

## THE HISTORY OF THE ORDNANCE SURVEY

**GEOFF MAY**

*Ex Parliamentary Liaison Officer*

