



Learn, laugh, live

Dorking & District U3A

Newsletter

Winter 2019-20



AUTUMN IN KYOTO *(photograph Geoff Saunders)*

DAYS OUT VISITS



CROSSNESS VISIT

ABOVE: THE CATHEDRAL OF SEWAGE

RIGHT: KNIGHTS TEMPLAR LADIES TOILET

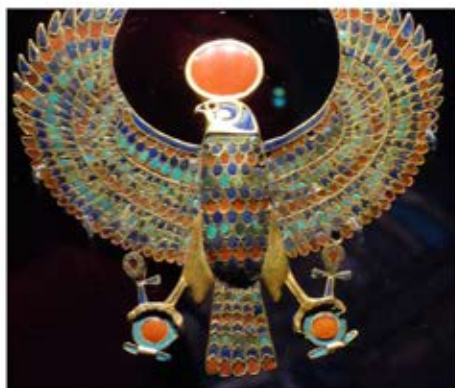
(photographs Millicent Lake)



TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION

ABOVE: GILT STATUE OF TUTANKHAMUN

(photographs John Sinclair)



ABOVE: PECTORAL IN THE SHAPE OF A FALCON

BELOW: ALABASTER DRINKING CUP

WITH TUTANKHAMUN'S NAME



Letter from the Chairman

We are once again approaching the festive season and getting ready to give and receive presents from and to our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Socks and handkerchiefs are welcomed with the usual thanks and sincerity. The turkey is in the oven, mince pies are warm on the plate and the wine is about to flow as we all celebrate the birth of Christ.



At this time of year we should also spare a thought for those less fortunate than ourselves. There are too many people who do not have a home whether it is self inflicted or through no fault of their own.

Also spare a thought for the people who give up this day of festivities to help those in need by providing food and shelter for the day with gifts of clothes and personal items and a much welcomed bed for the night. These are people like The Salvation Army, St Catherine's Hospice and St Martin-in-the-Fields who rely on the generosity of those around who can give gifts of food and money to help those less fortunate people.

Would it not be a better world if we did not have to support these organisations as there was not a need for charity of this kind.

Please do not let this detract you from your enjoyment of the festive season but please, do give it some thought.

I, and the Committee, would like to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Bob Brown
Chairman Dorking and District U3A

Membership

Welcome!

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

Nicola Baldwin
James Barnes
Jacqueline Bowers-Waite
Robin & Wendy Colmer
Nick Edwards
Lucyna Dibble
Carol & William Henderson
Denis & Rosemary Kellaway
Raymond Lee

Terence Lowe
Janet & Raymond Mercer
Diana North
Alison Putman
Norris Riley
Yvonne Vallins
Shirley Voss
Anthony Watson
Jane Xavier

Membership subscriptions—polite reminder

Please note that after 30 September 2019, any unpaid memberships for 2019 - 2020 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 individual 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 2019 your membership is paid to 31st March 2021.

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

In February 2020 we will send out invitations to all current members to renew their membership. We hope you will renew and kindly ask for payment as soon after 1st April 2020 as possible,

John Sinclair, Membership Secretary

On-line Philosophy Group



We started the group recognising the great material freely available on the internet some years back. However, the lack of face-to-face engagement proves distinctly difficult when trying to get to grips with new concepts. To overcome this, we chose a lecture course: we watch lectures at home, then meet twice a month to discuss and reinforce what we have learned. We soon realised the sheer joy in sharing our experiences. At the end of each lecture course, we searched and found a variety of follow-on lecture courses.

We are now engaged in following a course entitled '*Chinese Thought: Ancient China Meets Modern Science*'. Lecturer Ed Slingerland,

is a Chinese scholar and Professor at the University of British Columbia.

His engaging style and highly crafted lectures provide a course that is proving fascinating! Each lecture covers developing ideas fundamental to the expansion of thought in China, and the world. Seeing how questions fit within the ancient Chinese societies gives real insights to how we can address questions that our own society faces. Not that that makes us Philosophers!

As we come to the end of another very successful on-line course, if you have ever considered taking a look at Philosophy, this might be an ideal time to make contact and perhaps contribute to the selection of our next on-line course.

Virginia Wheeler

Quotes from Confucius:

- ◆ *It does not matter how slowly you go so long as you do not stop.*
- ◆ *Wheresoever you go, go with your heart.*
- ◆ *Life is really simple, but men insist on making it complicated.*
- ◆ *Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.*
- ◆ *Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.*

Wine Appreciation Group



We don't set out to become Masters of Wine, rather to learn a little more about wines we enjoy, and try new experiences.

The Wine Appreciation Group recently appreciated a wine tasting event provided by Majestic in South Street Dorking. The group were able to sample a sparkling wine (champagne!), a selection of white and red wines and a dessert wine.

We asked store manager Rebecca to provide wines on the theme "Xmas with a twist" - she provided an unthought of selection and gave fascinating information on each wine which was most enjoyable!

It is important to clear the palette between tastings of different wines, and the selection of cheeses and

snacks provided were perfect for this purpose. All of this for only £10 per head with a Majestic £10 voucher thrown in as well.

Majestic Wines have been very supportive of our efforts from the beginning. Our evenings are always fun and rewarding. After all, how often do you get a chance to sit down with friends (some of whom you may not yet know) to sample a variety of wines. It helps that they are Masters of Wine, and that they have a great stock to draw on.

If you feel you would like to join us on a future occasion, you will be glad to know that our unanimous conclusion at the end of the event was that we must do this again soon!

Geoff Saunders



Upwords

If you enjoy playing Scrabble, you will enjoy playing Upwords because you have the extra thrill of building up existing words on the board to change them and add new words.

Come and join us! We meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at The Christian Centre, Dorking at 2.00pm.

Sue Jex

Monthly Meetings

The Polar Region—Antarctic, speaker David Fletcher

9 October 2019



photograph Robert Edmondson

Polar historian David Fletcher, Fellow of the Royal Geographic Society, has spent the last 50 years in the polar regions as Base Commander and Field Operation Manager. In his presentation, he explained that as the South Pole is surrounded by ocean, it is colder than the North Pole, around -55°C . With four months of darkness and four months of daylight, it is the fastest melting area in the world and is now also prey to plastic pollution.

Unlike the North Pole, there are no animals and the wind can reach over 200 mph. The Antarctic contains 90% of the world's ice,

70% of the water with only 1% of the area having exposed rock.

Some 250 million years ago, the area was subtropical but 22 million years ago, a polar vortex caused it to cool and be covered in ice. Lichens, algae and fungi can be found on the limited rocky area, but footprints destroy plant life which never grows back.

There are about 36 million small chinstrap penguins whilst Emperor penguins are the largest of the species. In addition there are many varieties of seal. Crabeater seals are so called because shells around their mouth are mistaken for crab; leopard seals can eat some 17 penguins a day; Weddell seals make holes in the thick ice with their forward-facing teeth to find food and give birth in water. Elephant seals are believed to dive as far down as 3000 ft where they can shut down their organs in order to survive.

Before 1956, only sealers and whalers came to the Antarctic, but the Antarctic Treaty ensured that no one country owned the land.

Working there is challenging, with falling icebergs that can be up to 130x28 miles in size. There are several research stations such as Cambridge and Rotherham - in the summer months, around 130 researchers and visitors fly in, but as few as 20 people winter there, dealing with medical and other emergencies on site. Geological research mainly involves drilling holes in the ice to find possible coal

fields and discover what weather patterns were like some 150 million years ago. Other studies are mainly concentrated on the ocean – 20ft down there are corals and flowers. Many tourists visit, under very strict supervision. There is a strict policy to take away everything, including all human waste, when leaving the Antarctic.

Caroline Brown

Across the Lake—the Donald Campbell Story, speaker Phil Holt

13 November 2019



photograph Robert Edmondson

Phil Holt, a cruise ship speaker and retired Air Traffic controller, presented 90 minutes of fascinating slides and stories of the Campbells, who were local to Dorking and Leatherhead.

When Sir Malcolm decided to set a land speed record in 1925, with

funding from his father, a diamond merchant, he and a friend built Brooklands racetrack. He entered water speed records in 1936 and again after the war reaching 100mph but died in 1948 from poor health.

Donald was born in 1921 and very young, realised he was from a famous family. To some extent, he resented his strict father, who at his death, left no money for racing. Donald successfully contested the will and funded Bluebird K4 with Leo Villa as his engineer who warned him "you will kill yourself". Leo converted Bluebird K4 to a twin cockpit to teach Donald how to drive safely.

The vessel was shaft-driven and when the shaft snapped in Italy the boat sank in 10 seconds. But there was competition from John Cobb, an Esher man, who held the land speed record in 1938, 1939 and 1947. He was killed in 1952 piloting a jet powered boat in an attempt to set a new water speed record on Loch Ness.

In 1952, Donald met Ken and Lew Norris who designed Bluebird K7 with hydrofoils and at Christmas, Donald held a press day and set a speed of 202.32mph. The press headlines read "*The Campbells are back!*".

Donald married three times — Daphne Harvey with whom he had a daughter, Tina; Dorothy McKegg then Tonia Bern.



BLUEBIRD K7 (library photograph)

On 17 July 1964, Donald set a land speed record of 403mph in Bluebird C7 and on 31 December 1964, in Australia, he set a water speed record of 276 mph in Bluebird K7. He remains the only person to hold two records in the same year.

In December 1966, borrowing a jet engine from the MoD, Donald attempted a run to 300mph on Coniston. His final attempt at the record was on 4 January 1967 on Coniston - he did not refuel for the return run, and overturned in choppy water. The engine flamed out, the nose lifted because of lack of thrust to create a full loop and it ended in Donald's death aged only 45.

In 2001, Bluebird was raised 34 years after it was lost and, in the same year, Donald's body was found with his mascot 'Mr Whoppit'. Since 2009 Phil Holt has been a member of the Bluebird restoration team — the fully restored model reached 158 mph in 2018 and will tour the country.

Jim Barnes

Lullingstone Castle & Roman Villa, 26 September 2019

On arrival at Lullingstone Castle, our guide showed us round the historic church on the estate and we marvelled at the very old stained glass windows, installed by Flemish glaziers, and a wooden and marble font. There are impressive tombs and memorials of the Hart-Dyke family who still own the property, as well as a modern tapestry woven locally for the Millennium, with wool from sheep on the estate.

Despite being a magnificent manor house, the castle has a homely feel, as the Hart-Dyke family are still in residence. We admired the beautiful dining room with its glass and porcelain items, the cosy library with comfy settees and, of course, books which many would have liked to peruse!

Our guide told amusing anecdotes about the portraits and the family, describing their friendship with Queen Anne and in particular the problems of having her stay with them! She explained the role the house played during the war and the RAF's involvement, and finally its importance as a silk-worm farm.

Tom Hart-Dyke proudly guided us around the World Garden of Plants and enthusiastically described the rich array of plants from around the globe, starting with a trio of old majestic cedar trees, and the different species which often merged with each other. During a short downpour, we took cover in a polytunnel and were rewarded by seeing the most amazing collection of cacti!

After an excellent lunch, we visited nearby Lullingstone Roman Villa which was first discovered some eighty years ago and has seen on-going work every since. The Villa was lived in from 100AD until 400AD, undergoing changes and alterations in that time, as shown on the detailed ground plan. On display were tessellated floors and mosaics, also many artefacts such as jewellery and tools, looking very similar to what we use today. Also very poignant were the human remains and in particular the bones of a baby.

We all appreciated the efforts of the organisers for a full and interesting day.

Winnie Banks

The Big Stink, 10 October 2019



We were lucky with the weather on the morning of 10th October as we set off for our long-awaited visit to Crossness. We were heading for the Thames marshes, near Erith, a special protection area (SPA) for wildlife. Our excellent driver Matt, having reached the South Bank, had to steer his large coach-load through a major traffic snarl-up due to the "Extinction Rebellion" environmentalists. Environmental matters turned out to be the theme for our day!

We were looking forward to seeing the cast iron remains of Sir Joseph Bazalgette's (1819-91) sewage pumping station, a flamboyant example of Victorian pomp; grandiose and extravagant, a culmination of the power of the Age of Steam. We would see the pumps preserved and re-painted by volunteer restorers to match exactly the original vibrant reds, greens and blues, a showy and

amazing extravaganza of Victorian self-confidence.

We began our visit with a quick walk around some lanes in the old city area where sanitation before the nineteenth century consisted simply of cess pits from which 'night soil men' carted away solid material to be spread on the surrounding market garden areas, while all liquid flowed by natural drainage down the middle of streets into streams, then tributaries, and so to the Thames. This meant that the roads were effectively the sewers. One lane we walked along had "urine deflectors" installed along a wall to stop pedestrians peeing on the walls of that property. "Move along to the next lane!" they seemed to say.



LADIES LOO!



The growing popularity of *flush toilets*, a highlight of the Great Exhibition of 1851, ended up overloading the old system, culminating seven years later in *The Great Stink*. The increased quantity of water they generated was too much for the ancient cess pits so their use had to be prohibited while some rudimentary drains were constructed. In hot weather, the smell was intolerable, even out of the City, and since at that time people believed that disease was carried by a "miasma" due to foul air, Parliament took action and allocated the money needed to build a new drainage system designed by Bazalgette, Chief Engineer of London's new Metropolitan Board of Works. The system consisted of very large pipework much of it hidden under enormous new earthworks on both sides of the river - the Victoria, Albert and Chelsea embankments.

We took a boat from Westminster Pier and could picture the width of the river before these works were

undertaken. In the watery October sun and at high tide, the unusual views from the river of many generations of city buildings were magnificent. There was little to be seen of the Thames Tideway development, due to open next year, which will at last supersede the Victorian system, but we knew it was in progress and later were given information about it.

In the old drainage system, gravity carried all the sewage far away eastward but that brought it so low that it was now below river level. It then had to be raised in order for the twice-daily high tides to swirl it away to sea.



Hence the need downstream for a Pumping Station. Since all his other pipework was underground, Bazalgette made sure the Board of Works had something magnificent to show above ground - his huge and imposing building stood in what was otherwise an empty landscape making it a landmark for approaching shipping. It became

known as the Cathedral of Sewage (see cover photo).

The building and engineering remains have been saved for us to enjoy and their restoration and maintenance now depend on volunteer efforts. The pumps are run occasionally on Open Days but we chose to go at a quieter time when we could have the expert attention of the guides, and also the advantage of particularly efficient organisation through 'City and Village Tours' for all the London-based part of the trip.

Nowadays, the current processing plant can be seen below a simple steel roofline. It all conforms to modern standards.

After a spell in settlement tanks, solid material is incinerated through a sand bed at a very high temperature. The resultant ash is used in the manufacture of commercially viable building blocks, while the liquid part is treated aerobically to remove all bacterial activity and released into the Thames – the quality of which it actually helps to improve.

The U3A team of course supervised everything perfectly and they are to be congratulated and thanked for a particularly good "day out".

Gelhi Jones
(photographs Millicent Lake)

Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh and The London Silver Vaults , 4 November 2019

After a two-hour drive through busy London, our coach arrived at the Saatchi Gallery, in good time for our 11am booked entry. In spite of the long queues to get into the exhibition, our party soon reached the front.

The **"Tutankhamun: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh"** exhibition celebrates the centenary of Howard Carter's discovery in 1922 in an expedition financed by Lord Carnarvon of Highclere Castle

near Newbury. The exhibition spread over three floors of the Saatchi Gallery and did indeed contain "wonderful things".



PAINTED CALCITE CHEST CONTAINING TUT'S HAIR!

The exhibits include 150 original artefacts from Tutankhamun's tomb, 60 of which had never left Egypt before. When they return to Egypt to the new Cairo Museum near the Giza Pyramids, after the end of the world tour in 2021, they will never again be seen outside Egypt. The exhibits, apart from a large quartzite statue, were mostly displayed in well-lit glass cases.



There was a virtual reality tour of Tutankhamun's tomb on the top floor. Suzanne Willis writes: *"I loved the Total Reality ... We were taken into the tomb, down all the stairs and along corridors. In the Burial Chamber each sarcophagus lid was lifted, letting us see seven in all, each fitting into the next and wonderfully painted. Finally, we*

got to the golden death mask. Also, all the articles that were buried with him came to life. Fantastic."

After lunch, the coach took us to **The London Silver Vaults**, near Chancery Lane. Nestled in the heart of London, the London Silver Vaults are located 5 levels below ground and offer the largest retail selection of fine antique and contemporary silver in the world.

The Vaults originally opened in 1876 as a safe deposit for the wealthy and during World War II, were used as a secure storage place for London's silver dealers. Today, the home of silver shopping is a true hidden gem, beloved by international royalty, film stars and discerning shoppers seeking the world's finest silver. The Vaults boast more than 30 specialist shops within its vaulted walls. The vault owners are all independent retailers, many third generation family businesses, with a fount of expert knowledge and rich history. From silver tableware, cutlery, decorative pieces and gifts, to jewellery and special collectors' items; The Vaults sells the widest variety of silver in the world.

John Sinclair

Mayflower 400 Walk – Dorking in the Time of William Mullins, 17 November 2019

When in September 1620 William Mullins with his wife Alice, teenage daughter Priscilla and young son boarded the Mayflower for the New World, little did they expect the hardships the projected 8-week journey would bring. After docking several times, the sister ship Speedwell, deemed unseaworthy, abandoned the trip, leaving the Mayflower to tackle the journey overloaded and alone. The pilgrims left most of their possessions and tools behind due to the lack of space on board the Mayflower.



William Mullins' house on West Street, near to Dorking Museum, is the only surviving home of a Pilgrim Father. This impressive building dates from between 1568 and 1610. Mullins bought it in 1612 and then sold it in 1619. Unlike pilgrims in search of religious freedom,

Mullins may have risked the voyage to America in order to further his prospects, although he was already a relatively successful cobbler whose baggage mostly consisted of 350 pairs of shoes!

The seas were treacherous and most of the 100 or so passengers were left weakened by seasickness and disease by the time they docked in the colonies in December. The settlement they finally found was unfit for habitation and it took a further two – three months for the settlers to establish themselves. By that time over half of them had succumbed to fevers and other illnesses.

Mullins himself, then his wife and son had all died by February 1621, leaving daughter Priscilla in the care of one of the religious leaders. The blue plaque outside the house in South Street commemorates Mullins' voyage to the new land but it is his daughter Priscilla's survival and marriage to the ship's cooper John Alden that ensured survival of the family. With 10 children and 71 grandchildren to her name, she was ancestor to US presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams.

The tour of Dorking buildings and sites connected with the Mayflower, led by Dorking Museum guide Kathy Atherton, highlighted some of the key sites and buildings in existence during Mullins' time including some of the many pubs and inns such as the Queen's Arms (renamed the King's Arms) and the White Horse.

Behind the museum, in Gun Court, pub owner Edward Goodwyn's initials (EG) can still be seen etched on the gables of his home.



The present layout of Dorking is similar to Dorking in Mullins' time, although the Market Hall which would have been situated at the entrance of St Martin's Walk, was flattened to make room for a new building which was never built. It would have housed the jail on the first floor.

The only vestige testifying to the

existence of a 17th century Dutch-style building behind the White Horse are the hipped dormers visible above parapet; the rest of the building was re-styled in the 19th century.

Looking onto the surrounding hills and Denbies Estate, Cotmandene reminds us of what life might have been like for Dorking inhabitants at the time of Mullins. Vines were grown in the temperate climate and as a young lad, Mullins may have played cricket and practised archery after Sunday services. Wasteland would have provided grazing for horses and oxen. The locals would have been granted the right, by the lord, to collect any deadwood they could pull down with a shepherd's crook or cut with a reaper's bill-hook (i.e. **by hook or by crook**).

Beryl Sinclair



U3A Profiles

*This is the first in a series that looks at activities and experiences of members outside the U3A. Mike Thurner is a volunteer for the **Wildlife Aid Foundation**, a charity founded by Simon Cowell MBE in 1980 which operates a wild animal hospital in Leatherhead.*



Native wild animals suffer diseases and injuries from accidents often involving vehicles or cat attacks. Orphaned young need rescue and help to survive.

Animals cared for include foxes, badgers, hedgehogs and small mammals, occasional amphibians / reptiles, and birds including pigeons and doves, garden birds, crows, owls and hawks.

The hospital includes a reception desk, an intensive care unit, the main hospital/recovery unit with a quarantine area and a rehabilitation unit in preparation for release. There is also an operating theatre

and an X-ray room, run by the full-time veterinary team. A patient card follows each animal throughout its stay in the hospital recording its condition, food consumption, weight and medication. The over-riding aim is to release all patients back to the wild as soon as they have sufficiently recovered.

When needed, force feeding and medication are administered by qualified staff based in the intensive care unit, whilst routine patient care is performed by trained volunteers working in shifts.

The hospital is open seven days a week from 9am to 9pm, with three shifts for each of the three units. Morning shift is from 9am-1pm, afternoon shift from 1-6pm and evening shift from 6-9pm (10pm in spring and summer). At least four volunteers are needed per shift, some 250 volunteer-shifts per week (many volunteers do more than one shift).

The routine care involves cleaning out and disinfecting cages, putting out food and water and noting food

consumption, often weighing the patient and, when requested, taking poo samples for analysis by the vets, keeping a record on the patient's card.

Each animal has to be given the correct food so quantities of all sorts of food, as well as cleaning and bedding material and surgical gloves, have to be stored and maintained. The soiled bedding, food waste, cleaning materials and clinical waste have to be correctly disposed of.

The hospital costs some £1400 per day to run. WAF receives no government support and relies for funding on membership, donations, animal adoptions and a voluntary contribution when a new patient is delivered for admission.

My own shift is in the main hospital on Monday mornings, which coincides with bank holidays but when retired one day is much like another.

With my interest in wildlife and despair over the way the exploding human population is leaving no space for wildlife, this voluntary work is rewarding and a way of making some amends.

Many U3A members are likely to have an interest in wildlife and I would encourage them to join our Natural History group to learn more and share their enthusiasm with like-minded people.

Mike Thurner

(photographs Mike Thurner)



We will remember them!

As generations of young and old reconnect with the past, we unearth stories and memories waiting to be told and kept alive for others to learn from. Here is one such document.

Infantryman's day-to-day existence in the front line in Italy 1944

"Dig a hole in your backyard while it is raining. Sit in the hole while the water climbs up round your ankles. Pour cold mud down your shirt collar. Sit there for 48 hours and so that there is no danger of your dozing off, imagine that a chap is sneaking around waiting for a chance to club you on the head or set your house on fire. Get out of the hole, fill a suitcase full of rocks, pick it up, put a shot-gun in your other hand and walk on the muddiest road you can find. Fall flat on your face every few minutes as you imagine big meteors swooping down to sock you. Snoop around until you find an angry bull. Try to find a way to sneak around him without letting him see you. When he does see you, run like hell all the way back to your hole in the back yard, drop the suitcase and shot-gun and get in. If you repeat this performance every three days for several months you may begin to understand why an infantryman gets out of breath. But you still won't understand how he feels when things get really bad."



Captain Maurice Fitzmaurice- Enniskillen Fusiliers

My father (aged 22 years pictured second left, smoking) at Monte Cassino in 1944 before he was captured. Dad recommended the radio operator for the Military Cross. Although badly injured, the 18-year old stayed behind to fix the radio to maintain communication. He got his medal. Just before capture, Dad had a load of grenades which he flung all around him in self-preservation! Apparently Dad got the Military Cross too, but didn't find out until 40 years later!

Caroline Brown

U3A Group Open Day - June 2020

In June 2020, Dorking & District U3A propose holding an entertaining open day, when there will be groups with stalls providing activities such as card games, sewing, painting, table tennis, bowls and much more. Entertainment is planned by the language, music and activity groups. At the moment the venue may be the Christian Centre.

To make it a special day we need your help! Of course, some groups like to keep to themselves and feel they don't need to participate. However, this event is an opportunity for groups to find out more about each other and learn, as well as have fun. **LEARN, LAUGH, LIVE!**

LEARN – U3A has a wonderful variety of groups and this event gives a "hands on" opportunity to learn new skills.

LAUGH – Who doesn't like laughing? Joining the various groups certainly encourages this. It is surely an enjoyment, where friendships can be made and communication with others in the U3A is possible.

LIVE – Everyone wants the best out of life and many members have found being part of U3A has helped. This event would enhance this and give the opportunity to share with others.

Although this event is several months away, there is a lot of preparation required. The sooner this is done, the more successful this event will be. I am in touch with Group Leaders to gather information at the moment, but I am also interested in individual input and ideas. After all It is your event!

Contact: Caroline Brown, Publicity Co-ordinator, U3A Committee

Tel: 01737 642962 Email: publicity@dorkingu3a.org.uk



Festivals around the World Quiz

Question 1: Which statement is true about the world-famous carnival in Rio de Janeiro?

- a) It is held before Lent.
- b) The costumes people wear are intended to hide differences among classes
- c) During the carnival salsa schools compete with rival salsa schools
- d) It is held after Easter

Question 2: What European city hosts the White Nights Festival, culminating in the Scarlet Sails celebration?

- a) Prague, the Czech Republic
- b) Manchester, England
- c) St. Petersburg, Russia
- d) Paris, France



Question 3: The festival of San Fermín, with the famous running of the bulls, is held in this Spanish city.

- a) Barcelona
- b) Pamplona
- c) Malaga
- d) Madrid

Question 4: The beer served at the famous German festival Oktoberfest must be brewed within the limits of this city.

- a) Munich
- b) Berlin
- c) Hamburg
- d) Dortmund

Question 5: Which festival is incorrectly matched with the country where it is held?

- a) Battle of the Oranges - Italy
- b) La Tomatina - Brazil
- c) Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) - Mexico
- d) Burning Man Festival - The USA

Question 6: In what country is the annual Harbin International Ice and Snow Sculpture Festival held?

- a) Canada
- b) Norway
- c) China
- d) Japan



© Can Stock Photo (Answers page 24)

Residential Trip : Norfolk 13–17 October 2019

It was a damp, dark, dreary start to the day
When 26 U3A members got underway
To see the Cathedrals and Stately Homes of Norfolk together
Intrepid travellers despite the rainy weather.
Our Welsh Coach driver Les was kind and competent
Keeping his passengers happy and confident

Our first stop was Ely at the Ship of the Fens by name
This awesome holy cathedral lived up to its fame
Harvest meant the Cathedral was full of things that please
Flowers, Fruit, Veggies, Honey, Fudge and Cheese
There were also two Sheep, some Weaving and Spinning
Straw bales, a Tractor and then Choral singing
A brilliant start to this cultural tour
Leaving us all eager and wanting more

Arrival at The George Hotel in Norwich, Arlington Lane
We were pleased to see that we had lost the rain.
A friendly service, good rooms and tasty food
Made us all feel very welcome and good.

Monday saw the arrival of Claire, our Blue Badge Guide
The forecast was bad, but we would often be inside.
Friendly and bubbly, knowledgeable too
She kept us informed all the way through
A wet Coach tour of Norwich the City of Stories
A Castle, Cathedral, Cobblestones and other glories
The weather dried up and we got out to walk
A stunning Cathedral and Claire's interesting talk
The afternoon saw us at Felbrigg Hall, a cherished country retreat
Such wonderful parklands, great woods, walled garden all so neat.

Tuesday morning was Sandringham, the home of our Queen
So much history and beauty, the house and gardens to be seen
This was the day of the Group Photograph
In front of the house on a very wide path.
The house, the gardens and Church kept us in thrall
Time passed so quickly for us to enjoy it all.
Next a visit to Oxburgh Hall, a country property of note
Containing a Priest's hole and a surrounding Moat.



Having absorbed much history and culture it was time for some fun
The Bure Valley Railway gave us a good run
Mini carriages pulled by an engine of steam
Every small boy's idea of a dream
We arrived at Wroxham to be met by our Coach
The little train proudly hooted our approach.
Then off to the harbour for a cruise on the Broads
A scene of beautiful trees, water and wildlife in hoards

We enjoyed the experience although it was wet
Then back to our culture tour lest we forget!
The afternoon was spent on the Blickling Estate
A thousand years story unfolded to date
Jacobean players in costume brought history to life
Privy Councillor Hobart and Dorothy his wife
The formal gardens were impressive and so was the lake
Returning to the coach it was hard to stay awake!



Our day of departure dawned bright and clear
We fare welled The George which had become dear
Only one member knew our stop at Layer Marney Tower
England's tallest Tudor Gatehouse, a seat of wealth and power
Our apprehension turned to unmitigated delight
As the impressive building came in to our sight
The historical facts were brought to life
On our personal tour by the owner's wife
Amusing and interesting she was utterly beyond reproach
We nearly upset Les by being late back to the coach.



Safely home once again our fun education objectives met
Saturated with historical facts we will probably all forget.
We had traversed Norfolk all over the place
Enjoying its beauty, charm and grace
So dear reader if you find you want to know more
Then please join us for the Spring 2020 Dorking U3A tour.

*Ianthe Cox
Residential Trips Leader*

Editor: Thank you to Ianthe for this original report on the Norfolk Trip.

**Residential Trip 1:
HISTORIC HOUSES &
HERITAGE OF THE PEAK DISTRICT
5 days departing 1st May 2020**

Calling all intrepid travellers of Dorking U3A
To visit the Peak District at the start of May.
Fun education is the name of the game
Seeing places of interest and houses of fame.
A Hotel based at Buxton is where we all start
With a visit to Bakewell to try out some tart
Our coach driver will take us without any fuss
Just fill in the form and come and join us.

Cost: £579 , covers half-board accommodation at the 4-star Best Western Hotel Plus in Buxton; excursions and guided tours; executive coach; Blue Badge guide (days 2 and 3), executive coach throughout.

Extras: Insurance £24; single room supplement £79; entrance fees to places visited (National Trust properties free to NT members)

Day 1: 1st May 2020

Depart by executive coach from designated pick-up points. En route, visit to NT Baddesley Clinton. Arrival at Lee Wood Hotel, Buxton.

Day 2

Guided tour of Bakewell, well-known for its tarts and puddings, followed by a visit of Chatsworth, home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire and setting of the film 'Pride and Prejudice'.

Day 3

Morning guided visit to Renishaw Hall and Gardens, the Sitwell family home for 400 years, and afternoon visit to Hardwick Hall and Gardens.

Day 4

Free time in the morning to stroll round Buxton before going on to Haddon Hall, a 12th century fortified manor house.

Day 5

Before our return home, visit of Crich Tramway Village, a restored period village overlooking the famous Derwent Valley and home to the National Tramway Museum.

For details and application form, visit www.tailored-travel.co.uk (*quoting dngu201*) or contact **Ianthe Cox** 01737 843105 ianthecox72@gmail.com

Residential Trip 2:

THE DELIGHTS OF TUSCANY

6 days departing 4th October 2020

The Autumn trip is going abroad.
Start saving your pennies so you can afford
To fly to Tuscany and enjoy driving around
Italian architecture of which lots can be found.
Lovely Italian food, olives and wine,
Your palate sated whenever we dine.
Just pack your cases and be ready for sun
Come and join us for lots of educational fun.

Cost: £959, covers five nights in half-board accommodation at the 4-star Grand Hotel Tamerici & Principe in Montecatini Terme; excursion travel & guided tours; direct scheduled flights from Gatwick; executive coach in Italy. Drinks are **not** included in the cost of the trip.

Extras: Insurance £46; single room supplement £99; local hotel tax.

Day 1: 4th October 2020

Depart from Gatwick to Pisa. Coach transfer to Grand Hotel Tamerici & Principe in Montecatini Terme. Welcome 3-course dinner is included in the price.

Day 2

Siena: guided tour of the Campo where the Palio horse race is held. Visit the cathedral and Piccolomini Library. Afternoon: free visit of Tuscan village San Gimignano.

Day 3

Day visit: Lucca, Puccini's birthplace, with its Church of San Fediano and the Church of San Michele in Foro.

Day 4

Florence, Renaissance art capital: guided tour of Ponte Vecchio, the Duomo, Santa Croce Church, Pitti Palace and Boboli Gardens.

Day 5

Torre de Lago: a morning guided tour of the Museo Villa Puccini and of the Fattoria il Poggio farm followed by olive oil and wine tasting and lunch. Free afternoon in Montecatini Terme.

Day 6

Guided tour of Pisa includes the Duomo, the Baptistery and the Leaning Tower. Return to Gatwick.

For details and application form, visit www.tailored-travel.co.uk (*quoting dngu202*) or contact **Ianthe Cox** 01737 843105 ianthecox72@gmail.com

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

We warmly thank all the contributors for their interesting articles, poems and pictures. We welcome future contributions for the **Spring 2020 edition** of the Newsletter to reach the Editor (details below) no later than **end March 2020**.

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 and if possible, submit a typed contribution 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.

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Answers to quiz on page 19:

1(a) *The Rio Carnival* includes parades and a competition among samba schools; 2(c) *The White Nights Festival* includes ballet, opera and music events during the season of the midnight sun; 3(b) The festival is held in honour of Saint Fermin, the co-patron of Navarre, and features the 'encierro', or running of the bulls; 4(a) *Oktoberfest* is held in Munich, Bavaria; 5(b) *La Tomatina* is a Spanish festival held in Valencia, involving a tomato fight; 6(c) All these countries host winter festivals involving ice carving, but the 2007 Harbin festival, was awarded the Guinness Record for the largest snow sculpture featuring the 'Niagara Falls' and 'Crossing the Bering Strait'.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT! — PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP 1



'BREAKFAST'
(photograph Millicent Lake)



'CRUNCHY PRAWNS'
(photograph Angela Rixon)



'CRISP BISCUIT'
(photograph Jonathan Grant)



'CRISPY STARTER'
(photograph Peter Crook)

WILDLIFE AID—FOX AND BADGER (photographs Mike Thurner)



U3A RESIDENTIAL NORFOLK TRIP



ABOVE: U3A GROUP OUTSIDE SANDRINGHAM (*photograph Ianthe Cox*)

BELOW: LAYER MARNEY TOWER & NORWICH CATHEDRAL (*photographs Linda Green*)

