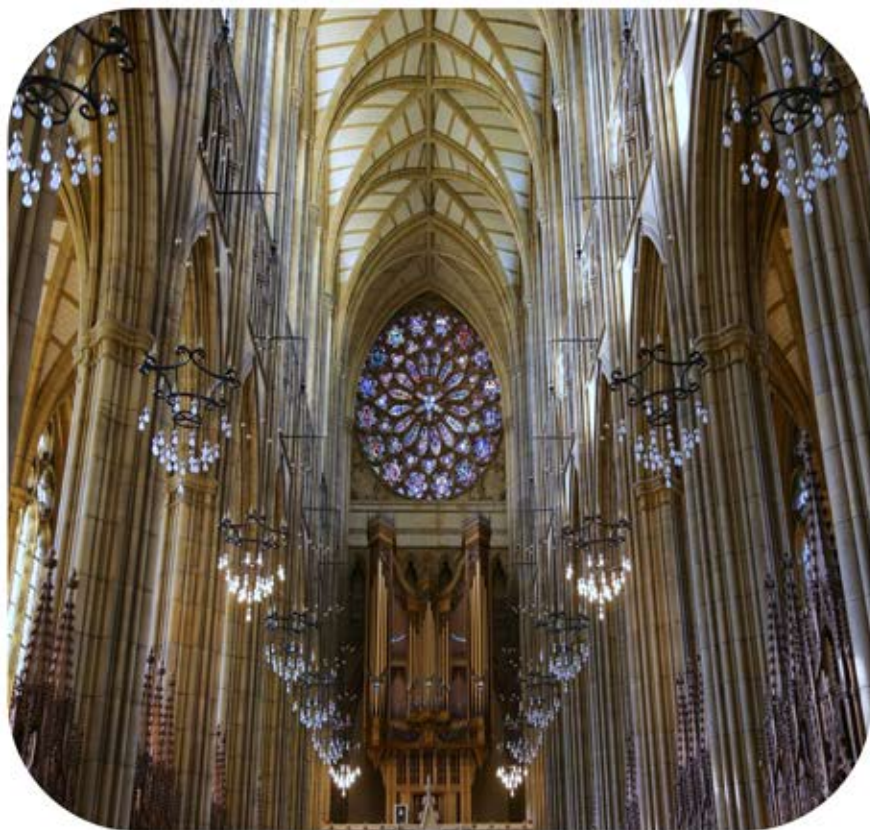




Dorking & District U3A

newsletter



LIGHT AND ELEGANCE, Lancing College
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Number 93

Winter 2018



1. **SUMMER WOOD** painted by Jennifer Wenham, from magazine, artist unknown
2. **BAGGY POINT DEVON**, painted by Brenda Charlton, original in oils
3. **TWELFTH NIGHT**, painted by Margaret Hodgson, from the internet
4. **VENETIAN CRUMBLES**, painted by Margaret Hodgson, from a book, artist unknown.



Letter from the Chairman

When I wrote the Autumn Letter from the Chairman, I didn't know that that edition would be the last Jim Docking would edit. My thanks to him for the many services he has provided for Dorking and District U3A therefore did not include thanks for editing and producing our excellent Newsletter. A little while back there was discussion on the possibility of abandoning our printed version, and the decision was loud and clear: with very little dissent, it was to retain the attractive and lively version Jim had created. So, thank you again, Jim!



We welcome Beryl Sinclair as the new Editor. It is a very complex task, and we thank Beryl for assuming Jim's mantle – taking over from someone who has been very successful is never easy. I hope you will all support Beryl in this period of transition, and please watch for any changes in deadline dates.

And keep an eye on the website for any news and changes that occur between publications. If you have something to announce, you can pass the information to our new Webmaster, Bob Brown (details on Committee page). He will make it available to our members and to any visitors to the website. Short notices for projection at Monthly Meetings should be given to Caroline Brown (details also on Committee page). Caroline has also taken on the task of organising some more informal events, and we look forward to publishing her new ideas.

The survival of D&D U3A is looking more hopeful, and I hope to give you more news about this in a later edition of the Newsletter. A very successful Business Meeting for Group Leaders was held last week at which many administrative matters were announced and discussed. In particular, Bob Crooks presented the Beacon data management system, which we are now beginning to use for the management and protection of any membership details that we need to hold in order to communicate with you. This system is as secure as we are able to make it at this time, and Group Leaders are being asked to get to know the system and to use it in their communications with you.

You are probably all becoming much more aware of scams and security, and you may already have received phone calls and emails which are attempts to obtain information and/or money from you. We shall be inviting a representative from one of the major banks to talk to us all about this, but in the meantime the advice is to put the phone down, to ignore the emails, and to give absolutely no information to anyone. No organisation with a true reason to contact you would use any of these methods.

Best wishes,

Doreen

Membership

Welcome!

A warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since the last issue.

Mrs Angela Ashcroft	Mrs Elisabeth Lewis	Mrs Lesley Norman
Mr Christopher Benefield	Mrs Sally Lowe	Mrs Joanna Olney
Miss Helen Bennett	Mrs Heidi Macnair	Mr Michael Olney
Mrs Beryl Betts	Mr Charles Macrorie	Mrs Janet Ormiston
Mr David Canning	Mrs Mary Macrorie	Mr David Rickard
Mrs Wendy Crozier	Mr Glen Mardell	Mrs Ilse Smart
Dr Alan Goldup	Mrs Janet Morris	Mrs Fiona Taylor
Dr John Hammond	Mrs Elizabeth Mumford	Mrs Marion Trimm
	Mr John Mumford	

Membership for 2018-2019

We now have 775 members of whom 705 have paid. Could we respectfully remind you that membership subscription for 2018-19 was due on 1 April 2018.

If you have not yet renewed and paid your subscription fee you may do so via GoCardless on our website, www.dorkingu3a.org.uk, or by cheque payable to Dorking & District U3A and mailed to *Bob Crooks, U3A Membership Secretary, Deepdene, Longfield Road, Dorking RH4 3DE*.

Subscription rates remain unchanged at £16 for one person, or £28 for two people at the same address. If you joined after 31 October 2017 your membership is already paid through to 2019.

If you don't have an email address, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

We have now bought into a new membership system called Beacon which enables Group Leaders and Committee Members to monitor group membership. Whilst it ensures that personal details remain confidential, it enables easier communication with all those registered with D&D U3A.

Bob Crooks, Membership Secretary

Tribute to Inga Avery, 1926-2018

Inga Avery, who led the German Conversation group for many years, sadly died in September at the age of 91. She only relinquished her role in January this year.

Her deep knowledge of German language and culture, allied to her natural curiosity and interest in the world, made her an inspiring group leader. She always displayed a lively interest in the conversation, whether we were relating our own activities during the past fortnight or discussing topics ranging from art and music to history and politics. Always she would ask questions and want to know more details. Her own special interest was of course languages; she knew German, English, Russian and Italian – and had only recently begun learning some French too! She was a born linguist and a natural teacher.

She loved getting out and about and was a keen visitor to the National Theatre in London until failing sight and reduced mobility intervened. At home she listened to audio books and could receive German television. Her interest in the world around her remained undimmed until the very end.

She succumbed finally to pneumonia and died peacefully with her daughter at her bedside. Her funeral service was a moving occasion, attended by her family and many friends. It included readings in German and was relayed, via skype, to her sister and other family members in Germany. Inga had a remarkable life and was an exceptional person; she will be fondly remembered and much missed.

Ian Codd

Poetry unlimited!

I am the poet laureate...
and from this exalted state,
it is incumbent to relate
what happens on a Monday,
with our dear leader Pam.
Some ladies and a man (or two)
assemble at some fine venue.
They all are lovers of the muse
and come along with their own views
about the poet of the day.
Milton, Lear or who can say;
poor young Plath or lofty Keats,
Shakespeare, Eliot, and Yeats.

Sometimes a subject, or emotion;
memory, love or travel's chosen.
Nonsense, humour, light or fire,
To see which poet can aspire
To put the subject best in verse.

Some forms of poems so obscure,
they are known only to a few or,
to Google or our select troupe,
the Poetry Unlimited Group.
All know Sonnets, but villanelle;
how many ells we need to spell.
Haikus too as known to us,
we write, them now with little fuss.

One must prepare a verse to read.
But 'tis allowed to read instead
a special poem one has writ,
to entertain the members wit.
If the inspiration of the muse
imbues the poet with the views
which fit the subject of the day.
And if it's worthy well it may
Be included in the Collected Works of
the D&D branch of the U3A
Poetry Unlimited Group.
One day.

J.G. a member of the Poetry Group

Group News

Sunday Lunch Group

Are you on your own? Why not join us for Sunday lunch and a chat. We meet about every three weeks and visit various pubs/restaurants.

Rosemary Smith, 01306 252792; smithrosemary@sky.com

German Conversation Class

Our German Conversation Class is going strong. We now usually meet every 1st and 3rd Monday from 2.15 – 4.00. The venue is now the home of leader Dorit Moody.

Dorit Moody, 01372 450956; doritmoody@outlook.com

Second Bridge Group

Our popular Bridge Group meets at Dorking Christian Centre on Monday afternoons but to avoid future pressure on accommodation, we would like to start up a second group on another weekday. This would provide choice for existing members and give an opportunity for new members who are not able to manage Mondays.

We would prefer to set up the second Group also at the Christian Centre as it has suitable furniture for card games but its popularity as a venue will limit the days we can book. To assess the level of interest, we would like to hear from members interested in joining a second Bridge Group and get their views about where and when we might meet. If we find that the Christian Centre is not a practical option then there are other venues in or near Dorking which we are willing to investigate.

Please email or telephone your views to me as soon as possible.

*Lionel Cartlidge, Groups Co-ordinator
eljaysee@ljcartlidge.co.uk
01306 898491*

The House of Cards!

Listen up, good people ~ the new U3A Card Group has lifted off and we shall be meeting at Lincoln Arms on the first and third Wednesday afternoons of each month, from 2.30-4.30.



This group won't be playing Bridge, as Dorking already has two U3A Bridge groups, but our coffee meeting recited a long list of potential games, from Canasta and Cribbage, to Newmarket and Rummikub. We came to no firm conclusions about which to start with, but we'll get one or two games under our belts during the first few weeks and then expand the options as we go.

We did make two firm decisions ~ for some games at least, we will establish "house rules" to avoid the possibility of differing interpretations and, most importantly ~ **THERE WILL BE LAUGHTER!**

For myrthful details, please contact *Mike Giles* mibridge@mac.com; 01306 884598

Opera Appreciation Group

We don't expect to emulate the glory days of Jock Blackadder and his loyal following, but we have recently regrouped very happily in the home of Paddy Driver. Mike Stewart has a huge DVD opera collection which we can gratefully plunder. We would welcome new members and enthusiasts.

Joyce Kingsley-Jones joycekingsleyjones@hotmail.co.uk

U3A Handbells—a re-SOUNDING success!



Brockham Bells led by Helen Kendrick and Reigate and Dorking U3A Bells led by me, joined in a 'mini rally' on 2 November at North Holmwood Church Hall. The event included playing a few pieces together - amazingly making quite a nice sound! - then each group in turn played its 'party piece'. Everyone enjoyed playing together and it was agreed to repeat the experience, next time in Reigate. There's always room for new recruits in our group (preferably who can read music) to join the fortnightly sessions in the Lincoln Arms, Dorking. They should contact me first to find out more! We will be playing carols at the Westcott Nursing Home on Friday morning, 14 December.

Jill Sorrell, Dorking U3A Handbells, 01306 740732

Painting for Pleasure



This is certainly an appropriate title for our groups - we are friendly, lively and enthusiastic with varying skill levels in our approach to the medium of water colour. We learn from each other, asking for and receiving advice, support and encouragement. We have also become a group of friends who enjoy a chat over a cup of coffee, or two, sometimes managing to dip our brushes in our coffee by mistake !!

Pauline Whitehead

Meet the Editorial Team



When Jim approached me a year ago to help edit the Newsletter, I did not think that I would be stepping into his very large shoes this autumn. His many years' writing and editing articles for the U3A is a hard act to follow. I have been a member of the U3A for less than two years, so it is with some trepidation that I take the helm for the Newsletter with the help of a newly formed Editorial Team.

I already owe thanks to Rosemary Harbridge for her diligence in editing the text and Elizabeth Holmes who quietly but steadfastly organises distribution of over 700 copies of the printed Newsletter, come rain come shine. I am also grateful for all contributions received for this issue.

I believe the Newsletter should not only inform people of the many activities the D&D U3A organises, but it should also hail loudly the gifts of the people who take part. We aim to produce only three editions of the Newsletter and we hope these will continue to include articles, poems and photographs on matters of interest which give a snapshot of the life of our U3A.

For me, joining the U3A seems a natural way to end a career of 40 years in publishing and education, as it brings together people with common passions and a love of sharing knowledge and skills. But the U3A does much more - it fills voids at so many levels. Long live the U3A!

Beryl Sinclair

◀ *Monthly Meetings*

Egypt Nomads to Nation: speaker Janet Diamond

12 September 2018

We have long been fascinated by the wondrous civilisation developed in the Nile valley which endured for 3000 years. How did it begin and grow from scattered groups of hunter-gatherers into a rich and skilful economy subsequently becoming the first nation state?

Janet Diamond used her extensive knowledge to illustrate the reasons why the early Egyptians had to move from their grassland homes. At the end of the last ice age (10,000 years ago) climate change began the process of desertification and forced the nomads to move into the Nile valley which would henceforth supply the natural resources they could exploit. The annual inundation of the valley by water carried by the Blue Nile from the Ethiopian highlands guaranteed the continuing fertility of the soil and a rich agrarian society. The Nile Valley, the Delta and the Fayum oasis provided natural wealth in wildfowl, fish and papyrus for flax and for paper.

The early Egyptians became self-sufficient in most of the resources they needed which over time

encouraged an insular society. They had a rich diet and could make pottery. They had gold, semi-precious stones and nascent skills in the working of stone. They were dependent on the river for trade and communication since they had not then discovered horses, camels or the use of the wheel. A system of control promoted the power of the pharaoh whose divinity was a tenet of Egyptian religious belief.

The unification of the Two Lands (upper and lower Egypt) occurred under the Pharaoh Narmer (c.3500 BCE) who is shown on the famous Palette wearing the two crowns.

The nation state grew in wealth and power during the First and Second Dynasties confirming the king's divine status and developing the stone culture for the beginning of the pyramid age initiated by the Pharaoh Djoser (c.2650 BCE) with the Step Pyramid at Sakkara.

Janet gave us a delightful and insightful summary of early Egypt and we look forward to hearing further chapters of the story.

Lionel Cartledge

Palestine Beyond the Wall: speaker Jan Parsons

10 October 2018



(photo by Robert Edmondson)

Jan Parsons described the geography and social tensions of Palestine. The building of Israeli settlements on the West Bank has led to huge eco-political unrest. Whilst Israel has enjoyed large numbers of visitors in recent years, tourism in Palestine has declined significantly probably due to the fear terrorist attacks.

The restricted entry for Israelis into Palestinian controlled areas of the West Bank is felt by many to be at the root of racial segregation and poor quality of life. The 'separation wall' - mooted as a security measure - and the watchtowers bear witness to the strict control when crossing into the various zones.

Bethlehem, a sprawling noisy city, still attracts many pilgrims who come from as far afield as India and Brazil to visit the holy sites. Some of the key sites in and around Bethlehem include: the Church of the Nativity, which has been under restoration for the past four years with only the

High Altar not enshrouded in sheets, the viewpoint of Roman Herodium and the Monastery of Mar Saba – with caves hewn from rock – still home to 20 monks and overlooking the Kidron valley.

The ancient city of Hebron with its synagogues and minarets, accommodates many Israeli Jews and security at the Ibrahimi Mosque is extremely tight, with multiple checkpoints and guards with Kalashnikov guns.

The old city of Jerusalem is made up of four quarters and Temple Mount and includes the Jewish cemetery, the Mount of Olives and the Haredim. The Haredi - orthodox Jews - still play a prominent part in the politics of Jerusalem and demonstrations are not uncommon. Within the city it is only possible to enter the holy area of Temple Mount subject to strict security via a walkway which overlooks the Western Wall. The Christian quarter includes the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, run by five different Christian communities with pilgrims visiting since the fourth century, and Bethesda, heralded as the birthplace of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Tony Parker

Consumers' Chemistry, Dr Ann Hubbard

14 November 2018

Dr Ann Hubbard, a member of the Royal Society of Chemistry, gave us an informative and entertaining presentation. Using ordinary everyday substances, such as cleaning materials and drinks, she demonstrated that chemistry is all around us. Reminding us of the chemistry we learned at school, that materials are all either solids, liquids or gases, she used models to demonstrate atoms and molecules.

Solids can be made waterproof or change characteristics, depending on the way the molecules are put together. Dr Hubbard showed how Goretex can let water-vapour (perspiration) out, without letting water (rain) in. As an encouraging aside, she mentioned that chemists are now working on making such plastic materials biodegradable.

Water has a very special molecule which enables it to be a liquid at room-temperature, but when it freezes at 0 degrees C, the solid ice sits on the surface rather than sink to the bottom. She also showed how another common household liquid, bleach, can be anti-bacterial and cleansing.

We all know about the common

gases in the air, oxygen and nitrogen, but she showed how nitrogen can be used in a packet of crisps to keep the contents from going soft. She made a special plea for us not to waste the finite amount of the gas helium on balloons – it is much too special as it cannot be manufactured, only collected, and is an essential ingredient in MRI scanners. Finishing off with demonstrating the propellant power of hydrogen, she fired a plastic bottle filled with hydrogen across the hall.

Three male assistant chemists helped with the presentation but Dr Hubbard was the star performer, with an easy-going manner and a sense of humour.

For many years, Dr Hubbard has given such talks on everyday chemistry, modifying them to suit her audience and was awarded the Shaw medal for the dissemination of chemical science. She made a strong case for encouraging children (and your grandchildren) to pursue a career in chemistry – or other sciences.

Geoff Saunders



Dr Ann Hubbard, with colleagues Dr Houtan Sadeghi, Dr John Hanson and Dr John Harbridge at the U3A monthly presentation. Photo courtesy of Robert Edmondson.

Scams for U!

At the Surrey U3A Network meeting on 25 October, Sue Lambert of the NatWest 'Friends against Scams' outlined the problems of knowing when we are being scammed and how. Whereas all of us will have been scammed at some point, only 5 per cent of scams are actually reported. Up to £10 billion pounds may be lost to scams each year as criminals become increasingly professional and extreme in their approach to victims. For more information and advice on whether passwords or personal data have been compromised, go to www.ageuk.org.uk/scams or haveibeenpwned.com.

Scams can take a multitude of forms such as cold calling or junk mail. But more recently with the advance of online or mobile phone banking, we are all at the mercy of *smishing* or *phishing*, phone messages that ask you to click on a link but are just fraudulent attempts to obtain sensitive information such as usernames, passwords and credit card details. The bottom line—**THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK!**

Bob Brown has become a recognised Scam Champion, and would welcome any calls should you require advice or further information. (webmaster@dorkingu3a.org.uk or 07842 929676)

Residential Visit: Berlin 5-8 October 2018

(John Holder's full report is on our U3A website)

On a misty morning 17 intrepid travellers (including two ladies from neighbouring U3As) made a very early start to get to Gatwick by 6.30 am. As bad luck would have it, fog delayed most easyJet flights that day but we eventually took off some 3 hours late. While this curtailed our first day's visits, we still managed a guided coach tour of the main sights such as Checkpoint Charlie and the East Side Gallery murals including the famous Brezhnev/Honecker kiss. We then checked into the Park Inn, a large, busy conference hotel centrally located on Alexanderplatz. As one of the highest buildings in Berlin it features a roof garden on the 40th floor and base flying (akin to bungee jumping) from the top so that the odd body was seen plummeting past our windows!

On our second day we journeyed for an hour by coach to Potsdam, heading first for Cecilienhof. This palace, built for Crown Prince Wilhelm and his wife Cecilie, was completed in 1917, but resembles a Tudor manor house with many ornate chimney stacks. Occupied in 1945 by the Soviets, the palace hosted the conference at which Churchill (succeeded by Attlee), Truman and Stalin agreed the zoning of Berlin and the controversial redrawing of the Polish/German border.



PALACE OF SANS SOUCI AT POTSDAM

(photo Julie Mellows)

In the afternoon we enjoyed a guided tour of Sans Souci, the summer palace of Frederick the Great of Prussia. This elegant villa in the rococo style overlooks Versailles-like gardens in which we were free to stroll.

On Sunday morning we made the short journey to Charlottenburg, via an avenue filled with modern detached embassies, reflecting their national architectural styles.



CHARLOTTENBURG PALACE
(photo John Holder)

The palace was built for Sophie Charlotte, wife of Frederick 1 and sister of King George 1. Although badly bomb-damaged in the second World War, it has been reconstructed and we were treated to what amounted to a private viewing of the recently restored Knobelsdorff Wing.

Highlights included a beautiful sculpture of Queen Louise reclining on her death bed, the elaborate rococo Golden Gallery and a collection of French paintings, including Watteau's *L'Enseigne de Gersaint*.

After lunch we visited nearby museums including the Berggruen collection of paintings by the likes of Picasso, Klee and Matisse and the excellent Brohan Museum of Art Nouveau and Art Deco furniture and artefacts. We spent the afternoon at the Jewish Museum, designed by Daniel Libeskind.

The building, in post-modern de-constructivist style, is full of symbolism and features slanting corridors, dead ends, voids and slit windows. We were led to the Holocaust Tower and the Garden of Exile. For many the most memorable exhibit was *Fallen Leaves*, in which we were able to walk noisily on a carpet of 10,000 steel faces in a dark confined space. Berlin has clearly decided to confront the horrors of the Nazi era. Elsewhere in the City centre on several occasions we passed the so-called Holocaust Memorial, which comprises 2700 grey concrete slabs of various shapes and sizes set on a sloping field.

On Monday we walked to the Museum Island complex. Some of us explored the New Museum housing an Egyptian collection including a famous bust of Nefertiti, while others relaxed on a one-hour boat trip on the Spree river with commentary.

We reassembled for a guided tour of the Pergamon Museum with its huge reconstruction of the Market Gate from Miletus and the Ishtar Gate of Babylon.



**KAFFEE UND KUCHEN AT
THE REICHSTAG**
(photo John Holder)

In the afternoon we had all pre-booked a visit to the Reichstag to which we travelled by coach passing through the Federal District with its landscaped Government buildings.

After generous portions of cake and coffee in the rooftop restaurant, we were free to enter the spectacular dome designed by Norman Foster as part of the reconstruction of the ruined building. A 230 metre ramp spirals up and down round the all-glass dome, affording impressive views.

On the way to Tegel Airport in the afternoon, we stopped at the Allied Museum containing memorabilia of the Airlift and the Cold War years.

None of us had energy to sample Berlin's legendary nightlife and thoughts of Fat Billy may fade, but we are grateful to Jim for organising such a memorable trip for his swansong.



THE REICHSTAG DOME
(photo John Holder)

STOP PRESS—spring and autumn residential!

If this report has whetted your appetite for a U3A trip, watch out for more information on a 5-day trip to Jersey, planned for early April 2019. There will be a possible trip to Brittany for the autumn. Information will be available on the website or contact **Ianthe Cox** (01737 843105; ianthecox72@gmail.com) or **Austra Harmon** (01737 844830; austraharmon@hotmail.com) for further details.

Days Out

Buckler's Hard, 3rd September

Photographs by Bob Brown



Under a clear sky, with a full coach of 36 U3A members, we made our way to Buckler's Hard which lies with the Beaulieu river at the heart of Beaulieu Estate in the New Forest. The origins of the estate can be traced back to 1244 when Cistercian monks were granted this part of the New Forest by Royal Charter but the Abbey they built was ransacked by Henry VIII in 1538.

Buckler's Hard originally started off as a sugar port in 1720 but it became a naval shipbuilding centre in the 1740's, building many ships which fought at Trafalgar.

Buckler's Hard got its name from the Buckler family and from 'Hard' meaning a natural landing place.

After a century as a shipyard, the village became a sleepy backwater until it was again discovered by Victorian tourists.

We learnt how certain expressions came into the English language. When the ship makers were sawing through a whole tree positioned over a pit, the man on top was called '*top dog*' and the poor man in the pit was the '*under dog*'. On board ship, crew men ate from square plates held in place by a groove on the table, hence the expression '*a square meal*'. Workers kept their tools in a sack but when dismissed, they were told to get their sack. Hence '*getting the sack*'.

In the Maritime museum we saw how the ships were built and got an insight into the life at the time. In the afternoon we enjoyed a cruise on the Beaulieu river and got a different view of the gullies and the village before making our way back home, after what was a very interesting day.



Shoreham Airport & Lancing College, 18 October

Joan Cuthbert

Photographs by Paul Smith

As our Harding's coach approached the green rolling hills of the South Downs, the overcast weather gave way to bright sun which lit up the impressive landmark of Lancing College and Chapel while on the other side of the road, we first glimpsed Shoreham Airport.

After passing many engineering buildings and hangars we drew up in front of the main airport building. Walking into the Art Deco building, with its square clock permanently displaying 3pm, felt like stepping back in time as we enjoyed a welcome mid-morning coffee in the 1920s style lounge and listened to themed music.



Our guide Tim led us to the aircraft hangar where we learnt how to recognise the light aeroplanes by the letters and numbers on the side of the plane. This low-lying area floods easily and is often closed in

bad weather, despite the presence of well-equipped Fire Services vehicles being on site to safeguard the buildings.

The Main Building with its many opening French doors would have served as reception and departure lounges when the airport was in commercial use in times past. We were shown the aircraft used in helicopter and flight training and were told how the wings are made of skeleton framing covered with light weight strong fabric, each part of the 'skeleton' individually knotted in place by hand from top to bottom of the wing – safety in numbers – no AA services in the sky!



The afternoon was devoted to visiting the largest college chapel of any Public School. No words can describe the magnificence of the building, more reminiscent in proportion of an abbey than any college chapel I know.

A local curate Nathaniel Woodard founded the original school and chapel in 1848.

The main construction took from 1868 to 1911 and the Rose window was finally installed in 1978, thanks to a lucky donation of supporting pillars.

The Sussex sandstone and columns came from a nearby quarry. A limestone quarry was purchased to provide the flying buttresses, whilst the floor was made from shipwreck salvage.

The *cardo* of stone made up the centre floor of the Main Chapel, where you can also see some delightful carvings.

Outside, views stretched far over the airport out to sea, leaving us with a lasting memory of a wonderful day.

Whitchurch Silk Mill and the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, 8 November

Sue Woodward

On a glorious Autumn day 45 U3A members made the coach trip to Whitchurch Silk Mill in Hampshire. It is a working silk mill using historic machinery and is in a lovely setting on the banks of the river Test. The river also helps to operate the mill wheel.

Two students were being taught how to operate a loom, hoping to keep old traditions alive.

After a light sandwich and quiche lunch, we continued on to Laverstoke Mill. Originally a paper mill acquired by the Bombay

Sapphire Company, it now houses a state-of-the-art award-winning Gin Distillery since 2014.

After an introductory talk we toured the Distillery ourselves with a handy map. At the end of an interesting tour we were able to select a complimentary gin-based cocktail. Mine was delicious.

We all agreed on the coach going home it had been a very enjoyable day.

*Photographs by
Robert Edmondson*



D&D U3A summer Picnic

Doreen Raine

Sixty-five members of Dorking and District U3A took their picnics to Juniper Hall on a day of mixed weather in August. RUG members welcomed and directed us to the rainbow bunting-surrounded front lawn, where tables and chairs had been set out with red and white checked tablecloths, meaning that we did not have to think about anything other than food and drink! We were offered miniature bottles of wine, the imaginative idea of Caroline Brown who is currently the Events and Publicity coordinator for the committee, and we were entertained by Mike Gooch, an enthusiastic DJ who also provided a very demanding quiz.

The setting was perfect, the lawn being between the stone building and the backdrop of the North Downs, with the Broadwood Tower near the top and Belted Galloway cattle grazing between the bushes and trees on the hillside.

Caroline had also arranged for groups of members to be escorted around the house and to receive background information on the history and current use of the house. These visits were very much enjoyed by the participants. Some non-members joined in the fun via the Dorking Museum, where Caroline had deposited tickets to make it easier for our members to obtain them in August when many U3A groups were no longer meeting.

The earliest building goes back to the 17th Century and was later extended with East and West Wings. Lady Templeton designed the painted Templeton Room (now Grade 1 listed) and later purchasers continued extending and building. In 1815, the house was sold to Thomas Broadwood, whose family made a piano for Beethoven. Thomas built Broadwood Tower on the hill opposite Juniper Hall. The last private owners were the MacAndrew family so that in 1882 in the building took the form we see now. During World War II, Juniper Hall was used by the Canadian military. In 1945 Miss MacAndrew sold it to the National Trust and it now forms part of the Box Hill Estate. In 1946 Juniper Hall was leased to the Field Studies Council. I realise that I was part of one of the earliest groups to stay in the dormitories while on a Geography and Biology field trip just three years later! Living in far away SE London, I didn't even know where Dorking was in those days.

This is the second D&D U3A picnic initiated by Pat Smith, and we are very grateful to Caroline Brown for taking on the task of making it happen so successfully and enjoyably.

... there's nothing like the sun

There's nothing like the sun as the year dies
Kind as it can be, this world being made so,
To stones and men and beasts and birds and flies,
To all things that it touches except snow,
Whether on mountain side or street of town,
The south wall warms me: November has begun,
Yet never shone the sun as fair as now
While the sweet last-left damsons from the bough
With spangles of the morning's storm drop down
Because the starling shakes it, whistling what
Once the swallows sang. But I have not forgot
That there is nothing, too, like March's sun,
Like April's, or July's, or June's, or May's,
Or January's or February's great days:
And August, September, October and December
Have equal days, all different from November.
No day of any month but I have said—
Or, if I could live long enough, should say -
'There's nothing like the sun that shines today,'
There's nothing like the sun till we are dead.

*Written in 1915 by
Edward Thomas, 1878-1917*



WINTER WOOD, painted by Jennifer
Wenham, member of Painting for
Pleasure Group 2

Dorking & District U3A publishes the *Newsletter* and *What's On?* three times a year in April/May (spring), September (summer) and December/January (winter).

Contributions for the spring newsletter should be sent to the Editor (details below) to arrive no later than **end March 2019 for the Spring edition.**

Contributions including articles and photographs are all welcome, as well as reports on U3A activities.

Please try to limit reports to no more than 300 words.

If possible, please type your contribution and, if you have the facilities, send it by email, either as an attachment in Microsoft Word or in the main body of the email. If you send a handwritten contribution, please write names of places and people in **CAPITAL LETTERS.**

Editor Beryl Sinclair (01306 711542;
editor@dorkingu3a.org.uk)

Sub-editor Rosemary Harbridge

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MOONLIGHT painted by Elaine Major with online instruction from Maria Raczynska



CAT UP A TREE, painted by Brenda Charlton

POPPIES painted by Pauline Whitehead from a book by Wendy Tait



THREE ROSES original by Elaine Major





ABOVE: HIGH ALTAR TAPESTRIES, Lancing College Chapel
(copyright Paul Smith) and **ROSE WINDOW** (copyright Paul Smith)

**BELOW: U3A members at the WHITCHURCH SILK MILL and
BOMBAY SAPPHIRE GIN DISTILLERY**
(copyright Robert Edmondson)

