



Dorking & District U3A



Newsletter

Autumn 2019



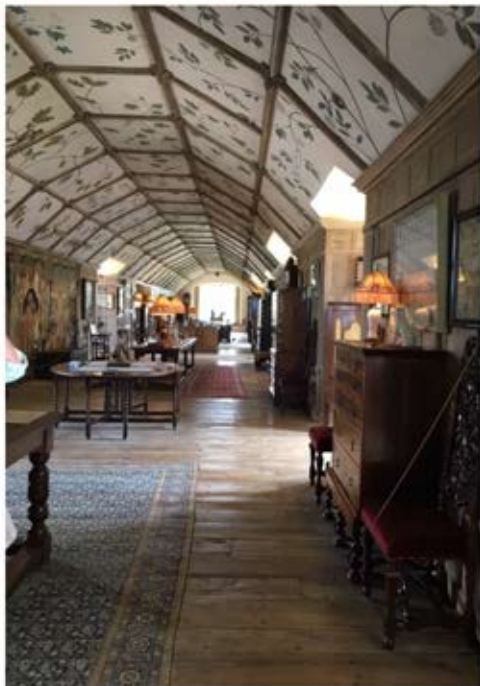
REMEMBERING JENNY FORD

*Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God's free light,
Watered and fed by the morning dew,
Shedding it's sweetness day and night...*

(by A L Fink)

U3A COMMEMORATION BENCH, MEADOWBANK, DORKING

DAYS OUT VISITS



PARHAM HOUSE, THE LONG GALLERY
(*Photograph Sue Willis*)



ABOVE: OSBORNE HOUSE, THE DINING ROOM
(*Photograph Sue Willis*)

**BELOW: CHIHULY SCULPTURE
"PAINTBRUSHES" & PALM HOUSE**
(*Photograph Robert Edmondson*)



Letter from the Chairman

Good morning/afternoon/evening (depending on when you are reading this) I am your new Chairman attempting to follow on from Doreen, which will prove difficult.

The gauntlet was thrown down and has been accepted.

Looking ahead to the next year there a lot of good things happening within the U3A both in Dorking and nationally. The 400th anniversary of the sailing to America of the Mayflower in which William Mullins, one of Dorking's cobblers, took his wife and two of his children (along with around 260 pairs of boots and shoes).

Alongside that is the 40th anniversary of the U3A on 3rd June 2020 for which we are planning a celebration. Watch this space.

On a personal note, I am looking forward to steering the Dorking and District U3A forward, bringing in new ideas and technologies to help all our members achieve the goals they have set. As ever, ideas and thoughts from members would be more than welcome so we can work together towards these goals.

It's now time for a cup of tea so I am off. Enjoy the month and I will be back with you next issue.



Bob Brown

Bob Brown
Chairman and
Webmaster



Tony Parber
U3A Plus



Geoff Saunders
On-line course
Adviser



Lionel Cartledge
Secretary



Judy Perry
Minutes Secretary



Beryl Sinclair
Newsletter Editor
/ Monthly
meetings



Ianthe Cox
Treasurer and
Residential Trips



Doreen Raine
Groups
Co-ordinator



John Sinclair
Membership
Secretary /
Equipment Co-
ordinator



Caroline Brown
Events, Monthly
meetings, Publicity
Co-ordinator



Deanne Rhodes
Days Out
Co-ordinator



D&D U3A COMMITTEE

Membership

Welcome!

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

George Ashworth
Robert Bartlett
Andrew & June Bennet-Smith
Jenny Bowall
David Bridge
Irene Bryan
Zoe Burch
Maria Chadwick
Cecily Church
Kathleen & Raymond Cooper
Jill Copleston
Susan Dakin-White
Jill Ellinson
Angela Ewing
Zofia Golebiowska
John Greenlees
Deborah Hancock
Nasrin Harris
Richard Harvey

Angela Hedges
Adam Hopkins
Robert Jackson
Jacqueline Lewis
Gabrielle Macphedran
Anthony & Sally McCarthy
Christopher & Heather Milton
Joy Payne
Norah Ruck
Glynis Secker
Anita Smith
Elizabeth Stoy
Bernice Thomas
Patricia & Trevor Thomas
Trevor Thompson
Jane Thornton
Tuula Tuormaa
David & Jenny Turner
Marion Woodville

Membership subscriptions—polite reminder

Members should note that after 30 September 2019, any unpaid memberships for 2019 - 20 will be deemed as lapsed. If you have not yet paid but wish to renew your membership, you may do so via GoCardless on our website, www.dorkingu3a.org.uk, or by sending a cheque payable to Dorking & District U3A together with a stamped addressed envelope to John Sinclair, U3A Membership Secretary, 2 The Street, Capel RH5 5LE.

Subscription rates remain unchanged at £16 for single membership or £28 for joint membership for two people at the same address. You can also pay by cheque at the monthly meeting - but no cash please. If you joined after 31st October 2018 your membership is paid to 31st March 2020.

Please note, if you used GoCardless last year you must set up a new direct debit payment this year as the mandate is for a one-off payment only.

John Sinclair, Membership Secretary

Remembering Jenny Ford (2014-19)

From the moment Jenny joined the committee, she brought a calm, 'can do' approach to everything she did. She could be relied on for all meetings, whether welcoming new members, thanking group leaders, running an Art Appreciation trip – the list is endless. Jenny has left a huge hole in our committee and in our lives.

Doreen Raine



I had the undeniable pleasure of sitting with Jenny at our U3A Committee meetings for some years. She always talked good sense and ran the monthly meetings in an unfussy but highly effective way. So too with the Art Appreciation Group at which she ran the regular outings with her usual charm and efficiency. My abiding memory is of Jenny striding up the hill from the Cockerel roundabout on her way home as I sat in my car in the queue of traffic. She is missed.

Lionel Cartledge

I knew Jenny for only a year but she left a lasting impression on me. The best way I can sum up Jenny as a person is to use a quote my father oft used "Blessed are those who can give without remembering and receive without forgetting". This was Jenny.

Bob Brown

As a fellow U3A committee member I have very fond memories of Jenny. She always showed a very positive attitude and willingness to take on a wide variety of tasks. She did a superb job organising a range of interesting speakers and always made sure the monthly meetings ran smoothly. She had a warm and friendly personality and a good sense of humour.

Bob Crooks

A committed U3A member, unfailingly friendly and courteous, dignified and principled.

Gill Crooks

A 'Remembering Jenny' plaque has been added to our newly refurbished commemoration bench in Meadowbank. The bench is at one end of the little lake, situated under some trees, where we imagine that members can sit quietly and reminisce. Jenny loved gardens and we would like to think that Meadowbank is where she would have taken a break from her work in the Library or watched the ducks with her children and grandchildren.

Group News

When they were young, my children hated the 'Back to School' advertising that appeared in the shops during August (especially school uniform and pencil cases), when all they wanted to think about was what they could do in the holidays. With no Monthly or Committee Meetings in August, many of our groups take a break before the 'back to school' mentality sets in when members new and old consider what they want to do as the days become shorter. Shall we return to the same group(s)? Shall we try something new? Shall we ask whether some new topics could be introduced? I especially like the last two, hoping that you will suggest something we haven't yet thought of, and knowing that new ideas work best if they come from you.

While waiting for your ideas, here are some of the requests you might consider.

- Could we resuscitate the Guitar group? This might be just a group that meets to play together, or someone in the group may be willing to teach novices. Or it could do both.
- Could we relaunch the Singing for Pleasure Group? This would need leaders who could conduct and accompany. Any ideas please?
- The Merchant Venturers Group could probably use some more volunteers – see page iii in the Summer What's On and talk to Hilda Burden.
- Do we need a second Bridge Group, meeting on a different day? This could be on the Wednesday afternoons when there is no Monthly Meeting. We would need a leader/contact person to coordinate enthusiasts.
- I should like to create a group to learn a less obvious language, using material available on-line as support. The suggestion has been Chinese and Chinese culture – a potential HUAWEI group – but other suggestions could be looked at.
- With so much available on-line, we might create a group (or at least a one-off workshop) to explore together the material available on YouTube, MOOCs, etc. You might go on to use this for your own learning, or we might be able to create new groups on the basis of what we discover.

Please let me know whether any of the above ideas appeal to you, and please let me have your own ideas for other interest groups. We have 78 groups as I write, some of them being second, third or fourth groups on the same topic, demonstrating their popularity. How many more can we create by this time next year?

Doreen Raine

Painting for Pleasure - group 1



INITIATED more than 10 years ago by accomplished artist and tutor, Dorothy Rowe, Dorking U3A's painting groups continue to expand. Determined to attract those who simply appreciate the sheer pleasure of gathering in a friendly group to dip brush into colour, Dorothy decided on the apt title of Painting for Pleasure. She was anxious to open the class to every level of skill including many absolute beginners and that still holds true today.

Elaine Major took over the leadership after Dorothy stepped down and a move to The Lincoln Arms 3 years ago enabled the group to expand into three flourishing groups who meet every month.

It isn't all about techniques and style—there is no pressure and no lessons although members do learn from each other and gain confidence by copying studies in books, pictures, photographs or perhaps flowers from their own gardens. Elaine explains that 'occasionally still-life and demonstrations are featured' and while many members favour water-colour, she encourages them to try different mediums—gouache, oils, pastels, pen and ink. But it is also about sharing companionship with like-minded people, enjoying a cup of coffee and most importantly painting for the sheer pleasure of it. It's about friendship found in sharing a pastime started by many upon their retirement.

This issue features some of the work of group1 members, Lorna, Shirley and Frances.

Patsy Payne

Enjoying Gilbert and Sullivan



This group has been suspended until we can muster a few more prospective members. We normally meet at the Lincoln Arms on the 4th Tuesday morning. Please contact me if you are interested in joining us.

Joy Huxley
01737 843974
alan.joy@uwclub.net

Gardening Club

Our 14 members meet on the second Friday of every month in each others' houses for morning coffee. We try to focus our conversations to garden-related subjects which is not always easy! We review problems varying from rampant squirrels to rogue grasses. Some of the more knowledgeable members will share good advice or we search the internet and RHS Wisely website for solutions. We discuss useful equipment, soil management and pest control and try on the whole to be environmentally friendly.

Of course we swap plants and seeds and take cuttings from plants that have done well in our own gardens. We also try to help anyone starting a new project or design in their garden and can become quite involved with plans. We share thoughts on Gardens we have visited and maybe to visit some as a group.

This summer, we had a delicious lunch at the Cricketers in Downside before going onto Cobham for a private visit and talk at Moleshill House, owned by Penny Snell a founder member of the National Garden Scheme. It is a delightfully romantic garden with a little of everything. We were treated to a sumptuous tea before departure.

We also took a trip to Goddards in Abinger Common (only open by appointment on a Wednesday by the Landmark Trust). The architect Edwin Lutyens built this house so that 'ladies of limited means' could take holidays out of London. Some of us tried out the indoor skittles alley provided for the ladies' entertainment. The surrounding gardens were laid out and designed by Gertrude Jekyll. Sadly, the day of our visit was probably the wettest day of the year but it didn't dampen our appreciation of the House and Garden.

We are looking forward to our annual cream tea at a member's delightful Farm House, homemade ice cream in a private garden in Betchworth and our Christmas Party in Westcott! I suspect there will be other spontaneous visits to Wisley and other open gardens too.

In all we find it good to share our enthusiasm for plants and design with our fellow gardeners. Happy Gardening!

Vivian Wildman



Photography Group 1



The group has enjoyed a stable membership since its re-launch in 2011, following the retirement of its former group leaders. We retain our successful meeting format which includes presentations by group members on alternate meetings and encouragement for all members to take several photographs each month to an agreed theme. Images selected by the group each month are displayed on the U3A web site. We have recently been given some tips by Angela Rixon on image enhancement using Photoshop Elements. Our next meeting will include a workshop on Close-Up / Macro photography.

Mike Thurner

Latin for Today

A school report for W.B. Yeats, the Irish poet and Nobel prize-winner, stated '*Only fair, perhaps better in Latin than any other subject; very poor in spelling*'. His knowledge of Latin certainly helped Yeats become a major poet. In our Latin group, we consider many aspects of English language and look at poets such as Catullus and Ovid, not lost in translation!

English place names have provided us with interesting geographical and historical perspectives, such as towns ending in *cester*, *caster*, *chester* – we found 32, can you find more? We also considered first names (*Victoria*), cars (*Volvo*), horticulture (*erica*), scientific elements (tin *stannum* sn, lead *plumbum* pb) et al.

Grammar and punctuation terminology has proved useful to our understanding, for example: * *asterix* has the root *astra* (star). Many brand names come from Latin: **Flora** margarine, **Avis** car hire, **Vesta** meals, **Visa** credit card – you will no doubt think of many more examples.

Be pleasantly surprised how enjoyable it is to learn Latin in our friendly group. Explore the breadth of languages in an entertaining way and find how Latin is beneficial in everyday life.

Rosemary Harbridge

Art Appreciation Group 1—Visit to Tudeley and Ightham Mote , 28 March 2019



We left Dorking by coach heading for Tonbridge. Our first stop was at All Saints Church, Tudeley, which none of us had visited before. The small parish church is set in a rural location with a sizeable car park for visitors. Although the list of incumbents stretches back to 1251, most of the current structure is 18th century. Its claim to fame is that it is the only church in the country with all its twelve stained-glass windows designed by Marc Chagall. After enjoying coffee and biscuits in the adjacent church room, we were joined by a local lady who talked to us about the life and works of the Belarusian Hasidic Jew Chagall, and how his windows came to glorify Tudeley.

The main East window, dramatically displayed against a background of white walls, was commissioned by Sir Henry D'Avigdor Goldsmid, a soldier, businessman and politician who lived in nearby Somerhill House. He was Jewish, but his wife was Anglican, and when their daughter Sarah died in a tragic sailing accident in 1963 at the age of 21, he persuaded Chagall to design a window in memory of her. Made by Charles Marq at his atelier in Reims, it is predominantly blue and depicts Sarah drowning and being carried up to heaven. When Chagall attended the installation in 1967, he surprised everyone by expressing a desire to do all the other windows, which were finally

completed shortly before his death in 1985 at the age of 98. The traditional Victorian glass windows were removed to the vestry. Although we enjoyed fair weather, Chagall's windows would have looked better illuminated by brighter sunlight. Most designs feature birds, fishes and asses, and yellow, red, and blue were his favourite colours. We were shown pictures of other examples of the

artist's work from Chichester cathedral and Jerusalem.

A short journey back in the direction of Sevenoaks brought us to Ightham Mote, a fine 14th-century moated manor house owned by the National Trust. Here our group were free to wander round the house and gardens and have lunch in the Mote cafe.

Jean Williams

Just bee-cause...

I found a bee upon my bed.
It had a strangely enlarged head.
Antennae quivered in the wind,
it said it wanted to rescind
Man's right to walk about this earth,
whose riches he has squandered and
lost all sense of what they're worth.

'Look,' I said, 'it isn't fair,
to get entangled in MY hair.
I do my bit, re-use, re-cycle,
even commute on my bi-cycle.'

'It's not enough,' it moaned
and groaned.

'You spray, you clean, 'til there's no trace,
but still the world's a messed up place.

We have nowhere to call our own.
We prefer to be alone.'

And on that word,
it gasped for air,
writhed and shook upon the bed.
I realised that it was dead!



Residential Trip

Jersey – 2 to 6 April 2019



On a bright spring day, 23 U3A members set off from Gatwick for a long-delayed return to the comfortable accommodation at the 3-star Mayfair Hotel in St Helier. We were then in the hands of our excellent guide, Clive, who turned out to have a very dry but entertaining, sense of humour.

Having settled in for the evening, the next day we enjoyed a full-day panoramic coach tour of the island. We very soon discovered that our driver had awesome skills at negotiating the narrow lanes and tricky turnings! Our tour took in St Aubin's Bay, the beautiful St Brelade's Bay and the awe-inspiring Corbière lighthouse (the most south-western point of the British Isles). After lunch at the Pearl Centre, we continued to St Ouen's Bay, Greve de Lecq, Gorey Harbour on the

northern coastline, returning via the eastern coastline to St Helier, taking in the magnificent Lalique-decorated St Matthew's church at Millbrook, known as the "Glass Church", renowned for its opalescent glass panels.

On a breezy "liquid sunshine" day, we visited Gerald Durrell's Wildlife Conservation Trust – a zoo aimed at saving animals from extinction. There we were able to see, amongst other species, lemurs.

This was followed by a brief visit to see orchids at the Eric Young Orchid Foundation, established in 1958 – an assault on the senses, to say the least! Finally, we stopped at La Hougue Bie museum, home to one of Europe's finest passage graves, depicting life in Jersey's Neolithic community 6000 years ago, earlier than the Egyptian pyramids!

Day 4 saw us visiting the Jersey War Tunnels, first created to protect the German arms and troops from attacks by the Allies in WW2, then afterwards they were converted to a hospital to deal with a possible counter-invasion.

The flow-through exhibition tells true-life stories of the islanders and foreign prisoners involved in the building of the tunnels, and also of families who lived through the occupation – very moving and chilling indeed, and a reminder of the effects of war. On a lighter note, we finished the day by visiting Samares Manor, a house dating in part back to Norman times, with gardens originally constructed in the 1920s by Sir James Knott, an enthusiast of things oriental.

On our final day, we enjoyed a visit to the Jersey Museum and Art Gallery, taking in the story of Jersey's history from Neolithic

times to the present day. After lunch, in very breezy conditions, we had the opportunity to scale the climb to the 13th century Mount Orgueil Castle or to spend time at leisure in Gorey Harbour before heading for the airport.

En route, our guide took us through the background to the cultivation of one of Jersey's most important exports – the Jersey Royal potato. After the traditional spring crop, another sowing is made in the autumn to produce seed potatoes for the early spring. All in all, a very pleasant trip. Jersey has much history to reveal.

Austra Harmon

ALTAR—GLASS CHURCH
Photographs Bob Brown



ABOVE: GOREY CASTLE
BELOW: UNDERGROUND WAR TUNNELS



Monthly Meetings

Exciting Wildlife round the World, speaker Tom Way

10 April 2019



Photograph Robert Edmondson

Tom Way is an engaging young wildlife photographer and a very good one at that. We were treated to an array of colour and monochrome photos from many parts of the globe. Mostly it is the large mammals which grab his attention and often the place is Africa. His favourite (and most effective) technique is to approach to within a few metres and then lie down to get the most unusual and interesting shot. It is obviously a risky manoeuvre but a very successful one.

His monochrome elephants were superb pictures of a quality I have not previously seen.

All the best wildlife photographers seem to be willing to wait for however long it takes to get that perfect shot. Tom is no different,

devoting sometimes weeks to achieve his photographic aim. His photographs habitually bring out the intelligence and character of his subjects whether they are orang-outangs in Malaysia or lions and elephants in East Africa. He tells us that zebras are skittish subjects and giraffes provide challenging compositions for the photographer. His successes may be more limited but they produce outstanding pictures. According to Tom, a photographer also needs an element of luck as well as a lot of patience.

He belongs to a group of renowned photographers who support conservation through the series of books 'Remembering Wildlife'. Each photographer in the group donates a photograph for publication and all of the profits from the books are dedicated to conservation.

We were fortunate to enjoy Tom's account of his world travels and the amazing photographs he shared with us.

Lionel Cartlidge

History of Fire and Iron, speaker Lucy Quinnell

8 May 2019



Photograph Robert Edmondson

In Britain we have been enjoying a revival of forged iron – the New Iron Age. Lucy Quinnell summed up Blacksmithing in 5 words: **GET IT HOT – HIT IT.** Heating iron to the correct temperature is critical, followed by hitting it hard enough.

Blacksmithing has not only been a profession carried out by men. Holkham's Bible Picture Book of the 13th century shows there have always been lady blacksmiths. Therein are a male blacksmith in blue and a female blacksmith in brown, shown forging nails for Christ's crucifixion. 'Smith' is a very common name, connected to the manufacture of tools, weapons, horseshoes, fire fronts, iron bar money, chain armour, nails, jewellery, architectural fixtures and fittings. The oldest ironwork found

in England is the Capel Garmon Firedog made between 50BCE and 75AD.

Iron is not black. It is thought it was painted black following the death of Prince Albert but it can range in colour from silvery when freshly cut to purple. Jean Teague's iron gates at Hampton Court Palace have a typical blacksmith's scroll. The gold on outdoor ironwork is real gold, as the colour doesn't change with time. The style froze for 300 years until Macintosh and the Arts and Crafts era.

Lucy's family has been involved in English ironworking since the 1500s. Her grandfather founded the forge on the present site in the 1930s. One of their gates won a gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show. 20 years ago, they were wondering if they should give up and cease trading due to trading difficulties. Lucy's parents went to a conference in America where they found exhibits of iron displays in full colour. They took on making ironwork for buildings. Lucy showed us some more examples of their extensive work: a coffee table in iron, gold and glass, a gate

based on fish skeletons and swimming pool railings

Lucy's house is probably the oldest in Surrey, dating from 1356. On the lawn there is a possible Iron Age burial mound which is being investigated.

LF&I also made a camel for the Eden Project in Cornwall, the Leatherhead Centre project and the gates to the Globe Theatre in London by 140 blacksmiths from around the world. Further work in the area includes Neate's Alley sign in Leatherhead, wall sculpture

for the Leatherhead Institute and a work for the Queen's diamond jubilee. Other items include the Amesbury Archer, the ITV Covent Garden avenue of stars, trophies for the Michael Caine awards, the 3-metre high Dorking Cockerel, and Allen Court next to Sainsbury's in Dorking. The industry is now being threatened as the supply of materials from China, such as steel and coke, are giving rise to poorer quality products.

www.fireandiron.co.uk

John Sinclair

The Story of the National Gardens, speaker Margaret Arnott, 12 June 2019



Photograph Robert Edmondson

In 1859, Liverpool merchant and philanthropist William Rathbone, contracted a private nurse to care for his dying wife in the comfort of their home. When his wife died, he asked the nurse to visit other terminally ill patients in deprived

areas. He approached other nurses to be responsible for the sick in other districts of Liverpool and thus was born the concept of 'District Nurses'.



In Liverpool, the system worked well and was rolled out nationwide with the support of Queen Victoria and Florence Nightingale. In 1887, the Queen's Nursing Institute (QNI) was founded as a charity to coordinate national standards for district nurses and provide 'training, support, maintenance and supply of nurses for the sick poor, as well as training homes, supervising centres, co-operating with other bodies and establishing branches as necessary'.

However, as the years went by and nurses retired, there was a need to provide for their pension. William had already provided a lot of funds for training so in 1926, Nurse Elsie Wagg, a trustee of the QNI, came up with the idea that members of the public might open their gardens for others to visit for a small charge of a shilling. The following year, Elsie had managed to open 800 gardens and raised a total of £8,000. The scheme got the support of the Royal Family, the BBC and the RHS and the Country Life magazine. In 1932, Country Life included some 1,079 gardens in their first NGS guide which was priced at a shilling.

During the second World War the emphasis was on growing food, so viewings stopped and did not start

up again until the 1950s. With the advent of the NHS in 1948, it was realised that money was still needed to support the work of the District Nurses, so the Queen opened a private garden at Frogmore in Windsor, which is opened one day a year to the NGS.

As Surrey County Organiser for the NGS, Margaret Arnott visits new gardens to encourage and advise owners wishing to open to the public. Gardens should have at least 30 minutes of interest for visitors, be well maintained, provide seating and car parking for the less able and be clearly accessible.

Thanks to the generosity of private garden owners, the NGS has been able to donate £58 million to charity since 1927. Further information is available on the NGS website: www.ngs.org.uk



*Heathside Garden
Photograph Margaret Arnott*

Friends against Scams, speaker Lizzie Uden

10 July 2019



Photograph Robert Edmondson

No notes were taken at this presentation. The following are some recommendations made by NatWest on their informative website.

Scams come in many forms; uninvited contact may be by email, letter, and telephone or in person making false promises to extract money from victims. The most common scams are fake lotteries, clairvoyants, computer scams, and romance scams. Criminals attempt

to trick people with flashy, official looking documents or websites, or convincing telephone sales patter, with the aim of persuading victims to send sign-up fees, pay postal or insurance costs, buy an overvalued product or make a premium rate phone call. Doorstep scams are crimes carried out by bogus callers, rogue traders and unscrupulous salespeople who call, often uninvited, at people's home under the guise of legitimate business or trade.

For further advice you can call the Citizens Advice helpline **03454 04 05 06** or Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**. You may also contact Bob Brown on chairman@dorkingu3a.org.uk. Bob has attended SCAMchampion training and is able to give more information or advice should you need it.



Unearthing Egyptology – The Age of the Pyramids: The World's First Pyramid, speaker Janet Diamond

11 September 2019



Photograph Robert Edmondson

Janet returned to give our U3A another extremely interesting talk about Egypt, her specialist subject.

Although there are over 200 pyramids—more outside Egypt than in, the first pyramid was Djoser's step pyramid in Saqqara, built in about 2686 BCE, at the start of Egypt's third Pharaoh Dynasty.

In pre-dynastic Egypt (from about 5300 to 3100 BCE), burials were put in pits in the ground. Bodies did not decompose in the dry sandy conditions found in Egypt's deserts so there was no need to construct large monuments. Towards the end of the pre-dynastic period from about 3800 BCE, tombs began to be more sophisticated. The Painted Tomb of the Naqada

period and Tomb Uj – King Scorpion at Abydos were the largest of early dynastic tombs.

Progressively, tombs contained more small spaces for burials of family and courtiers. One of these spaces contained wine jars each with a tag attached showing the provenance of the wine. These tags show early examples of hieroglyphics and an early taxation system.

From 3100 to 3085 BCE, the crowns of upper and lower Egypt, white and red respectively, joined to form the crown of the Two Lands and the first Nation State. The two important burial sites were Saqqara in the North and in the south, Abydos, the Southern Royal Necropolis, Gateway to the West – Home of the Dead. When King Djer, the 1st Pharaoh of the first Dynasty was buried, hundreds of other graves containing human sacrifices were built from mud brick at ground level. During the second Dynasty, Egyptians tried to make burials more secure by building underground rooms cut into the

rock with a staircase leading down to the individual tombs.

During the third Dynasty, the Court returned to Saqqara, which became the main Royal Necropolis and where the Pharaoh Djoser had Imhotep, his architect, build the first step pyramid in stone over 37 acres. It had a niched enclosure wall 10.5 metres high, with 13 false doors for the spirit of the Pharaoh to come and go after death. Janet showed us several pictures of the Complex, taken when living in Egypt some 40 years ago. These included the Entrance Colonnade with 40 stone carved columns resembling bundles of reeds (Papyrus) which led into the Complex Courtyard followed by the Colonnade Hall. Within the South Court were the Hab-Sed Temples. Although these were all carved from stone, they were false and had no way in or out. The 36,000 blue-green faience tiles covering the Southern and Northern Tombs are associated with new life. The underground tomb complex was sealed after the entombment of the Pharaoh never to be seen again, until archaeologists uncovered it.

The Step Pyramid, 62.5m high, is the final six-step pyramid built on this site, as there had been earlier pyramids with fewer steps.

Despite Imhotep's design for an impregnable tomb, it succumbed nonetheless to tomb robbers. The construction of the Step Pyramid Complex brought many advantages to the Egyptian civilisation including complex structural engineering and building techniques, well developed organisational and logistical skills to source and transport the stone and other building materials and a need to train workers who were not slaves as popularly thought.

The Step Pyramid became the benchmark inspiration for all future pyramids:

- ♦ The perimeter used about one million tons of stone.
- ♦ The approximate weight of stone in the Step Pyramid is 850,000 tonnes.
- ♦ It uses 70,000 square metres of Tura limestone.
- ♦ 11.6 million cubic feet (334,000 cubic metres) of stone and clay were used.
- ♦ There are 3.5 miles (5.5 km) of tunnels.
- ♦ 36,000 faience tiles were used.

This interesting talk was well received. Janet's next presentation in the "The Age of the Pyramids" covers "The Steps to Giza".

John Sinclair

Days Out

Parham House, 24 May 2019

Aveley Parker and June Letheren



Photograph Sue Willis

On arrival at the very impressive estate and house on a beautiful warm sunny day, we were welcomed and given a leaflet guide to the house and gardens. Once inside, we were served with coffee shortbread and flapjack in the big kitchen where we later enjoyed lunch. Our tour started in the Great Hall, the heart of the house. Parham means *pear enclosure* - the site originally belonged to the Monastery of Westminster and was mentioned in the Domesday book. In 1540, after the dissolution of the monasteries, Henry VIII granted the Manor to Robert Palmer. His grandson in 1540 took six years to build the fine example of an

Elizabethan H plan centred around the Grand Hall. It was built of local Amberley Blue Stone. Unusually it faces south to get the wonderful views of the South Downs. The house passed to Thomas Bishopp and his descendants in the 1600s. In 1922, Clive and Alicia Pearson bought Parham which was in a very sorry state. They replaced ceilings, restored panelling, (which the Victorians had painted), added heating and electricity. Alicia collected antiques and portraits that had belonged to the house, and bought others of the correct period. During the war, Parham became home to 30 evacuee children from south-east London and was then requisitioned by the

Canadian infantry. It was returned to the Pearson's unscathed in 1946. Lady Emma Bernard, their granddaughter, still lives in the house with her family. The beautiful oak furniture, portraits and embroideries are all Tudor.

Our guides were very knowledgeable and all the rooms featured furniture, portraits and embroideries reflecting different periods of history. The Long Gallery, the third largest in the country's Private Houses, was spectacular, with so much to see and admire we were reluctant to

leave for lunch! We were lucky to visit while they had an embroidery exhibition which included a number of samplers and in particular one by a four year old, and many of us went back after lunch to view them in more detail. After lunch, we also explored the lovely grounds with a beautiful walled garden and visited the 12th century St Peter's Church. We are grateful to the U3A Days Out team for organising such a delightful and interesting visit. I am sure many will want to return to Parham.

Osborne House, 22 July 2019

Imogen Barker

We were promised a day of 27 degrees, and it did materialise, but not before the 45 of us had shivered in shirtsleeves on our crossing to the Isle of Wight. The much loved holiday home of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert looked slightly austere with its Italianate style, but the view was wonderful, and Dorking's Thomas Cubitt had followed royal instructions and created a home that managed to combine spaciousness and a feeling of a relaxed family escape. The cosiness was aided by

Victorian clutter, mainly 19th century bronzes and other sculptures, pictures, and furniture, birthday presents from Victoria and Albert to each other. Particularly atmospheric was the study with two desks [his slightly smaller!] where Victoria and Albert worked side by side, the nursery with three identical cots to accommodate three of the nine children, and Victoria's bedroom where she died in 1901 surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

In addition to the main house, there was the beach where the Queen's bathing machine was on show, and children were playing, just as the royal children did over a century ago. The scene resembled an impressionist painting, with the odd modern addition such as a large container ship. But the place that really emphasised the importance of 'family' for Victoria, and especially Albert, was Swiss Cottage, built in its own grounds in chalet style to give the children a taste of their father's happy childhood in Germany. One could almost feel the children's presence, especially in the kitchen where they practised

cooking, the very well-organised little museum, and the nine individual children's gardens, where they were encouraged to grow produce that their father would buy from them at market price, an approach that chimes with priorities today!

Some comments on the coach home: "very engaging, helpful, and knowledgeable staff", "English Heritage maintains the grounds and gardens beautifully", "a really enjoyable day out".

A big thank you to our expert driver Simon, and organisers Sue, Sheila, Deanne and Sally.



OSBORNE HOUSE
Photograph Sue Willis

KEW GARDENS, 3 July 2019

Robert Edmondson

In bright sunshine, a coach full of U3A members and friends visited Kew Gardens. On arrival, our Kew Guide distributed maps, entrance tickets for the Gardens and for the "Explorer" Land train. Kew's attractions include the Palm House, the Temperate House (recently refurbished at a cost of £41m), the Princess of Wales Conservatory, Kew Palace, the Galleries of Botanical Art, the Alpine House, and the Tree Walkway.

The main current attractions are the large colourful glass sculptures by Dale Chihuly, at various locations. After a group photo by the Nash Conservatory, people dispersed to follow their own interests until late afternoon when we all boarded the coach for the homeward journey. It was a fascinating and full day in fine weather and we thank Sheila and Sue for the organisation (and Matt, our coach driver).



THE NASH CONSERVATORY, KEW GARDENS

(Photograph Robert Edmondson)

Dorking & District U3A publishes *Newsletter* and *What's On?* three times a year in April/May (Spring), September/October (Autumn) and December/January (Winter).

Please could contributions for the **Winter edition** of the Newsletter reach the Editor (details below) no later than **end November 2019**.

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.

<i>Editor</i>	Beryl Sinclair (01306 711542; editor@dorkingu3a.org.uk)
<i>Sub-editor</i>	Rosemary Harbridge (rharbridge@sky.com)
<i>Distribution</i>	Elizabeth Holmes (01306 884831)
<i>Printer</i>	Eyes Wide Digital (01306 875150)





Left: Mallards by Frances Lawrence

Frances, encouraged by her artist mother, has been painting from a very young age. "It runs in the family," she enthused. "My grandfather was an artist, my daughter makes her living from art."

Frances most enjoys painting animals and the environment. Inspired by colour and layout, she has produced an enviable portfolio during her 15+ years of membership.

Right: Penguins by Shirley Bayes

Having attended a number of art sessions and workshops in the past, Shirley is one of the newer members of Painting for Pleasure. Her favourite subjects include her grandchildren, scenery and floral arrangements.

"You'll be surprised what you can achieve, particularly with an inspiring leader."



Left: Winter Peak, by Lorna Gwinnett (following a Terry Harrison tutorial)

Lorna having attended Painting for Pleasure for almost 20 years, welcomes the creative inspiration and fellowship that comes from meeting regularly with like-minded people.

She particularly likes painting in water-colour, favouring flowers and scenery as her subjects.

Lorna finds the friendly and stimulating art group, as well as painting holidays, a real bonus.



ART APPRECIATION GROUP 1 VISIT TO IGHAM MOTE AND TUDELEY CHAPEL

ABOVE: IGHAM MOTE (*Photograph Robert Edmondson*)

BELOW: TUDELEY CHAPEL CHAGHALL WINDOWS (*Photographs John Sinclair*)

