



Dorking & District u3a

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live

# Newsletter

Spring 2021



## MARBLES ON MIRROR

*Photo by Mike Thurner*

## CURIOSITIES BY MIKE THURNER



1.

1. GLASS HALF FULL, HALF EMPTY
2. FORKS AT THE READY!!
3. MIKE AND CAMERA



3.



# Editorial

---



## **WELCOME**

*Earlier this month, I received a thank you card from a member not on email to whom I had posted some art history notes.*

**THANK YOU** is all it takes to acknowledge the efforts and work done by group leaders to keep members in touch and motivated.

*In the next weeks, as we slowly come out of lockdown, the Committee aims to support groups hoping to relaunch in late summer and autumn and will be offering a series of events to bring people together. One such event will be a live watercolour workshop run on Zoom by celebrated artist Jake Winkle, scheduled for 16th June.*

*Many u3as up and down the country are networking and working closely to share skills, resources and opportunities to ensure that as a movement we go forward together with renewed vision and energy.*

*Over the last months we have sadly lost a number of members who have contributed much to the Dorking u3a, members like Mike Thurner and Charmian Corner, long-time leader of the Shakespeare group. I for one am humbled by their commitment and belief in the u3a movement.*

*We hope we can all join together to keep it alive and vibrant.*

*Beryl Sinclair*

*Chairman / Editor*

# Membership

---

## Membership subscriptions

In March 2021 we invite current members to renew their membership. If you have not yet done so, we hope you will renew and send payment as soon as possible.

To renew your membership of D&D u3a, you may use GoCardless on our website, [www.dorkingu3a.org.uk](http://www.dorkingu3a.org.uk), or send a cheque payable to **Dorking & District u3a** 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 - but no cash please.

*Please note, if you used GoCardless for 2020/21 you must set up a new direct debit payment for 2021/22, as the mandate is for a **one-off** payment only.*

For new members who joined since November 2020, your membership is paid to 31 March 2022.

In the meantime, we are pleased to welcome the following new members:

Leigh and Sonia Jones  
Peter Willows  
Pierino Ditri  
Dorothy Jenner

Elizabeth Lockhart-Muir  
Teresa Mills  
Theresa MacIntyre

*John Sinclair, Membership Secretary*



### Help celebrate u3a Day

Wednesday 2 June 2021

The first national u3a day will  
take place during Volunteer Week  
to raise the profile of the u3a.  
Details to follow.

# Rethink, regroup, relaunch



Like it or not Covid isn't going away anytime soon – even if we are all looking towards the end of lockdown, a return to normal activities and routines is unlikely.

Our Interest Groups have suffered due to restrictions on face-to-face meetings and members' concerns.

Many groups have continued to keep in touch very successfully throughout the crisis using Zoom, phone calls and emails. However, some are struggling to survive.

First, it is good to be reminded that the u3a movement is primarily about self-help and exchange of ideas. Group leaders and members often feel that they need to be experts in a subject but often just taking part in shared learning and meeting to discuss ideas is enough to ensure the success of a group. Where group members feel they lack the motivation or ideas to keep going, there are contacts, suggestions and even events listed on the National and the Trust u3a websites that anyone can access.

Behind the scenes the Committee has been liaising with other local u3as

to share ideas and expertise. The SE Region Network website now has a page dedicated to activities and events that are open to members from other u3as. Dorking u3a has hosted two successful quiz events with the help of a Caterham u3a member.

**AND IT'S OFFICIAL** – taster sessions work! The ***Military History, Science and Technology, Architecture*** and ***Shakespeare*** groups have opened up sessions to all members and found that this is swelling their numbers. If you are happy to invite new members to your group Zoom session, you may find that your group will increase in size and benefit from fresh ideas.

You may have an idea for a new group, be they artistic, scientific or activity based but don't know where to start. Contact me, Gareth Balle – we will be pleased to give you the assistance you need to get started. Although physical meetings are not possible at present, if we can get new groups set up with members now, we can facilitate initial Zoom sessions so that you are ready to start in earnest once the Covid situation improves.

*Gareth Balle*  
*Groups Co-ordinator*

# Goodbye Mike Thurner

*We were sad to hear of Mike's sudden death just before New Year. An energetic member of Dorking u3a, he generously shared his skills and interests with many who will miss him. I am indebted to Elizabeth Holmes for telling us about his life.*



After leaving public school Mike did his national service flying jets in Canada before studying for a BSc in Aero Engineering and an MSc Eng. at Southampton University, slipping off at weekends to fly. Working for several different companies, he designed simulators and even a knitting machine, before starting his own successful computer business.

A keen sportsman, Mike was an award-winning AAA pole-vaulter and throughout his life a keen sailor, skier, scuba diver and squash player. He belonged to walking groups wherever he lived completing many long distance walks such as Hadrian's Wall Walk and The Dales Way.

He was a lifelong volunteer, maintaining wildlife areas for Surrey Wildlife Trust, teaching computer skills on behalf of organisations such as Age Concern, Leonard Cheshire, The Surrey Coalition for Disabled People, and The Harvest Church.

Mike was a very knowledgeable naturalist, particularly of birds, flowers and dragonflies and knew where and when to find different orchids on Box Hill, Ranmore and elsewhere. He had his own web site and many thousands of his photographs are being transferred to the RSBP, the Butterfly Conservation and The British Dragonfly Society. He also volunteered at Leatherhead's Wildlife Aid. Mike loved travelling all over the world for work or pleasure. Twice he drove his camper-van through France, Belgium and Sweden up to the Arctic Circle and home via Norway. He had extensive knowledge in a wide range of subjects and was forever updating his '*A Compiled View of Evolution*', a huge tome which may be posthumously published.

In his own words: *"I have four healthy children and six grandchildren growing up and enough money to live comfortably. I have a lovely partner - I am a lucky man."*

## ... with thanks

---

Mike's willing support and attention to detail will remain as glowing memories of my time in the Chair.

*Doreen Raine*

In 2011 Mike started and hosted our Photography Group bringing along an in-depth knowledge of the craft which he was keen to share with others, his strong engineering background being a great asset. He also brought a high level of enthusiasm and creativity, most of which was based on his love of wildlife and nature in general. His personality and sense of humour ensured that the group has continued to thrive. He will be greatly missed by all of us.

*Graham Speed*

I first got to know Mike when we were fellow volunteers teaching basic IT skills for Dorking Age Concern, and realised we were neighbours.

I'm sure many of Mike's clients were younger than him, but he was always keen to keep up with new technology and help users with a variety of hardware. He was well known in the u3a for his wry sense of humour and good company...

*Rosemary Hobbs*

### **I thank thee God, that I have lived (extract)**

*by Elizabeth Craven (1750 – 1828)*

I thank thee God, that I have lived  
In this great world and known its many joys:  
The songs of birds, the strongest sweet scent of hay,  
And cooling breezes in the secret dusk;  
The flaming sunsets at the close of day,  
Hills and the lovely, heather-covered moors;  
Music at night, and the moonlight on the sea,  
The beat of waves upon the rocky shore  
And wild white spray, flung high in ecstasy;  
The faithful eyes of dogs, and treasured books,  
The love of Kin and fellowship of friends  
And all that makes life dear and beautiful...



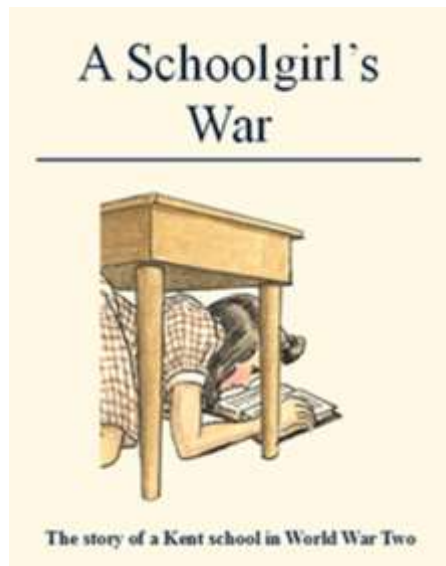
# Monthly meetings

---

## A Schoolgirl's War, 13th January 2021

Mary Smith

(Photographs courtesy of MGGS and Mary Smith)



Mary Smith, Headteacher of Maidstone Girls Grammar School in 2006-2014, recounted the living and learning conditions of schoolgirls and teachers during WW2 as depicted in the school's 'War Diary' and a scrapbook of sketches done by Helen Keen, an art teacher at the time.

Using these sketches and through extensive research, Mary was able to author a book about those times. She was also able to track down several 'old girls' – 53 in

total – whom she interviewed. Now in their 80s and 90s, they were able to give first-hand knowledge of their experiences and how they were educated.

Maidstone Grammar School was built in the 1930s but had not thus far admitted girls. At the outbreak of war in September 1939, as the girls were getting ready to attend their new school, parents were sent postcards informing them that they couldn't start full time school until the air raid shelters had been built! Most girls attended part-time schooling only for many months.

When the school opened at last in February 1940, Helen drew pictures of staff and girls trying to protect school windows with sheets of sticky paper as well as pictures of men building baffle walls also to protect these windows. One sketch shows girls rushing down to the shelters and teachers running with sticky paper and scissors, graphically illustrating the mad rush to get to safety through one of the three entrances.



The concrete bunkers at the back of the school had six zigzagged tunnels, three doors for exit and entrance as well as two escape hatches. They were built like this to prevent a blast from travelling through the complex but it also meant that teachers had their own 'space' to teach. The shelters had plain concrete walls and a dado rail, presumably to stop the girls leaning against cold walls. The dirt floors would have been very muddy as the shelters weren't waterproof. Teachers had to cope with cramped teaching conditions and poor lighting.

Sketches show the girls huddled together and teachers, presumably in a lunch break, sitting back-to-back on a bench, knitting with a cup of tea on the ground.

Another picture shows girls serving soup during lunchtime - we really get a feeling of what it would have been like to be stuck down there until the 'all clear' sounded.



In another picture, we see a wall with algebra sums chalked on it – clearly, teachers wanted to continue the girls' education in all the main subject such as maths, English, science, etc, even though they were up against many obstacles.

From July to September 1940, the Battle of Britain was being fought overhead and when the 'all clear' sounded, the girls would rush out and collect bits of shrapnel.

Many sketches are humorous. One such sketch shows a long snake of girls queueing up for milk rations whilst teachers try hopelessly to accurately measure out the 1/3 pints of powdered milk!

During 1944 Doodlebugs took to the skies. Teachers and senior girls were sent out on 'look out and listen' duty before rushing into school to sound the bell for all to go to the shelters. Later, the girls were told to crouch under desks – one such sketch shows a girl with her head completely under the desk and her bottom sticking out.

One sketch shows staff and girls pulling sticky netting off windows after VE Day and protective walls, erected years before, being torn down by the dads.



In 1948 the tunnels at the front of the school were demolished but a recent survey has shown that one set of tunnels is still intact.

As a matter of interest, in 2013 a

group of primary school children were taken to one of the tunnels at the back of the school to experience a lesson down there. They were also given a WW2 lunch and heard a recording of the sirens which would have brought history alive for them.

Mary was a very engaging speaker and brought to life the experiences of those girls and their teachers at this period of their lives. Mary's book entitled 'A Schoolgirl's War' is available to buy and half the profits from this will help fund the project to open up these tunnels.

For a copy of Mary's book, contact Maidstone Grammar School for Girls, [central@mggs.org](mailto:central@mggs.org) or 01622 752103.

*Deanne Rhodes*

## **The Wasbies 10th February 2021 Elizabeth Lockhart-Mure**



*Copyright National Army Museum*

During and following WW2, the 14th Army was too often referred to as the "Forgotten Army" and its operations in the Burma Campaign (1943-1945) largely overlooked by contemporary press.

Formed in 1943, it was led by Lieutenant-General William Slim

who commanded some one million service personnel. Although it was the largest Commonwealth army ever assembled, he is said to have told his troops:

*“When you go home don't worry about what to tell your loved ones and friends about service in Asia. No one will know where you were, or where it is if you do. You are and will remain ‘The Forgotten Army.’”*

If an Army is forgotten, what are the chances that an individual unit will be remembered? One such unit destined to be lost to memory is the Wasbies, until Elizabeth Lockhart-Mure discovered the war time diary, photos and campaign medals, including The Burma Star and MBE, of her late maternal aunt, Capt. Jeanne Elspeth Pilbrow, or Maria as she was known to the family.

Elizabeth used these significant primary sources for her book *Front Line and Fortitude, Memoirs of a Wasbie with ‘The Forgotten Army’* to tell the story of the Wasbies or Women's Auxiliary Service (Burma) or WAS(B), which was formed in 1942.

Raising and maintaining the serving men's morale was the core function of the Wasbies. They formed static and mobile canteens, prepared meals and organized entertainment such as dances and

film whilst experiencing monsoons, floods, tropical temperatures, humidity, wretched jungle conditions, fighting off snakes and insects and often operating within gunshot sound of the enemy. Their efforts and ingenuity resulted in the set-up of field ovens, the ability to cross swollen rivers and the repair of their transport vehicles.

Aged from their teens to middle age, these wives and daughters of expats, military staff and missionaries, most with a ‘get up and go’ attitude, staffed the WAS(B) which was initially tasked to work on cypher duties in Burma. Following the Japanese invasion, they were evacuated to India and disbanded. Undaunted, they re-formed to provide canteen service within the British Army.

Their morale boosting provision of ‘*char and wads*’ accompanied by a smile and time to chat were eagerly welcomed by the 14th Army to whom they were assigned.

The number of mobile canteens covered a large area and operated from bombed out houses and mess tents whilst serving bully beef, Heinz K rations and the universally disliked soya sausages, whenever no other rations were available.

It was not unusual for the Wasbies to work 19-hour days in

very trying conditions with little privacy and no comforts, insisting that they did not want to be treated differently to the men (although many did insist upon having their own portable loo seat!).

Maria joined the Wasbies in 1944, aged just 24 years, on the eve of the Burma campaign. She and two Wasbie teams were assigned to the 36th Division landing there on 20th December 1944 and were immediately tasked to provide a Christmas dinner for the hundreds of men about to head for the front line. An escaped turkey and pig had to be caught before becoming another meal on Christmas Day.

Being close to the front line, mobile canteens experienced sniper fire and at one point the ladies were issued with service revolvers for their own protection. These two canteens moved forward as the fighting men advanced so that they could continue sustaining morale. This contrasted with the mood-changing effect on them personally when confronted with the graves of men to whom they had been chatting just days before.

The actions of Maria, promoted to captain, were officially recognised during her time with the 36th Division, after which she was presented with a Mention in Despatches gallantry award and an MBE.

Following Victory over Japan day, the Wasbies became engaged in both the repatriation of women in the Dutch East Indies who had been interned in camps, and the repatriation of men who survived the dreadful Japanese POW camps. Later Maria met a man who had survived such a camp and became her husband. He was to die too soon due to the inhuman treatment by his captors.

You can contact Elizabeth on [lockhartmure@btinternet.com](mailto:lockhartmure@btinternet.com) for a copy of her book, *Front Line and Fortitude, Memoirs of a Wasbie with 'The Forgotten Army'* (ISBN-13: 978-1789016437) which is an invaluable reference and gives full recognition of the value of the Wasbies in Burma.

*Barrie Friend*  
(You will find the full article on the D&D u3a website)

**Climate Reality, 24th February 2021**  
**Brenda Ainsley**



Brenda Ainsley, Trust u3a Eco Group Leader, focused on the causes of climate emergency and the global solutions already in hand, then outlined the steps we can all take to make a difference.

The Climate Reality Project is a non-profit organisation involved in education and advocacy related to climate change. In July 2011, it brought together two environmental groups, the Alliance for Climate Protection and The Climate Project, both founded by former US Vice President Al Gore. It focuses on awakening people's awareness of climate change initiatives and trains Climate Reality Leaders to talk on the harmful effects of climate

change and ways to help climate change at grassroots level.

**The Science of Climate Change**

Brenda began her presentation with the iconic image of the *Blue Planet* taken from space by Apollo 17, explaining that if the Earth were represented by an apple, the atmosphere would only be the thickness of the skin. It's therefore very susceptible to damage by the 152 million tons of pollutants due to human activity every 24 hours. This pollution is believed to be the main cause of increased observed atmospheric and sea temperature over recent years. The main source of pollution is the burning of fossil fuels for electricity generation, transport and industrial processes. Industrial-scale agriculture such as the production of soya animal feed and the deforestation which results are important sources of pollution.

Clear evidence of global heating is shown by the fact that 2020 was the hottest year since records began; 19 of the 20 hottest years recorded have been since 2000. This heating also results in more frequent extreme weather events such as droughts, flooding and bush

such as droughts, flooding and bush fires. We also see the melting of glaciers, which causes a rise in sea levels as well as reduces the amount of heat reflected into space, thus causing a vicious cycle of increasing temperatures. This increase is difficult to reverse, but we must seek to slow down and halt the increase before it becomes a major threat to many life forms, including our own. It is estimated that 50% of land species could be at risk from the effects of climate change this century.

### Solutions to the problem

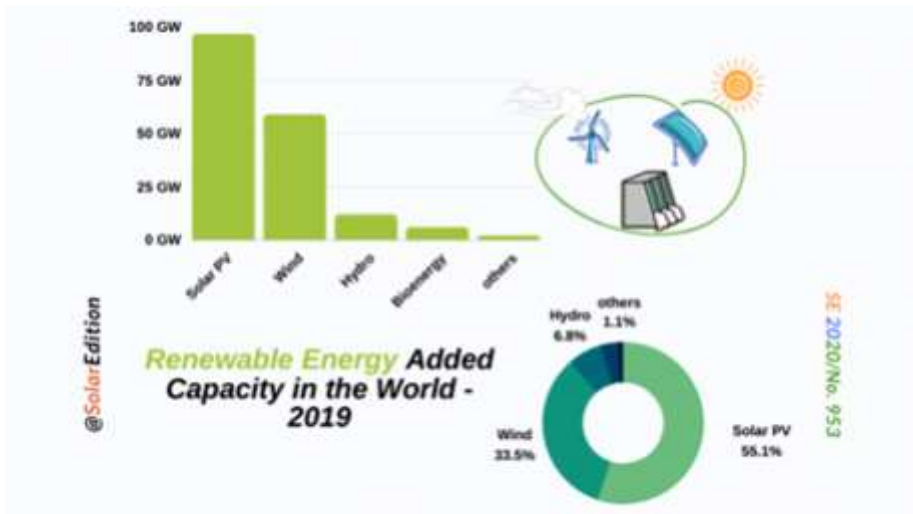


We do not need to wait for the development of new technologies to tackle the problem. A key factor is the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and there has been notable success in some areas. In

the UK, for example, progress in wind and solar power generation has greatly exceeded expectations and 37% of electricity generation is now from renewable sources. The move away from coal meant that in 2020 the UK achieved 67 continuous days of coal-free electricity generation. We have ambitious targets for increased use of electric vehicles. These initiatives are also having a positive effect on air quality. Global cooperation is key to significant progress. In 2015, 119 countries signed up to the Paris Climate Agreement and this year progress will be reviewed in Glasgow at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).

### Next steps

Each of us has a *carbon footprint* and you can check your contribution to global heating by checking the website [www.carbonfootprint.com](http://www.carbonfootprint.com). The Climate Reality Project produced the document 'Next Steps' outlining what individuals can do to reduce their own carbon footprint. This means reducing fossil fuel use from home heating and travel, changing patterns of consumption, supporting companies and organisations with a commitment to carbon reduction,



commitment to carbon reduction, and lobbying councils and MPs. The full document will be sent to attendees and is available on our website, [www.dorkingu3a.org.uk](http://www.dorkingu3a.org.uk).

The meeting was attended by 66 USA members who are grateful

to Brenda for a thought-provoking and informative presentation.

We should now be inspired to take steps to reduce our own personal carbon footprint and to encourage others to do the same.

*Bob Crooks*

### A date for your diary 28th April 2021

Tim Reynoldson from the *Science and Technology* group will give an overview of the UK battery electric vehicle (BEV) scene as he sees it. Tim has owned a fully electric Nissan New Leaf for three years and will outline the challenges of limited range, speed of charging, number of charging points and how these are being addressed. He'll highlight the advantages of driving BEVs and why he became hooked on them right from the start.



## ***Profiles — Tools with a Mission!***



*Hilda Burden, Committee and Military History member, tells us how our unwanted tools can find a new and useful purpose.*

Some 15 years ago I turned out the garden shed and found that I had two pickaxes. I was never going to wield one pickaxe again – let alone two. A friend told me about Tools With A Mission (TWAM) and that the closest Tool Collector was in Farnham. I made the 60-mile round trip with the pickaxes and was told about the life changing work that TWAM does in developing countries. Then I was told that there was an area between Farnham and Carshalton where there was no collector (it only needed a dry shed or garage) so I volunteered to become a Collector, little realising the huge volume of tools that would that would pass through my garage once the fact was advertised!

TWAM is a national charity committed to the recycling and refurbishment of tools, providing a means for poorer people in developing countries to be taught a trade and be given a set of tools. They are then able to support themselves and their families. With this practical help thousands of young men and women have benefited from the skills they have learnt and the tools that have been given.

As well as the old garden forks and spades, saws, hammers and nails, drills, pickaxes etc. that most of us keep as ‘too good to throw away’ we urgently need any sewing or knitting related tools, from dressmaking pins, needles and thread, zips, scissors and tape measures etc. to fabric and sewing machines also any wool, knitting needles, patterns and knitting machines. If you have any tools that are surplus to your requirements and you would wish them to help someone have a better quality of life and hope for the future, please contact me. I can collect any tools that you might wish to give to TWAM.

Contact Hilda Burden, 47 Middle Street, Brockham. 01737 842516  
[www.twam.co.uk](http://www.twam.co.uk)

# **Book review — My Stroke of Insight**

Pat Smith recommends the book *My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey* in which neuroanatomist Jill Bolte Taylor tells the story of the stroke she suffered aged just 37 and how she managed to tap into inner psychological calm and serenity as part of her rehabilitation. It's a remarkable story of how she experienced her stroke, what causes them, the effects they have and how she recovered.

I recommend the book to anyone who is worried they might have one, or families and friends of just about anyone who is older than 60, so that they will understand and know how best to support their loved one. The simple checklists at the end could literally be lifesavers. But the key lessons from the book are that:

1. The human brain has tremendous potential to heal and change and that people choose how to feel in any given moment.
2. Strokes leave victims locked into themselves and confused, feeling like one person but with the left and right sides of the brain often working in different ways.
3. With the loss of some functions, people gain other abilities and are capable of real positive emotions and progress.

However, the main message to Jill's family and friends was for them to respect and support her efforts towards healing, taking the time to listen and communicate calmly, always focusing on the positive steps towards recovery.

*"Recovery, however, you define it, is not something you do alone, and my recovery was completely influenced by everyone around me. I desperately needed people to treat me as though I would recover completely." (p. 111)*

*"I wanted to communicate: Yelling louder does not help me understand you any better! Don't be afraid of me. Come closer to me. Bring me your gentle spirit. Speak more slowly. Enunciate more clearly. Again! Please, try again! S-l-o-w down. Be kind to me. Be a safe place for me. See that I am a wounded animal, not a stupid animal. I am vulnerable and confused. Whatever my age, whatever my credentials, reach for me. Respect me. I am in here. Come find me." (p. 72)*

# Group news

---

Some groups are kindly opening up their Zoom sessions to the wider membership as "taster" sessions. This has been well received and has resulted in new members joining those groups. Would you consider opening a group session up in this way?

## Enjoying Architecture - 3rd March - Roger Stones



Fontevraud Royal Abbey, France was the focus of Roger's presentation. Using beautiful illustrations and photos, he covered the turbulent history and the restoration of the Abbey. Founded in 1101 by eccentric monk Robert d'Arbrissel, Fontevraud has always been a 'singular foundation', sheltering men and women. Eleanor of Aquitaine spent the end of her life

there, ordering that reclining effigies of Henry II, Richard the Lionheart as well as her own ornament the nave of the Abbey Church.

In 1792, following the French Revolution Napoleon Bonaparte ordered the Abbey be transformed into a prison. Until 1963, it could house up to 2,000 prisoners, and was considered one of the toughest prisons in France. In 1975, it opened its doors to visitors. Made of tuffeau limestone, with four domes and radiating chapels typical of the Aquitaine, it startles by its luminosity and space. His next session will look at the *Literature and Architecture of Normandy*. Contact Roger Stones on 01306 886754 or [roger.stones@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.stones@btinternet.com)

## Archaeology - 23rd February - Doggerland



Doggerland was an area of land connecting Great Britain to continental Europe, now beneath the North Sea. It gets its name from the Dogger Bank, named after 17th century Dutch fishing boats called *doggers*.

In the Mesolithic period, it was rich with human habitation although rising sea levels slowly reduced it to low-lying islands which were finally submerged due to a tsunami around 6500–6200BC.

Since the early 20th century, fishing vessels have been dragging up prehistoric animal remains, tools and weapons and international teams continue to investigate the submerged Doggerlands with modern geophysics and computer simulation.

The 23rd March meeting will look at the extraordinary Sutton Hoo story following a new film based on John Preston's 2007 book *The Dig*. Contact Pat Smith on 01306889278 or [pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pat2africa@yahoo.co.uk).

# THE IMPOSSIBLE QUIZ

As a result of networking with other u3as this winter, Phil Wright zoomed in from Caterham u3a to host two quiz nights for Dorking members. The quiz consisted of 50 questions, each given with three alternative answers: True, False, Impossible.

Phil was an engaging quiz master asking quite demanding questions but the small groups of participants meant that everyone could chat and share jokes and knowledge. Both sessions were so much fun we invite members to take part in future events later in the summer. Try your hand at some of the questions.

1. Name the 1967 film starring Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton as Shakespeare's Kate and Petruchio?

*Answers: a. Midsummer's Dream; b. The Taming of the Shrew; c. Doctor Faustus*

2. Which Space Shuttle completed the last ever Shuttle flight, in July 2011?

*Answers: a. Apollo; b. Discovery; c. Atlantis*

3. The Parthenon in Greece is dedicated to which goddess?

*Answers: a. Aphrodite; b. Venus; c. Athena*

4. Which English King was taken prisoner in a battle at Lincoln in 1141?

*Answers: a. Stephen; b. Henry 1; c. Kenneth 1*

5. *Vallum Aellum* is the Latin name for which Roman construction in Britain?

*Answers: a. Servian Wall; b. Hadrian's Wall; c. Antonine Wall*

6. Which year was the last time a Summer Olympics Games was not held on a leap year?

*Answers: a. 2020; b. 1940; c. 1900*

*Answers: 1. The Taming of the Shrew (c. impossible - Play by Marlowe); 2. Atlantis (a. impossible - rocket); 3. Athena (b. Venus - Roman goddess of love); 4. Stephen (c. impossible - Kenneth 1 is a Scottish king); 5. Hadrian's Wall (a. impossible - in Rome); 6. a. (c. impossible: any year ending in 00 is a leap year only if the year is divisible by 400; hence, 2000 was a leap year but 1900 was not; summer Olympics were cancelled in 1940 and 2020 due to war and contagion).*



## LOCKS AND KEYS

by Robert Edmondson



This world we inhabit, with its locks and its keys,  
Is not one of merit intended to please.  
With a key for the entrance and a key for the gate  
Of the park or the playground, the beach or estate.  
With a key for the office to let workers enter  
And exclude the riffraff, the angry dissenter.  
With a key for the front door and a key for the back  
And a key for the suitcase you wish to unpack.  
A key for the garage, the bike and the car  
And a key for the cupboard that holds your guitar.  
With keys for the tools that you store in your shed  
And keys for the biscuits and keys for the bread  
So many good reasons why we should have keys,  
To protect us from villains, from death and disease  
Our lives are controlled by these keys in a bunch  
That jingle and jangle but I've a firm hunch  
That our worries are greater the more that we bear  
Them in purses or pockets, in clothes that we wear.

Keys may not be metal, but may be a group  
Of letters and symbols thus forming a troop.  
Some keys come with plastic in the form of a card  
Which must not be lost for then life becomes hard  
The password gives access to your photos and notes  
Your financial records and your artistic quotes.  
Passwords and passcodes with tests for ID  
To prove I'm no robot, I still remain me.  
It must not be too simple, with an obvious look,  
To frustrate the burglar, the fraudster, the crook  
With no distinctive date nor a prominent name  
"More cryptic the better" the experts proclaim.  
They ought to be changed as a matter of course  
And different for every important resource  
No copy should be on a dining room wall.  
But a random arrangement is hard to recall.  
So much to remember as day follows day -  
Modernity seems to have led us astray!



## Calendar of Events: April - December 2021

<b>March</b>	24	<i>Zoom Presentation</i>	Human Colonisation of Space by Leigh Edwards
<b>April</b>	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Port Sunlight by Janet Shell
	28	<i>Zoom Presentation</i>	Electric Cars by Tim Reynoldson (u3a member)
<b>May</b>	12	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Dropping the Habit by Marion Dante
<b>June</b>	2	<i>u3a Day</i>	TBA
	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	TBA
	16	<i>Zoom Presentation</i>	A Painting Workshop with celebrated watercolourist Jake Winkle
<b>July</b>	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Conspiracy History of the World by Andy Thomas
<b>September</b>	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Anne of Cleves by Helen Poole
<b>October</b>	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	The Mysterious Disappearance of Amy & Amelia by Jim Barnes
<b>November</b>	10	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Brinks-Matt Gold Bullion Robbery by Ian Brown
<b>December</b>	8	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Royal Christmas by Siobhan Clarke

### **SURREY u3a NETWORK STUDY DAYS**

It is hoped that the following study days will be re-organised at the Menuhin Hall from mid-2021:

GEOGRAPHY & LANDSCAPES OF SOUTH EAST ENGLAND - Dr Geoffrey Mead

THE MOST FAMOUS PHARAOH OF THEM ALL: TUTANKHAMUN - Clive Barham Carter

THE DEVELOPMENT OF BRITISH STYLE - Paul Atterbury

UNDERSTANDING TURNER: THE MAN, HIS LIFE & HIS WORK - Professor Maria Chester

THE ART AND OBJECTS OF THE MUGHAL EMPERORS - Ursula Weekes

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY - Professor David Perrett

THE ART OF DRAWING - Colin Wiggins

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS OF THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD - Imogen Corrigan

Dorking & District u3a publishes a **Newsletter** and **What's On** four times a year in March/April (Spring), June/July (Summer), September/October (Autumn) and December/January (Winter).

The **Newsletter** cannot survive without contributions from members.

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.

<i>Editor</i>	Beryl Sinclair 01306 711542; <a href="mailto:dorkingu3achair@gmail.com">dorkingu3achair@gmail.com</a>
<i>Sub-editor</i>	Rosemary Harbridge <a href="mailto:rharbridge@sky.com">rharbridge@sky.com</a>
<i>Distribution</i>	Elizabeth Holmes 01306 884831
<i>Printer</i>	Eyes Wide Digital 01306 875150



## NATURAL WONDERS BY MIKE THURNER



1. BEE EATER LANDING
2. GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER
3. DRAGONFLIES
4. STOAT VS HERON



## SNOW PROBLEM!



**CLOSED FOR BUSINESS!**  
*(photograph  
Robert Edmondson)*

**A WINTER CHURCHYARD**  
*(photograph  
Gareth Balle)*



**SNOWDROPS**  
*(photograph  
Robert Edmondson)*

