



Dorking & District u3a

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

Newsletter

Summer 2022



ROYAL JUBILEE PICNIC - WHAT A TRIUMPH!

(photograph Bob Brown)

"It couldn't have gone better! A fantastic choice of venue, great organisation of every detail including the maps, super Pimms and cakes to die for, and lovely patriotic decorations." *Elizabeth Holmes*

DORKING U3A OUT AND ABOUT - SUMMER 2022



BROOKLANDS GROUP VISIT
APRIL 2022 (*photographs Paul Smith*)



**ABOVE: LOOKING OVER A NAPIER
RAILTON**

**BELOW: BARNES WALLIS STRATOSPHERE
CHAMBER**



LET'S TALK PLANTS

Below left & centre: Green Alkanet (A full description of this plant appeared in the Spring 2022 Newsletter but regrettably omitted the photos.) **Right & below right: Rosebay willowherb** (see page 11) (*photographs Robert Edmondson*)





Hello!

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT OR EXPECT OF YOUR u3A? I ask because recently two members were overheard saying that nothing was happening with Dorking u3a! Now I don't know where they've been but since last autumn, there have been days out and events organised every month, monthly meetings and residential trips. Groups have mostly resumed although some are still struggling. So what is the solution? Well, you are! Simply put, the u3a movement is based on people cooperating together and sharing skills and experience.

If a group is not running then step up and help or suggest a group that you would be interested in. Too many group leaders are having to do all the organising and are losing heart. The 10 strong Committee work tirelessly to bring events and trips to u3a members but all too often, bookings are either slow or too few to run an event. If we want to keep up the momentum of offering a variety of activities for members and indeed if we want the Dorking u3a to survive then we do need **HELP**. I need help! and the Committee will tell you that I am not good at asking for or accepting help. But we need members to step up, so I'm asking. Could you and others organise meetings or outings? Can you write up notes or take photographs?

In September we are holding our AGM and officers and committee members will be standing down. Maybe you consider being on the Committee too much of a commitment, but there are a variety of smaller roles that you could help with. If you have little time and cannot commit to regular meetings because of family and other engagements, then being part of an ad hoc working party or a support group might be for you. Helping occasionally will relieve the pressure on Committee members but it will also give you an opportunity to share ideas and feel valued. This issue includes a simple questionnaire for you to complete - filling it in will help us on the Committee plan for the future.

Finally, we already have a cohort of dedicated members running groups and delivering Newsletters among other things - they generously give up of their time to ensure the majority of members can join in with meetings and are kept informed of events. If you are part of that cohort, then **I THANK YOU**.

BERYL

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome!

A warm welcome to the following new members, who have joined since March 2022.

David Barke
David Budd
Michael and Jane Calvert
Jeremy Cornish
Patrick Flynn
Cathy Guy and Les Greenwood
Andrea Jayne Hunt

Alan Loryman
Geoff and Maria Powell
Diane and Christopher Prout
Richard Rode
Jeffrey Smith
Liz Whitaker

Membership subscriptions

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your subscriptions, which were due on 1st April 2022. 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, in the 'Membership' section or by sending a cheque payable to **Dorking & District U3A**, with a stamped addressed envelope if you would like a Membership Card, to John Sinclair, u3a Membership Secretary, 2 The Street, Capel, Dorking RH5 5LE.

Subscription rates remain unchanged at £16 for individual or £28 for joint membership for two people at the same address.

*Please note, if you used GoCardless for your 2021/22 subscription you must set up a new direct debit payment for 2022/23, as the mandate is for a **one-off** payment only.*

John Sinclair, Membership Secretary

Study and Interest Groups

Details of all current interest groups can be found in the handbook or on the Dorking & District u3a website www.dorkingu3a.org.uk. Alternatively you can contact **Groups Coordinator** Gareth Balle on 07734 045180 or email dorkingu3agroups@gmail.com. For general member enquiries contact **Members Contact** Hilda Burden on 01737 842516 or email hildaburden@gmail.com.

THE DENTIST

Oh dear, Mr Thompson,
What AM I to do?
I've pulled the wrong tooth out
And another one too!
I could use some Bostik.
Do you think that would do?
Or – if you are willing –
I might try some glue.

Relax, Mr Thompson,
Lean back in your chair.
You may be quite nervous
But I'll take every care.

There now, Mr Thompson,
All over and done.
I love pulling teeth out,
It's always such fun.
Let's pull out another,
Let's say it's for pleasure.
That's done, Mr Thompson,
You can go home at leisure.

I hope you don't mind the extra
extraction,
I just find it brings me such great
satisfaction.

Let's pull out one more tooth,
I hope you don't mind.
You're really so helpful
and so very kind.

All done, Mr Thompson
I'm happy to say.
You can go home quite toothless
But, oh, by the way
For the extra extraction
I must charge you some more
It's not a great deal now,
Just pay by the door
And, of course, in addition
I must charge you for VAT.
You're so understanding
So thank you for that.

Good bye, Mr Thompson,
And thanks for your call.
Take care on the stairs, now,
You don't want to fall.

Jim Docking



Dressmaking - Woven Threads



"I really enjoyed the vibrant colours, the textures and the fantastic designs. It was well worth the visit." "The most striking aspect was the vivid nature of the colours used in the tapestries and the partially abstract nature of the images."

These are just two of the many appreciative comments made by members of the Dressmaking Group after our visit to Denbies Gallery to view "Woven Colours." This inspiring exhibition featured the hand-woven, alpaca wool tapestries designed and made by Massimo Laura, a Peruvian 'Treasure.'

By definition, a tapestry is a textile, the design of which is produced by weaving (or interlocking) threads over and under a base of warp threads that are stretched over a loom. So, the Bayeux 'Tapestry' is actually an embroidery - a design stitched into a fabric with needle and thread.

Massimo Laura is a Peruvian designer and weaver of alpaca wool tapestries, whose inspiration is drawn from an eclectic mix of symbols gathered from the Inca culture, the Peruvian wildlife and landscapes to produce hand-woven tapestries that are the most fantastic, large and beautiful works of art. The images of wildlife are particularly striking as they whirl into a vast, seemingly chaotic, overlay of shapes representing a 3-D view of the sea or sky. Further images of snow-topped peaks of the Andes; trapezoid Inca stone buildings; rainbow-coloured fish and fantastic creatures, all watched over by the ever-present sun of the Inca religion, find a place in Laura's amazing designs.

Depending on its finished size and complexity, a tapestry can take several weeks, or even months to complete. The design stage of a tapestry takes a minimum of 3 weeks, starting with Laura producing a complete design on graph paper, then colouring it in. Once deemed satisfactory, the design is scaled up to full size and the sourcing of threads in the ply and colours required begins. The whole design is then laid out on a base sheet, over which the weavers work in shifts, gradually progressing the design to completion.

The importers/exhibitors of Massimo Laura's tapestries who put the exhibition together were surprised by the poor response of English Galleries to these works. They had arranged for Laura to visit the UK to understand what might be more marketable in the UK, home of William Morris and Laura Ashley. The resulting few smaller (2m x 1.5m) tapestries of more subtle design and colouring

were on view but were eclipsed by the sheer size and magnificent brilliance of those inspired by Laura's Inca heritage!

An Architectural Riddle



If you have walked around Shere, you may have seen a short way to the west of the village, by the Tillingbourne, next to a ford, a small pavilion and possibly wondered what it was.

Designed by local architect Michael Williams shortly after WW2 in the Arts and Crafts style, it was not just a handy resting place for the weary walker but served a practical purpose. An enquiry at the Shere Museum as to its purpose

proved inconclusive - possibly to measure the flow of the Tillingbourne they suggested, but they were not quite sure.

A visit to Shere Parish Council Office gave the answer. The one at Shere, with only one other at Abinger Hammer, was built at a time when sewage treatment from rural areas was being increased. Shere museum correctly suggested that it served to measure the flow of a fluid. Except that the fluid measured, probably by use of a Parshall Flume, was sewage!

Why they were both next to the Tillingbourne was not recorded, but it was possibly for the sewage pipe to follow the constant downward course of the Tillingbourne towards where the sewage was to be processed.

Denis Kellaway

Shakespeare and His Contemporaries



We're lucky in that Dorking Halls regularly screen opera, ballet and, of course, theatre performances.

In April, they presented Henry V from the Donmar Theatre in London as part of National Theatre Live. As the Shakespeare group have been studying Henry IV parts 1 and 2 and are about to read Henry V, this was one performance they couldn't miss!

Each time I read or watch a play by Shakespeare, another element is revealed that I hadn't perceived before. This is frequently true of the histories, of which Henry V is one.

This Henry, played by Kit Harrington, was a warlike king who goes to war on the flimsiest of excuses, something I hadn't really appreciated before, although I have studied the play more than once over the years.

This production was unusual in that all the scenes in the French court were spoken in French. Of course, I hear you say, they would be wouldn't they? Well no; although a couple of scenes in the play contain quite a bit of French, in the script the French court scenes are written in English.

There were some dramatic action sequences for the soldiers which used the rather small stage to the full, creating a claustrophobic effect. The battlefield scenes were full of sound and lighting effects, even fire, and were designed to make the audience feel that they were in the thick of battle.

Afterwards, there was little time for post-play discussion but there was enough to know that it was a bit of a 'Marmite' production. Some of our group loved it, others didn't. I'm sure that when we get together for our next group meeting we will learn a lot more about how we felt about this version of the play.

Jackie Rance

Quilting Group

When Sue Grant, a member of the u3a Quilting Group, sadly passed away a year ago, members of the group decided to make a quilt in her loving memory. Leader of Quilting Group 2 Juliet Eberle designed the quilt of 100 squares which we hope will echo Sue's love of colour. Over the past months, everyone has made several squares in these bright colours and having assembled them, we are now in the process of hand quilting and binding it. It will take many hours of patient stitching!



In consultation with Sue's husband Jonathan, we have decided to raffle the quilt in aid of Cancer Research, her favourite charity. We hope to have raffle tickets ready by the autumn - further details will appear in the next Newsletter.

Deanne Rhodes

DORKING U3A REMEMBERS AND GIVES THANKS ...

We were sad to learn of Mary Cranston's death following a long struggle with cancer. Over many years, she proved to be a dedicated u3a members leading the Pilates group from strength to strength.

We also say goodbye to Julie Mellows, a long-time valued Committee member and group coordinator of the French Conversation group. Every good wish for her move.

Finally, we say thank you to Joyce Kingsley Jones who at 98 years has decided to stand down from delivering the Newsletter to her local community.

MONTHLY MEETING

Royal Jubilees, 8 June 2022
Graeme Payne

Whilst we mostly associate Jubilees with an occasion to celebrate the life and reign of a Monarch, the concept and origins of jubilees



can be traced back to the Old Testament - the Hebrew word *yobhel* was used to mark the year of the remission of sins, celebrated every 50 years with the sounding of a ram's horn. In Latin, the word *jubilare* means "to shout with joy."

Although significant, Elizabeth's reign is not the longest – many monarchs have reigned longer such as Sobhuza II of Swaziland (82 years); Harold I of Norway (73 years); Louis XIV of France (72 years) although in most cases they ascended the throne before their majority.

The longest current reigning monarchs are both women, Elizabeth II and Margherita of Denmark. In England, there have been 14 silver, 6 golden and 2 diamond jubilees including Victoria and Elizabeth II. The idea of celebrating a sovereign's

jubilee is a relatively new idea and very particular to the UK. Other countries consider a long reign more due to divine will.

Edward III was the first to introduce royal hierarchy and pageantry, including the Order of the Garter and coins to commemorate his reign; his 9 children were all conferred titles.

Although George III disliked pomp, he introduced certain celebratory elements to mark his Golden Jubilee - he released land or 'royal farms' to the people impoverished by Napoleonic conflicts. Crowds flocked to thanksgiving services and impromptu fireworks displays.



Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1897 was the first to be attended

by dignitaries from around the world and celebrated over two days with military processions and immense street parties. Because she wanted people to enjoy leisure time in the fresh air, she introduced parks to different industrial cities although not all city officials saw this as a good thing. In the words of Pitman Poet, Matty Tate:

*'Why waste we our means
Over Kings and Queens
Though ever so good they may be
Let the Duke and the Peer
With their thousands a year
Rejoice if they like, but
Oh dear, oh dear,
Save the poor from this Jubilee.'*

Special issue coins were first used to mark a Royal Jubilee with the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 and a statue was erected in Brighton to commemorate the people's achievements in education,



science and industry.

Although the times were hard, people came out in their thousands to celebrate the Silver

Jubilee for George V in 1935; he introduced King George V playing fields and recreational grounds in towns and villages to encourage young people to enjoy sports.

In 1977, we saw a plethora of souvenirs and stamp collections to commemorate the Queen's Silver Jubilee. However, the main breakthrough was the introduction of the walkabout despite the threat of the IRA. This was a time when the Royals mingled with the people embedding the idea of the *people's jubilees*. In 2002, although having lost her mother and sister within weeks of her Golden Jubilee, the Queen went ahead with the celebrations which included the launch of royal sponsored charities such as the Diamond Jubilee Trust. The Queen became patron of 510 charities, raising £1.4 billion in the year of the Diamond Jubilee alone and the Queen and other royals are patrons to 2415 Commonwealth charities.



KIND HEARTS AND CORONETS

PATSY PAYNE REMEMBERS THE CORONATION IN 1952

EXCITEMENT reigned throughout the country, at home and at school, following the untimely death of our much-loved King George VI and the accession of Queen Elizabeth.

My younger sister and I were thrilled at the prospect of England having a Queen - and even more thrilled when our family were invited by Auntie Dolly and Uncle Jimmy to watch the historical event on their newly purchased television - a rare treat in post-war years!

It would only be in black and white but inventive Auntie bought a colourful striped screen which she stuck onto the television, in the hope that it would give the picture an illusion of colour.... Sadly, it kept falling off and people's hair was the wrong colour anyway.

We were so excited on the long walk to my auntie's where it seemed to us half the population of Sydenham were seated in the spacious lounge on a grand variety of chairs and benches.

Two front row seats had been reserved for us in the by now-crowded lounge and hushed silence fell as we watched the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in the horse-

drawn golden coach leave Buckingham Palace for Westminster Abbey. It was beautiful - my sister had a miniature one on our windowsill.

The crowds over-spilt on pavements, anxious to glimpse the young Queen. Would she wear a new dress? Would she be dressed like the fairy queens we'd read about in our many books? She looked very pretty and waved to the people on her way to the Abbey. We waved back although we knew she couldn't see us but it was a bit of fun in what was rapidly becoming the sombre and momentous occasion it was designed to be.

Much of the ceremony was way above our immature heads and no-one would tell us why the Queen went behind a screen to be anointed. I was suspicious that something 'rude' was going on - after all the Queen had been sitting in the Abbey for quite a while. Apart from all of us being happy together, the Coronation Day highlight for both my sister and me was when it appeared the Queen's crown was about to slip off and we all gasped with relief when it didn't! **GOD SAVED THE QUEEN!**

A RIGHT ROYAL WEEKEND 2022

'ARE YOU THE QUEEN?', a toddler asked, staring me in the face. 'He's been asking that of everyone today,' explained his mother. And why would he not believe it, since many, young and old were wearing Jubilee colours and paper crowns Jubilee weekend at Polesden Lacey where I volunteer.

Over the Jubilee weekend, Polesden welcomed 9,650 picnickers and revellers, enjoying the lazy jazz, miniature trains and royal trails.

Polesden's royal connections are well known. But it's the luxurious gifts bestowed on Mrs Greville by royals and dignitaries that never fail to dazzle visitors. In their current exhibition, *Treasured Possessions*, the National Trust has given 100 objects ranging from 2nd century stone equine heads, to miniature jewelled Fabergé ornaments pride of place.

In the Gold Saloon photographs of the Queen Mother, George VI and the young princesses Elizabeth and Margaret sit alongside an invitation to George's coronation and two replica tiaras, the originals now being in the Royal collection

and often worn by royal ladies over the years.

Childless Margaret Greville considered Elizabeth and Bertie (George VI) like family. They spent part of their honeymoon at Polesden and it was largely expected that they would inherit the estate at Maggie's death. Instead they received a large bequest of jewellery.



Although the Queen Mother owned the Greville Emerald Kokoshnik tiara, made by Boucheron in 1919, she was never photographed wearing it.

At her death in 2002, the Queen inherited the tiara and loaned it to her granddaughter, Princess Eugenie of York, for her wedding in October 2018.

At her marriage in 2005, Camilla's royal jewel of choice was the Boucheron honeycomb tiara, made for Margaret Greville in 1921 and often worn by Queen Elizabeth at state dinners, the State Opening of Parliament, and other gala events. Finally at the Jubilee service, Lady Sarah Chatto, Princess Margaret's granddaughter, wore the beautiful Greville pearl and diamond earrings - a royal tribute!

Beryl Sinclair

KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND

T	A	H	Z	G	R	F	M	O	P	D	C	J	L	G	G	J
E	H	A	D	E	J	Q	Y	O	E	V	J	Z	D	O	Q	M
G	N	T	G	I	R	E	R	R	H	T	N	L	T	T	J	P
R	E	I	E	L	V	G	F	P	Y	M	O	M	I	Z	Z	M
O	H	Q	L	B	X	L	D	G	K	R	A	B	Y	N	S	A
E	R	I	J	B	A	K	L	Q	A	O	K	I	H	I	D	Y
G	X	Q	H	J	P	Z	A	H	D	L	N	O	L	S	Y	G
I	D	C	Q	K	S	K	I	I	O	R	J	T	G	L	G	G
D	V	R	U	C	W	S	F	L	R	W	A	F	Z	P	I	B
B	E	N	N	A	Z	F	X	O	E	O	C	W	L	I	N	W
R	K	W	S	E	M	A	J	H	H	H	T	D	D	D	P	G
H	M	A	R	Y	R	Q	L	M	A	E	Z	C	T	E	T	W
X	T	Y	E	B	H	D	I	R	Z	G	N	M	I	U	A	Z
F	H	R	P	W	M	W	L	F	A	A	G	R	N	V	B	P
T	Q	H	Q	A	T	E	D	D	J	Y	C	C	Y	D	A	O
O	C	Q	E	P	S	M	B	L	P	R	I	C	H	A	R	D
M	J	V	C	X	N	L	O	U	K	N	W	Y	V	Z	J	O

You may be a little tired of Jubilee quizzes but can you name 15 sovereigns whose names are in the grid? *Answers on page 20.*



Let's Talk Plants - 2

Robert Edmondson continues his series on local flora.

The Rosebay Willow (*Chamerion angustifolium*, meaning with 'narrow leaves') has a spike of bright pink flowers and is a stately plant which may be over six feet tall. Also known as "fireweed" or "bombweed" because it often appears shortly after a fire or bomb, it has several culinary and medicinal uses; its leaves are the source of traditional Russian black tea. In the same family as Evening Primrose (*Onagraceae*) it was rare in the UK

until the 20th century; its impressive expansion and abundant distribution is due to the extensive felling and burning of woodland during and after WW1 and by the slipstreams of trains as the railway system was developed. Each plant can produce about 80,000 seeds, each with a plume of featherweight hairs enabling them to travel long distances. Each flower in the spike starts off as a male and later becomes female - a feature related to its pollination by bees and other insects. Close examination of the leaves shows that the veins curl round before reaching the edge.

DAYS OUT

Brooklands Museum, 24 March 2022

(Report and photographs by Paul Smith)



Whilst motoring in Italy in 1905, during which they attended the Coppa Florio Road race event, wealthy landowner Hugh Locke King and his wife Ethel realised that Great Britain was lagging behind the continent in car racing. In an act of patriotism and seeing a commercial opportunity, they embarked on the construction of a purpose-built motor racing circuit and test track on their large inherited estate at Weybridge.

For the highest possible speeds and greatest safety, the circuit had two huge, banked sections on the 100-foot-wide concrete track. Many speed records were set on both two wheels and four. Brooklands became the centre of motor racing in Britain and the venue welcomed the exciting new motor industry.

In 1914, the Royal Flying Corps took over the newly established airfield where aircraft by Avro,

Sopwith, Vickers and others were developed and tested. Over the years, Brooklands witnessed the first pioneering flights of many famous British aircraft and saw many engineering and technological achievements for eight decades.

The first British Grand Prix was held in 1926. The 500-mile race of 1929 was the fastest long-distance race in the world.

The Clubhouse, Paddock and Members' Bridge attracted a social dimension and with civil air displays and pleasure flights gave summer weekends at the venue a unique garden party atmosphere of gymkhanas and tea dances. Racing continued here until 1939. During WW2, the Vickers-Armstrong and Hawker aircraft companies had exclusive use of the site for military aircraft production.

We were ushered into a building housing the massive Barnes Wallis' Stratosphere Chamber, designed and built after the war by Barnes Wallis when Head of Vickers-Armstrong R&D Department. At the far end of the engineering room was a huge door which slid sideways to the great chamber, used to replicate

conditions at extreme altitude to investigate, at ground level, the environmental and mechanical problems caused by high altitude flight. A sign proudly reads: *'The worst weather in the world occurs in Weybridge. To order – blizzards, desert heat, driving rain, humidity and air twice as rare as the summit of Everest.'* This included research into supersonic aerodynamics that contributed to the design of Concorde.

Sir Barnes Wallis, perhaps best known for inventing the bouncing bomb (codenamed *Upkeep*) used by the RAF in Operation *Chastise* to attack the dams of the Ruhr Valley, made many other contributions and those on show included his Tallboy and Grand Slam deep penetration

earthquake bombs.

The highlight of our day was the Concorde Experience. After a pre-flight briefing on the world's most famous aircraft, we took our seats for a virtual Concorde flight. An excellent video with Mike Bannister, British Airways Chief Concorde pilot, talked us through the procedures and initial phases of flight and then, with a digital display showing us cruising at 50,000 feet at Mach 2, we settled back and enjoyed superb footage of Concorde at speed to the uplifting music of Queen's *'Don't Stop Me Now'*.

Coming back to earth it made us realise how fast aviation has evolved since those early days of flight.

(Paul's full report is on the u3a website)

Vintage Essex, 24 May 2022

(Report by Sally Connett and Deanne Rhodes)



THAXTED ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
(photograph Julie Mellows)

Everything augured well for our first full day trip in over two years – an easy drive around the M25 and

clement weather.

We arrived at 10.30 for a welcome coffee in Thaxted, a beautiful small town crammed with medieval buildings, of which the Guildhall is a celebrated example. The outer surfaces of this building are lime-washed every few years to preserve the walls and timber beams – none of these 'black painted beams' which apparently were a Victorian invention! Before the wool trade developed, the

town's wealth was based on the manufacture and trade of swords, axes and knives. The extent of this wealth is evidenced by the huge church, some of which dates back to the 14th century. Gustav Holst lived in the town and was the church organist.

We continued our exploration of this beautiful corner of Essex by coach through a fascinating series of villages which were originally occupied by invading Anglo-Saxons and are collectively called The Rodings. They are rich in thatched-roofed cottages, often decorated with *pargeting*, an ancient and skilful relief decoration of the walls which is particular to this area.

We stopped for a ploughman's lunch in the village of High Easter, home of Lodge Coaches, founded by Joseph Lodge in 1920. Whilst serving in the First World War Joseph learnt how to drive and maintain vehicles. Returning home to High Easter he realised how isolated the villagers were - the only way people could travel to towns like Chelmsford was by horse and cart. Borrowing 7/6 shillings from his mother, he bought a former army ambulance, a six seater 1920 Ford Model T at an auction. This was to be the first Lodge coach and would go on to transform transport in High Easter

and surrounding villages. The company is still owned and run by Joseph's descendants and is a thriving modern business with a 40-strong fleet of coaches. They have some 1940s and 1950s coaches which are used for vintage outings, weddings, funerals and filming, advertising and TV programmes such as *The Crown*, *Endeavour* and *Grantchester*.

In the afternoon, we visited the little museum and workshops and were bussed around the surrounding countryside first in a 1940 and then a 1950 coach. Strangely, most of us preferred the older coach – the seats were more comfortable!

Everyone enjoyed this, our first full-day trip and appreciated our friendly guide, Ian, a mine of information about his home county of Essex. One of the things about this part of the world is the amazing skies. Now we can look forward to our Royal London trip on Monday 25 July, details of which are on the website or in the Spring Newsletter.



(Photograph Carole Brough-Fuller)

RESIDENTIAL TRIP

The Houses, Gardens & Heritage of Devon, 16 - 20 May 2022



ATHELHAMPTON HOUSE

As our last u3a residential trip was in October 2019, it was with some trepidation that I set about organising this first trip since Covid and Lockdown. It was agreed to start gently with a trip to South Devon.

Our first major stop was in Athelhampton House. Nestled in the middle of Dorset and originally built in 1485, this fine Tudor house was owned by Sir William Martyn and passed down through the male line until 1595. It was then divided into two and used as a farmhouse until 1840. With its high hammer-beam roof, heraldic stained glass, and linenfold panelling the Great Hall is at the heart of 500-year manor house. In 1891, Alfred Cart de Lafontaine purchased Athelhampton to create a series of Arts and Crafts

style walled gardens with world-famous topiary pyramids and a 15th Century dovecote and boardwalk along the banks of the River Piddle. Subsequent owners have enlarged and refined the 20-acre gardens which won the 1997 Christies' Garden of the Year Competition. After lunch in the café offering home grown produce, we drove onto Torquay, eventually arriving at the Livermead Clifftop Hotel, a classic redbrick building, by the sea. Many of us were pleased to discover it was by the sea and several rooms had sea views.

On Tuesday morning after a good breakfast, we set off for Exeter for a guided walking tour of the city. The Red Coats are trained guides and extremely knowledgeable. Exeter predates the Romans so it is full of history, with Roman architecture and of course the Cathedral. The afternoon was spent visiting Knight Hayes Court, a Victorian house built for John Heathcott Amory at the head of the Zeal Valley near Tiverton and now owned by the National Trust. An imposing comfortable house with lovely gardens, it contains a

collection of paintings including what is believed to be a self-portrait by Rembrandt, thought to be a study for the version now housed in the Rijksmuseum. This was explored in an episode of the BBC television series Britain's Lost Masterpieces broadcast in 2018. During the WWII the house was used as a convalescent home for the US Eighth Air Force.

On Wednesday we headed for Dartmouth and a ferry ride to Greenway, Agatha Christie's holiday home and now managed by the National Trust. After a short climb from the ferry quay, we arrived at the house and gardens. We enjoyed wandering around this very restful spot at our own pace. A return ferry ride saw us back in Dartmouth and on the coach just before it started to rain.

On Thursday we went to Powderham Castle, situated on the Exe estuary and owned by the Courtenay family. The Castle is steeped in history and has many secret doors and some ghosts. The grounds were delightful. The afternoon was free to explore

Torquay, Abbas Abbey or just relax.

On Friday we set off for home stopping at Sherborne Castle which was built in 1594 by Sir Walter Raleigh. Another Tudor mansion steeped in history and now owned by the Wingfield Digby family. There were 24 rooms to visit and enormous grounds with gardens designed by Capability Brown.

After lunch we set off for the final leg of our journey eventually arriving in Dorking about 7pm. Everyone said they had enjoyed themselves. We were blessed with a great driver and a tour manager on this trip who saved my legs, taking on some of the responsibilities such as ticket collecting. The hotel was comfortable and food excellent. It was a highly enjoyable trip, thanks to the lovely group of 21 people who came. We now look forward to our October trip in to the Peak District and hope many will sign up to make it a success.

Ilanthe Cox
Trip Organiser

AUTUMN RESIDENTIAL TRIP

THE HISTORIC HOUSES & HERITAGE OF THE PEAK DISTRICT

17 - 21 OCTOBER 2022

5 days from £689 + £28 insurance (£99 single room supplement)

What is included in the price?

Travel by executive coach; four nights half board accommodation in 4* hotel; all excursions & guided tours; entrance to National Trust properties free to NT members.

What will we see?

Day 1: Visit to Baddesley Clinton, home of the Ferrers family and sanctuary to persecuted priests during 1590s.

Day 2: Guided tour of Bakewell, home of puddings and to Chatsworth, home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire set in the heart of the Peak District National Park.

Day 3: Visit to Renishaw Hall, home of the Sitwell family for almost 400 years; then to the Elizabethan NT property Hardwick Hall, designed by Bess of Hardwick to showcase the formality of 16th century courtly life.

Day 4: Leisurely stroll in Buxton followed by a visit to Haddon Hall, a 12th century fortified manor house, surrounded by terraced Elizabethan gardens.

Day 5: Homeward bound, members will visit the Crich Tramway Village, overlooking the Derwent Valley and home of the Tramway Museum.



HADDON HALL



BAKEWELL

WHY WOULD YOU NOT SIGN UP AND ENJOY A RELAXING TRIP WITH US?

Full details of the trip is on the D&D website; or contact Ianthe Cox on 01737 843105 or email ianthecox72@gmail.com for more information and to book.

SURREY REGIONAL STUDY DAYS



Surrey Study Days are held at the Menuhin Hall in Stoke d'Abernon. Full details and application forms can be accessed on the D&D u3a website or on the Surrey u3a Network website.

Study days resume at the Menuhin Hall in September and places will be available in the hall or for on-line viewing. Booking will open in June.

Booking fees are £12 for u3a members, £15 for non-members and £5 for Zoom attendance. For help to download or print out forms please contact John Sinclair on 01306 711542.

16 SEPTEMBER 2022 - VOICES FROM ANCIENT MESOPOTAMIA

Dr Irving Finkel, curator at the British Museum, presents the history of cuneiform writing and how it informs us on ancient beliefs and biblical narratives.

21 OCTOBER 2022 - EUREKA - A BRIEF HISTORY OF MATHS FROM 3000 BC TO 2000 AD, speaker Roger Luther, lecturer at Sussex University, outlines the different number systems, the development of chaos theory and explores what future maths can do for us.

18 NOVEMBER 2022 - INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY AT FIFTY, speakers Professors David Perrett & Martin Adams look at the history of brewing and food processing and the rise of biotechnology.

17 FEBRUARY 2023 - TBA

17 MARCH 2023 - TBA

21 APRIL 2023 - POLAR EXPLORATION, SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS AND CLIMATE CHANGE, speakers John Ash & Robert Headland

19 MAY 2023 - THE DEAD SEA SCROLLS

Speaker Professor Hugh Williamson tells how the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered, explores some of the early controversies and explains what they reveal about the nature of Judaism and their importance in understanding how the text of the Bible has reached us.

16 JUNE 2023 - THE VIKINGS & THEIR INFLUENCE IN THE WORLD

Who were they, where did they come from and why? What was their impact on Britain and the rest of Europe? Imogen Corrigan gives an authoritative account on how these masters of navigation and traders influenced art and culture in Britain and elsewhere.

Calendar of Events: July 2022 - June 2023

July	13	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Brides, Booty and Battles, speaker Helen Poole
	25	<i>Day Out</i>	Royal London with Buckingham Palace
September	3	<i>D&D event</i>	Barn Dance (TBC)
	16	<i>Study Day</i>	Voices from Ancient Mesopotamia speaker Dr Irving Finkel, British Museum
	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	AGM By Greyhound Bus around America, speaker Tim Albert
October	12	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Dining with History, speaker Jessica Thurtell
	17-21	<i>Residential Trip</i>	The Historic Houses & Heritage of the Peak District
	21	<i>Study Day</i>	Eureka - A Brief History of Maths from 3000 BC to 2000 AD, speaker Roger Luther
November	9	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	Cinque Ports, speaker James Dickinson
	18	<i>Study Day</i>	Industrial Archaeology at Fifty, speakers Professors David Perrett & Martin Adams
December	14	<i>Monthly Meeting</i>	A Christmas Cracker, speaker Jonathan Jones
2023 January	25	<i>Event</i>	<i>Burns Night (TBC)</i>
February	17	<i>Study Day</i>	TBA
March	17	<i>Study Day</i>	TBA
April	21	<i>Study Day</i>	Polar Exploration & Climate Change, speakers John Ash & Robert Headland
May	19	<i>Study Day</i>	The Dead Sea Scrolls, speaker Professor Hugh Williamson
June	16	<i>Study Day</i>	The Vikings & Their Influence in the World, speaker Imogen Corrigan

Dorking & District u3a publishes a **Newsletter** 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.

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WE WANT TO
HEAR FROM YOU



We **NEED** contributions for the **AUTUMN** Newsletter to reach the Editor by **END AUGUST 2022**. These can include poems, articles and photos about your groups or activities. Without contributions the Newsletter will not survive. Thank you.

ANSWERS TO WORDSEARCH ON PAGE 11

YOU SHOULD HAVE FOUND THE FOLLOWING NAMES:

Alfred; Anne; Charles; Cnut; Edward; Elizabeth; George; Harold; Henry; James; John; Mary; Richard; Victoria; William

DORKING U3A OUT AND ABOUT - VINTAGE ESSEX MAY 2022



INTERIOR OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH
CHURCH, THAXTED

ABOVE: EAGLE LECTERN

(photograph John Holder)

BELOW: NAVE *(photograph Carole Brough
Fuller)*

The stained glass in this very impressive
church is a combination of medieval and
late Victorian.



RIGHT: LODGE COACHES

(photograph Keith Baxter)



ABOVE: THAXTED TOWN

(photograph Christine Tame)

BELOW: THAXTED GUILDHALL

(photograph Deanne Rhodes)



DORKING U3A RESIDENTIAL - DEVON MAY 2022

(photographs Paul Smith)



LEFT: EXETER WITH TOUR GUIDE JENNY



ABOVE: ON DARTMOUTH FERRY TO GREENWAY



LEFT: AT GREENWAY EMBARKATION QUAY



ABOVE: AT POWDERHAM CASTLE



LEFT: OUTSIDE SHERBORNE CASTLE ESTATE